



Short report and actions arising from EURIM-IPPR E-Crime study group meeting on Skills Issues, 7 September 2004, at 1200-1400, Room 'N', Portcullis House, Westminster

SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS

1. The objective was to review progress since publication of the EURIM-IPPR paper on Skills and to recommend any further actions necessary. The meeting began with a short presentation by Richard Winterton, Chief Executive of Skills for Justice of his plans to handle the five recommendations for his Sector Skills Council. He asked for feedback and volunteers for the steering group.
2. The revised action plan is attached as Appendix 1 and several members of the group have been invited to the first meeting of the steering group.
3. Skills for Justice is happy to begin with an all-embracing study, in co-operation with E-Skills and others, as recommended in the EURIM-IPPR paper but Information Assurance, Security and IPR enforcement are outside its remit. There are good reasons for this. We therefore need to ensure follow up discussion on how and where the relevant skills should fit within UK skills policy frameworks and who should be responsible for the actions and funding necessary to ensure adequate provision.
4. There is a need to explicitly include the development and use of risk assessment and reporting methodologies and systems among the skills which need to be specified and included in the relevant frameworks
5. We agreed to organise a press release welcoming the Skills for Justice action plan and making the above points.

Subsequent Actions

Chris Morrow (e-skills UK) has confirmed that he is happy to participate in the proposed project to develop National Occupational Standards (NOS) for those countering e-crime and will be representing e-skills UK on the Steering Group. The new standards for which e-skills is now responsible include explicit coverage of ICT Security for professional practitioners and also security for IT Users and they expect to lead in this area. They expect Skills for Justice to lead on Investigatory and forensic skills and NOS for Countering e-crime.

A number of meetings are taking place this autumn regarding "professionalism" for ICT security practitioners and I have assembled a draft grid (separate document) of the higher level courses available in the UK, beginning with those organized by Universities. These appear to straddle the divide between Skills for Justice and e-Skills and frameworks for ongoing co-operation will need to be discussed. It may be that it would be helpful to expand this grid to cover all relevant "players" in the Skills field but this task would be non-trivial and would need to be explicitly and separately funded.

Paper: Countering E-Crime

1. Background

1.1 The compelling case outlining the pressing need to counter e-crime is set out in a recent paper by EURIM, the all-party pan-industry European lobby group, attached at Annex A. The paper makes ten key recommendations, five of which refer to Skills for Justice, notably:

- That BCS, City and Guilds, IMIS, OCR, Sector Skills Councils et al urgently review their existing end-user and technician qualifications and ensure that they not only include practical and up-to-date content with regard to security but that this forms a mandatory part of the practice and assessment routines
- That Skills for Justice be tasked by the SSDA as the lead agency in the future development of frameworks and specifications for the training and certification of appropriate skills across all communities and that e-Skills be encouraged to support, within a Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) as and when appropriate
- That an informal group be set up under the lead of Skills for Justice, with representation from key users and providers of expertise, to collate the specifications already available in a common framework of definitions of competencies and skills for ICT investigators and experts in forensics
- That the Home Office works with and through Skills for Justice and professional Institutions to mandate the inclusion of practical ICT security in all publicly funded end-user and technician training
- That the Home Office assumes lead funding responsibility for the e-crime element of the work of Skills for Justice and that Skills for Justice be made responsible for progressing investigatory training standards (including those required under RIPA) and all other Departmental investigatory and computer forensic training standards with similar training standards for the private sector

1.2 Skills for Justice accepts the responsibilities proposed in these recommendations. Initial discussions have been held with two other Sector Skills Councils, e-Skills and SEMTA, as well as with the National Hi-Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU)¹. These organisations, which would be key partners in taking work forward, all support a collaborative approach led by Skills for Justice.

2. Introduction

2.1 This paper sets out a proposal to take forward the work needed to ensure practitioners are equipped with the necessary skills required to tackle e-crime. The specific objectives are set out, together with the methodology to ensure the project meets them in timely fashion. The timescale for the work is clearly set out, with particular milestones noted.

¹ The NHTCU is a multi-agency unit with staff from HM Customs and Excise, NCIS, Military, other Government agencies and NCS.

2.2 Three phases of work are envisaged: A scoping study to look at the overall requirements for Standards, frameworks and associated training programmes; a development phase during which these products are produced and implemented, including promotion and direct support to users; lastly, the development and implementation of a system of ongoing maintenance and updating of the products to ensure they continue to meet the challenge in a fast moving hi-tech arena.

3. Aim

3.1 The aim of this paper is to set out a proposal for a project to develop a suite of National Occupational Standards, qualifications and supporting development frameworks and training packages and certification procedures to support practitioners at all levels involved in countering e-crime.

4. Objectives and Methodology

4.1 The project has the following objectives:

Phase 1. Scoping Exercise

Objective 1: To identify the skill requirements of those working to counter e-crime.

This will involve:

- Identifying all bodies and agencies with responsibilities for specifying, delivering and assessing skills requirements in this area
- Setting up a steering group representing all such bodies and agencies
- Working with the steering group to map the skill requirements, including the levels of skill required, and covering all aspects of practitioner involvement
 - The mapping exercise will cover all aspects of countering e-crime, including prevention, detection and investigation, but will also specify the areas to be taken forward in this project and where other aspects will need to be addressed separately
- Identifying what Standards, guidance and other material already exists that can inform the development process
- Drafting the specification for a fully costed development programme to deliver:
 - a comprehensive suite of National Occupational Standards covering all sector requirements at all levels
 - an assessment strategy
 - a qualification framework covering all required levels
 - supporting frameworks, such as the Police Integrated Competency Framework
 - a programme of certification for practitioners, assessed against the defined National Occupational Standards

Phase 2. The Development Phase

Objective 2: To develop a comprehensive suite of National Occupational Standards covering all sector requirements at all levels

- Under the guidance of the project steering group
- Involving full consultation with all stakeholders
- Development of an assessment strategy to ensure robust, consistent assessment of practitioners

Objective 3: To develop the following supporting frameworks:

- a qualifications, integrated into a coherent framework, covering all required levels
- other supporting frameworks, such as the Police Integrated Competency Framework

Objective 4: To develop a programme of certification/registration for practitioners, assessed against the defined National Occupational Standards

- This will involve working in partnership with professional bodies and professional registration schemes (eg CRFP).

Phase 3. Development of a maintenance and update system

Objective 5: To develop a system to undertake the following functions:

- Continuous review of skills requirements
- Update of National Occupational Standards as required, including updating of:
 - qualifications
 - supporting frameworks
 - assessment strategy
- Ensuring certification/registration procedures are amended to reflect updates

5. Timescales

5.1	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Target Completion Date</i>
	1	30 April 2005
	2	31 October 2005
	3	31 December 2005

6. Project Management

6.1 Project Management will be provided by Skills for Justice. The project will also be overseen by a project steering group, drawn from key stakeholders (to be identified under objective 1). Project review meetings will be held at least quarterly, with full accounting reports.