

TACKLING ORGANISED

EXPLOITATION

PROGRAMME



July 2024

Operational

Overview

TOEX is an intelligence capability that provides dedicated intelligence and analytical expertise in support of forces undertaking complex organised exploitation investigations, such as modern slavery & human trafficking, organised immigration crime, county lines, adult & child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Built around existing structures, TOEX teams are embedded within each of the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU), and ensure victims are safeguarded and those seeking to profit from exploitation - including localised criminality and the upstream organised criminality which drives it, are disrupted and brought to justice.

Performance Data

Number of supported jobs

573

Number of supported operations

511

Number of safeguarding referrals

607

Number of OCGs identified

30

Number of priority individuals identified

30

Number of vulnerabilities identified

14



Case Studies

International Organised Immigration Crime

In 2023, thirteen (incl. 5 children) Ethiopian and Eritrean people were discovered in the back of a lorry after one called 999, desperately short of oxygen. The lorry was stopped, and the occupants rescued.

Deployment of TOEX Translate helped the force SIO disprove the driver's involvement and the operation then moved to focus on a highly organised Ethiopian OCG. The sophistication included VISA applications, money laundering, travel bookings, technical knowledge for entering lorries undetected, and briefing victims on what they need to do/say in the event of challenge. TOEX provided call/cell site analysis, network analysis, mass translation of phone downloads, open source and social media analysis, crime pattern analysis, foreign partner and government body liaison, intelligence development and specialist advice to partners.

In June 2024, 70 Belgian officers undertook a large-scale enforcement as a direct result of TOEX intel development. The main suspect was arrested in the process of loading further migrants into a lorry bound for the UK.

NCA ILO Belgium:

“[This investigation] wouldn't have happened without yourselves relentlessly going after these traffickers. So, thanks so much for your help – the Belgian case would be dead in the water without the painstaking work you all undertook.”

Online Child Sexual Abuse

TOEX were tasked to support a force investigation to identify any further victims, after a serving police officer was charged with more than 100 offences relating to child sexual abuse material. Extensive intel work revealed social media links, including Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. By cross referencing images from apps, TOEX was able to identify each victim, then look for further details that may reveal their location. Reverse image searching was also used to identify town landmarks and school uniform emblems. As a result, TOEX confirmed victim addresses in 25 cases and a further 16 accounts produced solid lines of enquiry. Intelligence packs were completed for each victim and allocated to the relevant police forces to progress. The officer was sentenced to life imprisonment, to serve a minimum of 12 years.

Courier Fraud of the Elderly

After the arrest of a suspect linked to courier fraud offences committed against elderly victims, TOEX was tasked to analyse 100GB worth of data from two devices seized from the male. This review led to the identification of 2,888 individuals' personal details, including bank accounts & sort codes. In addition, 126 Crypto wallet addresses were identified to Regional Economic Crime Unit, which were subsequently frozen & assets seized.

SIO:

“A fantastic piece of work that I had no idea how we could have progressed without the technical expertise of the TOEX. The product they provided was of the highest quality and greatly enhanced our investigation.”

Child Sexual Exploitation

TOEX were tasked to help a force after concerns were raised by the foster parent of a female victim, that the girl was sending explicit pictures of herself via Snapchat to an unknown party. Discussions with the victim led to the disclosure of a group of males exploiting female children and vulnerable young adults. The force was planning a day of action to arrest named offenders, but they had limited resourcing and no intelligence team. TOEX offered to assist in preparations for the day of action, including supplying staff to the operations team and conducting intelligence checks. In addition, TOEX supported by reviewing and processing the huge amount of data, utilising our DART tool and TOEX Translate. In total, 17 suspects have been linked to the operation along with 30 potential victims. TOEX continues to highlight additional victims and disruption opportunities for the investigation, in close co-operation with the force.

Feedback from Forces

"If TOEX weren't involved, we wouldn't know where the suspect was/is. TOEX have provided us with some great information and insight into the suspect and have been really helpful."

CSE - West Yorks

"Very comprehensive and detailed. Highlights gaps and Intel requirements well, so it is clear on what is the focus. I am very impressed with the document."

MSHT – Hampshire

"The analytical reports made were thorough and provided a good explanation of what was identified from the call and ANPR data. Tools were also used such as Wing it and the Car Wash app that I don't have access to."

OIC/MSHT – SEROCU

"The subject matter expert knowledge was invaluable. The intelligence product provided was detailed, presented well and supported our future enforcement planning"

Northumbria

"We were able to get our phones translated to review and triage which has saved a significant amount of time and money to support a MDS enquiry"

MSHT – Northumbria

Tasking Process

Request received via
ROCU Gateway.

TOEX level triage process
and prioritisation by managers.

Allocation to Intelligence
Analyst, IDO and/or Researcher.

Intel Analyst to draw up
terms of reference.

Analysis and Development

Closure report completed
and sent to the national team.

Feedback and review.
Gateway request closed.

"The analytical reports made were thorough and provided a good explanation of what was identified from the call and ANPR data. Tools were also used such as Wing it and the Car Wash app that I don't have access to."

NEROCU

TOEX Timeline



2020

Conceptualisation



2021

Pilot Year (EMSOU,
ERSOU, ROCUWM)



2022

National
Implementation



2023

Regional Teams Fully Onboarded
Technical capabilities accessible
to regional teams



2024

Capabilities
Environment
live to 5 forces