

# The Home Office



## United Kingdom (UK)

### Overview

The Home Office is the lead government department in the United Kingdom for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, fire, counter-terrorism and police. It plays a fundamental role in the security and economic prosperity of the U.K. and has been supporting the government in keeping citizens safe and the country secure since 1782.

Its criminal enrollment systems, criminal databases and suspect identification processes had been used successfully for many years but needed to be renewed to meet the demands of modern policing and evolving threats.

### Challenges

The Home Office and its technology partner, Northrup Grumman, selected HID Global to provide its Crossmatch L Scan® Palm Scanners and biometrics support to transition from a traditional method of fingerprinting into a completely electronic solution. The existing manual processes of booking and identifying criminals were time consuming and inefficient, leading to mistakes and missed opportunities to detain suspects. In order to modernise these processes, the following issues needed to be addressed:

- Manual booking of suspects using paper and ink needed to be removed.
- Identification of individuals had to be faster, more efficient and mobile to ensure that it could be done both in police stations and in the field.

The new solution needed to be fully connected to government databases with potential for additional input from other sources outside the policing community.



HID® Crossmatch L Scan 1000

**Benefits:**

- Fast capture of fingerprint and palm images
- Higher automated match rate with 1,000 pixel-per-inch functionality
- Leverages government database to pre-populate biographic data
- Ability to print a fingerprint card for court proceedings

**Solution**

For criminal enrollments, HID provided a kiosk which includes a PC, monitor, software and its best-in-class HID Crossmatch L Scan palm scanners. These versatile scanners allow for capture of standard ten print enrollments using both flats and rolls. The scanners also provide for the capture of palm images which are critical for matching against latent images found at crime scenes.

The palm scanners capture, store and transmit information through a custom software solution created specifically for the U.K. Home Office. Using the Home Office's unique database submission format, HID created a platform called "Enrollment Centre" to meet the system's requirements. The software is fully integrated with the government's biographic holdings, allowing for pre-population of data from verified non-police sources.

To enable a versatile identification system, HID Global created a solution designed to simplify the procedure of determining whether a suspect should be kept in custody. The system uses an easily captured fingerprint image to quickly query the criminal database for any relevant records.

For work in the field, HID provided a Jump Kit which replicates the functionality of a booking kiosk for mobile deployments. Using the HID Crossmatch L Scan palm scanner, law enforcement personnel can capture a full set of prints or merely query the database through a Live ID procedure anywhere in the country.

When fingerprint evidence is used in a court proceeding, the HID solution provides the ability to print a fingerprint card based on the information gleaned from the livescan enrollment procedure. This also allows U.K. police agencies to share information with other government biometric holdings which are often in different formats

**Result**

The new solution saves time, produces more reliable matches and eliminates the requirement to store paper fingerprint cards. It also leverages data in government databases to pre-populate biographic information such as name, date of birth and national ID number into criminal records.

The HID enrollment kiosks are deployed in more than 370 police stations throughout England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The kiosks are in constant use, handling more than 2,500 enrollments per day and 3.3 million fingerprint searches every month.

Due to their success with the HID solution, the Home Office recently undertook a technology refresh and installed 400 HID Crossmatch L Scan 1000 palm scanner devices that include 1,000 pixel-per-inch functionality – a level of detail which will enable even higher automated match rates for palm images.



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