Action 5: Restrictions in relation to LEDS searches – action 5

Context

1. This question was posed during the Open Space workshop on 4 October 2018.

Question

2. "*…Home Office to confirm if there will be access controls for LEDS users who search for information on family or friends for example*."

3. The question related to the ability within the Law Enforcement Data Service (LEDS) audit capability to prevent LEDS users from being able to search for information on their own relatives. The context for this question is the prevention of inappropriate searching by LEDS users.

Response

4. We don't think the measure, as suggested, would be workable, because of the logistical difficulty in gathering and maintaining a family tree or list of friends on an enduring basis and the resultant privacy concerns from such long-term data retention.

5. In addition, end users will not be the only requestors of information on LEDS. Front line officers will "radio in" to LEDS end users requesting a LEDS check. In such cases which "family or friends" should be blocked?

6. The use of LEDS to conduct unjustified additional checks on family members should be captured by the LEDS Audit Module. This allows an auditor to see which search terms and justifications have been used by a LEDS user and what results were returned; and where appropriate challenge suspicious activity. In this way, if there was suspicion of a user checking out family members, the auditor would be able to find out if this was the case.

7.