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CrimTrac ref: TRIM D14-11826
Your ref:

Ms Donna Roy
Executive Director NIEM Program Management Office, Executive Director Information Sharing
Environment Office, Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW, MS 0375
WASHINGTON, DC 20528-0375

Dear Ms Roy, *Dona*

CrimTrac's inclusion in NIEM governance arrangements in the United States

The CrimTrac[1] Board of Management[2] unanimously approved adoption of the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) to support information sharing for Australia's police agencies and CrimTrac.

The purpose of this communication is to seek to formalise CrimTrac's inclusion and participation in the existing NIEM governance arrangements in the United States. Specifically, CrimTrac is seeking observer status on the NIEM Executive Steering Council (ESC), NIEM Business Architecture Committee (NBAC) and NIEM Technical Architecture Committee (NTAC).

To ensure an effective and cohesive adoption of NIEM in Australia it is critically important to have governance arrangements embedded. To enable the internationalisation of NIEM, these governance arrangements should align with NIEM United States to mitigate the risk of disparate approaches and outcomes, and leverage mutual benefits through alignment of any such efforts. CrimTrac has briefed Australia's national security Chief Information Officers and advised that CrimTrac will lead the engagement with NIEM US for the foreseeable future. This approach ensures that the governance arrangements implemented will meet the evolving needs of the expanding user community and will reach the broadest level of participants.

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[1] CrimTrac is a federal government Executive Agency responsible for developing and maintaining national information-sharing services between state, territory and federal law enforcement agencies. It was established to deliver on the vision of sharing national policing information to achieve local, national and international policing outcomes. CrimTrac was established in 2000 under an Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Commonwealth and each of Australia's nine police agencies. http://www.crimtrac.gov.au/

[2] The CrimTrac Board of Management comprises all Australia's Police Commissioners, the ACT Chief Police Officer, and a Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

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CrimTrac has consulted with the NIEM Program Management Office (PMO) within the United States, and Public Safety Canada, regarding the governance and international adoption of NIEM. This consultation, together with a review of the existing NIEM governance model, has revealed that most of what is needed is already present. The *NIEM International Position Paper*[3] provides a similar view: *"NIEM already provides many useful features for international stakeholders and the interest and usage by other countries, such as Canada and Australia, seems to prove this."* It is anticipated that CrimTrac and police agencies could utilise the existing US NIEM governance structure and only extend as necessary.

However, discussions with the NIEM PMO have revealed that international governance arrangements will need to be further developed. The *NIEM International Position Paper* recommends, *"… a review the NBAC and NTAC charters to find out if they could include more details to explicitly include international participation on the domains. The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) should also evaluate options to include international stakeholders that may want to be involved in the governance in the future."*

While the current governance structure affords participation for international stakeholders through engagement with the appropriate domains, opportunities for international stakeholders to inform the decision making process, through participation on various governance committees, would ensure that governance arrangements continue to meet the evolving needs of the expanding user community.

Yours sincerely

Lee Walton
Chief Information Officer
CrimTrac

3rd February 2014

Enclosure/s:
1. ***Proposed Governance Structure***

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[3] NIEM International Position, Recommendations by the NBAC, September 2014

Proposed Governance Structure

The following representation is proposed:

NIEM governance groups - United States	Agency	Position
Observer: NIEM Executive Steering Council	CrimTrac	Chief Information Officer
Observer: NIEM Technical Architecture Team (NTAC)	CrimTrac	Chief Technology Officer
Observer: NIEM Business Architecture Team (NBAC)	CrimTrac	Chief Architect

- The existing NIEM governance structure, currently in place in the United States, will be utilised by CrimTrac and Australian police partners.

- Also, the well-developed and agreed governance structures that already exist between CrimTrac and police will be utilised to facilitate NIEM implementation. For example, the Chief Information Officers Committee (CIOC) and Multi-Jurisdictional Architecture Assurance Group (MAG) will be utilised take on NIEM governance responsibilities and engage with NIEM US governance groups.

- The *NIEM International Position paper* recommends that the NIEM PMO creates an international liaison role. Such a role could provide a connection point to the NIEM PMO, assist in ensuring coordinated communications for policy/process requests, and help CrimTrac speak with a single voice in interacting with the PMO.