CSAS Desktop

Case Study: Police Force

CSAS played a vital role in the success of this operation, which led to a decline in the number of drug-related deaths

The case: the supply of illegal drugs

Following several drug-related deaths between 2014 and 2017, the local police force set up an operation to tackle supply and prevent further tragedies. In March 2018, this resulted in 28 defendants being sentenced to a combined total of more than 193 years in prison.

The case involved a series of widespread, far-reaching conspiracies worth millions of pounds to supply class A drugs (cocaine, heroin and MDMA) and Class B drugs (cannabis and ketamine) throughout the region.

This prolonged operation was one of the most complex, serious and organised investigations undertaken within the force area due to the number of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) involved throughout the wider region. It was demanding, and the team were deployed away from their families for long periods.

It is estimated that 14kg of heroin and 12kg of cocaine had been couriered to the area, with 410 MDMA tablets, 2.2kg of ketamine and 2kg of cannabis also recovered.

The evidence: using CSAS

CSAS played a vital role in processing over 985 reports and 1.9 million call detail records. The Analyst was able to quickly cleanse and output data into a pre-defined evidential schedule ready for courtroom use.

This schedule became the cornerstone for the Analyst Report; specifically, call and cell site analysis evidencing the contact and co-location of defendants travelling to and from the force area. The Target Pair Co-Location Analysis Tool was used to build evidence on when the co-defendants had conspired and met, and also used to negate a key defence case statement during the trial.

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The analysis: key data

The schedule produced 38 key date evidential timelines that were easily exported from CSAS and imported into i2 Analyst Notebook for multi-dimensional presentation in jury bundles. The Call Summary Tool for Target Phone, Pairs and Groups was easy to navigate and produced call data statistics that were evidenced in Call Data Contact and Association Charts, also used in court bundles.

Investigation Team Data Analysis	
Call and cell data rows	1.9 million
ANPR exhibits	2,585
Phone/SIM handset downloads	111
Telephone numbers researched	14,000
Phone numbers attributed to defendants	95
Evidential case (pages)	7,800
Raw telecommunications data served (pages)	78,678
Evidential telecoms exhibits	125
Analyst's report (pages)	780
Key evidential dates	200+

The Target Phone Summary and Statistics Tool was very effective and greatly reduced the time previously spent on telephone attribution. The ability to specify and quickly access Call Statistics, IMEI Summaries, Contact Lists, Daily Usage Patterns, Cell Usage Breakdown and Date Range of Use was extensively used in the evidential attribution of 95 mobile numbers.

The Cell Site Data Mapping was also of great assistance. The option to quickly select data (date/time, phone selection, call type and cell options) was used to produce several evidential exhibits co-locating couriers travelling to supply the OCG.

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