



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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September 29, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits the King County Information Technology Criminal Justice Enterprise Data Hub (CJE data hub) project report, in response to Ordinance 19546, Section 129, Capital Improvement Program, Proviso P2, and a proposed Motion that, if approved, would acknowledge receipt of the report.

A data hub is a modern data storage system that helps organizations consolidate, integrate, and store data from other enterprise sources. Systems interact with the data hub by providing data into it or receiving data from it. The data hub provides an integration and management point, enabling access to integrated data and data sharing by connecting producers of data with consumers of data.

The objective of a CJE data hub is to consolidate, integrate, and standardize criminal and legal data, enabling program evaluation, longitudinal tracking, cross-agency data sharing, policy analysis, and program evaluation of the effectiveness of the criminal legal system and equity impacts for people involved with the criminal legal system. Data categories under consideration for inclusion comprise arrests, jail bookings, arraignments, pretrial information, cases, and sentencing data.

From November 2022 to April 2023, King County Information Technology staff held planning meetings with criminal legal agencies, focusing on drafting data sharing agreements. Aside from an existing agreement with the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, after six months of earnest discussion and negotiation, King County's criminal legal agencies could not establish data sharing agreements. Open agency questions regarding the legal restrictions on data access to the Prosecutor's Office, Department of Judicial Administration (Superior Court data), and King County District Court databases prevented achieving a data sharing agreement. Without a data sharing agreement, KCIT could not gather information required for this Proviso response.

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A plan to implement the CJE data hub project, including potential funding sources and a project timeline is therefore not included in the enclosed report. This is due to the lack of data-sharing participation agreements among King County's criminal legal agencies, without which meaningful information gathering and project planning could not occur, including completion of an equity impact review.

The objectives of the data hub project to eliminate system-level infrastructure barriers that limit effective measurement and improvement efforts in the criminal legal system was broadly recognized and shared by the participating partner agencies working on the Proviso response. At the same time, it is essential that our criminal legal partners work together to resolve legal questions so that we can better understand, evaluate, and improve the County's criminal legal systems.

As the King County Auditor's Office stated in its December 2022 report "Incarceration Alternative and Diversion Programs: Improved Strategy, Data, and Coordination Could Help County Meet Goals",

Without clear data and goals to track program effectiveness, King County risks underserving its residents, not achieving intended transformational change within the criminal legal system, and perpetuating harm and inequities caused by incarceration. Programs that divert people from and provide alternatives to incarceration are one way to help achieve larger criminal legal reform and anti-racism goals.

Ultimately, it is necessary to have the full participation of all criminal legal agencies in order to move forward with any form of criminal legal systemwide technology tool.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion. I look forward to working with you on this matter in the future. If your staff have questions, please contact Stephen Heard, Chief Technology Officer, Department of Information Technology, at 206-477-5728.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

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Megan Clarke, Chief Information Officer, Department of Information Technology