The National Technical Assistance Centre

NTAC Programme Manager

22nd June 2010

NTAC mission

- Facilitate access to warranted voice & data interception
- Maintain secure interception networks
  - Legacy Voice Systems
  - Data networks
- Advising Agencies on exploitation
- To process and make visible encrypted or protected data from seized computer media or lawful intercept

NTAC
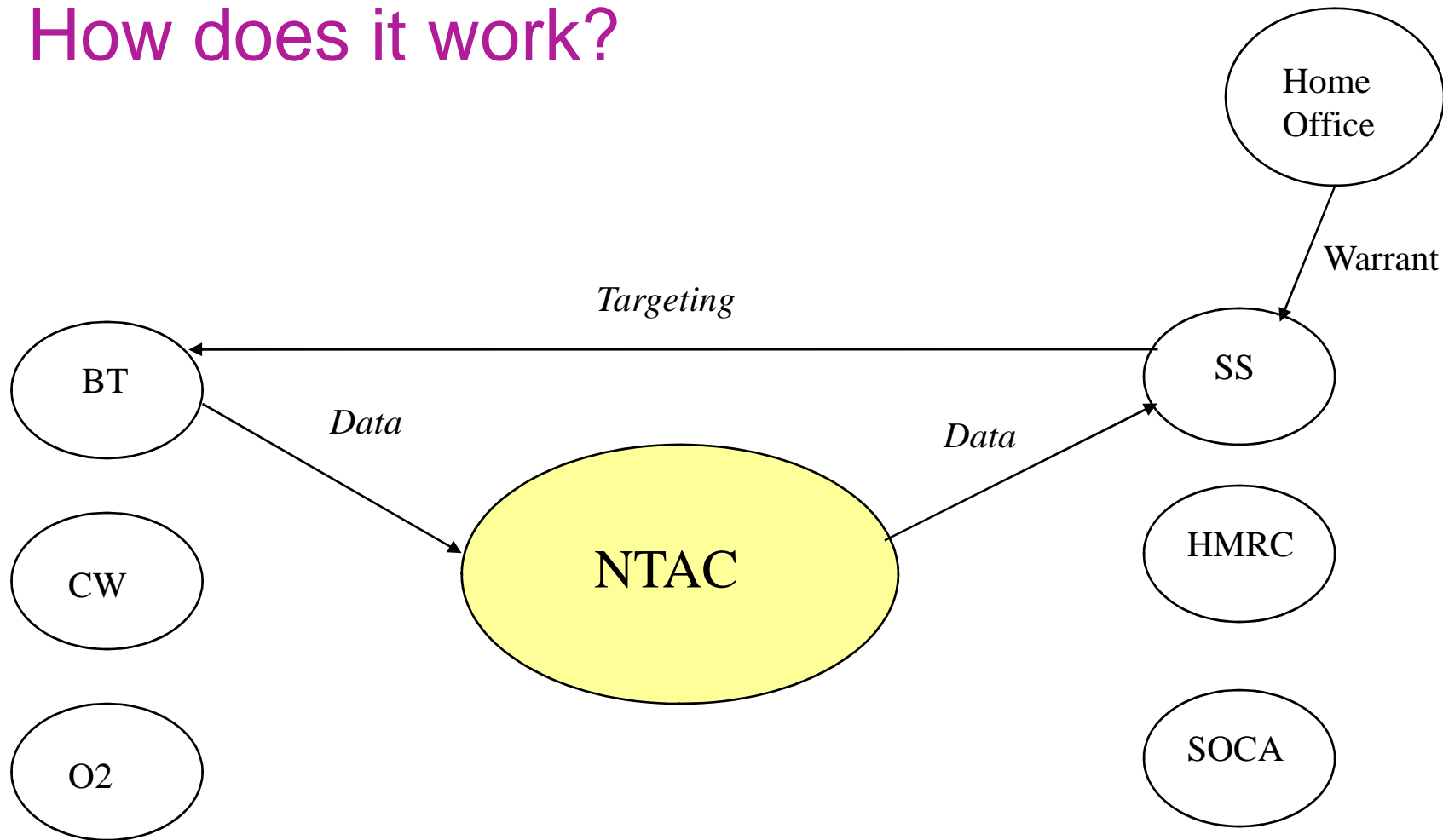
NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Why is NTAC important?

- 11000 targeted intercepts every day 24\7
  - Potential to intercept targets on 100% of UK PTN networks
- 60% of special source material that GCHQ relies upon for CT is derived from NTAC systems
  - Bouncer, Canley, Catsup, Condone, Hooch Zamensis
- Key to the success of DigInt and Milkwhite

NTAC

NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

How does it work?

History

- Creation of multi-agency technical assistance centre in 2001 (GTAC then NTAC) to serve the whole UK community

- Created as a publicly avowed unit within Home Office
  - Some NTAC staff liable to appear in Court in stored data cases
  - But operations and capabilities remain secret

- Accountability transferred to Director GCHQ on 1st April 2006

- Became part of GCHQ Ops on 1st July 2008

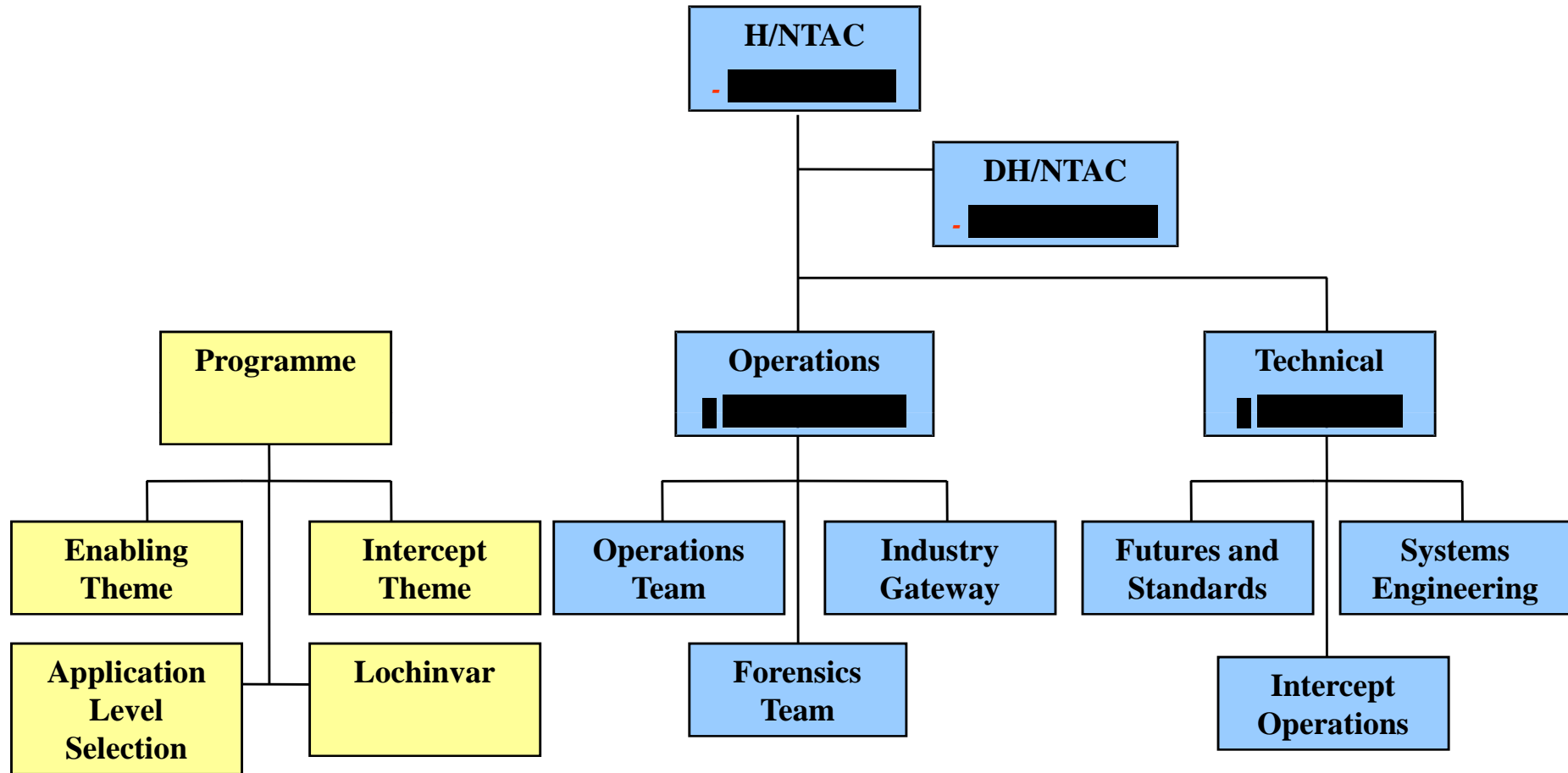- Programme integration with DET 1st April 2010

NTAC logistics

- Approximately 100 posts in NTAC (includes vacancies)

- Multi-agency team drawn primarily from the intelligence and law enforcement agencies

- Annual budget c. £40 million
  - £20m CTIP, £20m IMP

- Based in Thames House
  - Programme now based in Cheltenham

NTAC structure

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Programme
- **Enabling Theme**
  - **Application Level Selection**
- **Intercept Theme**
  - **Lochinvar**

Operations
- **Operations Team**
- **Industry Gateway**
  - **Forensics Team**

Technical
- **Futures and Standards**
- **Systems Engineering**
  - **Intercept Operations**

NTAC primary customers

- ACPO
- SOCA
- MPSB
- ACPO (S)
- PSNI
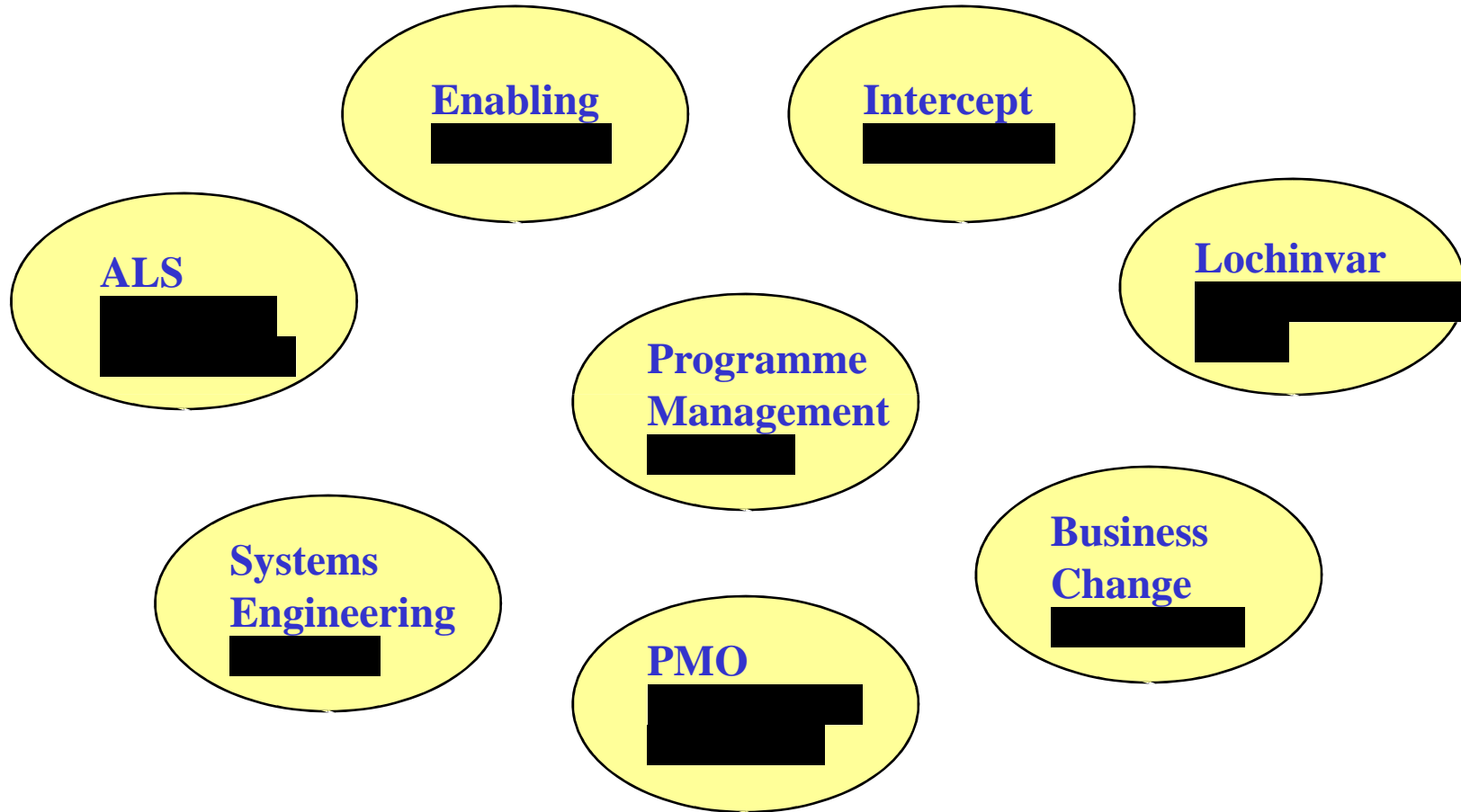- Security Service
- SIS
- GCHQ
- HM Revenue & Customs

NTAC programme outcomes

- Maintain current intercept
- Extend and improve current intercept
- Improve LI infrastructure (components and services)
- Develop NTAC operations to meet current and future mission

NTAC
NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Programme structure

Key challenges facing the programme

- Keeping pace with rapid changes in the telecommunications environment
- Resources
  - Getting the right skills and number of resources within the programme team
  - Getting right level of support from product centres to enable the programme to meet current and future requirements
- Managing the change associated with integration
- Complex stakeholder management
  - CSPs
  - Home Office (PPSU and CCD)
  - No single BCM