

Meeting	Forensic Services Committee
Date	15 February 2018
Location	Pacific Quay, Glasgow
Title of Paper	Crime Scene Attendance Policy
Item Number	11
Presented By	Vicki Morton
Recommendation to Members	For noting
Appendix Attached	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of the key changes in service delivery since the introduction of the Scene Attendance Policy and Guidance (SAP&G) across Police Scotland and SPA Forensic Services in November 2017.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Agreement to develop and implement a national Scene Attendance Policy and associated Guidance document was approved via the previous governance arrangements (Forensic Science Strategic Partnership Forum- 2015). It was recognised that no documented policy nor procedures were in place and local variation in activities and responsibilities at the scene created challenges for both Forensic Services and Police Scotland.
- 1.2 The first national SAP&G was delivered through a collaborative Forensic Services and Police Scotland short life working group, and was implemented on 1st November 2017, to aid Police Officers in the assessment of the requirements for a Forensic Services Scene Examiner deployment.

2 FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 Forensic Services Scene Examination Function provides an important specialist resource to the investigation of scenes of incident in Scotland, both crime and non-crime.
- 2.2 Prior to the formation of Police Scotland, it was evident that there were differences in scene attendance provision across the country. The creation of the single service provided an opportunity to review current processes and deliver an agreed national approach, which

would align with the national Forensic Services Scene Examination service delivery model.

- 2.3 In addition, the HMICS Thematic Inspection of Forensic Services (June 2017) raised a recommendation highlighting that SPA and Police Scotland should review and implement the Scene Attendance Policy to support a national approach with a focus on maintaining quality of service to the public (Recommendation 13).
- 2.4 The documents provide a national reference to ensure the best value of forensic science at the scene, providing clarity on scene examination roles and responsibilities, prioritisation of scene attendances, health and safety information sharing requirements and an escalation process. The aim of the SAP&G is to ensure a consistent national approach, while taking into consideration local policing priorities, and the most appropriate use of Scene Examination resources.
- 2.5 The key changes to local/legacy practices implemented were:
- 1 Scene Examination will attend National Online Child Abuse Prevention (NOCAP) Strategy related scenes in all Divisions across Scotland. This is now delivered nationally by Forensic Services Scene Examination Function, broadening the range of services provided.
 - 2 Examination of volume crime motor vehicles (theft of motor vehicle and theft by OLP motor vehicle) in E and J Divisions, which was previously performed by Police Officers, is delivered by Scene Examination Function to align with all other Divisions.
- 2.6 A detailed consultation across Police Scotland, PIRC, COPFS, Police Federation and Trade Unions was performed prior to implementation.
- 2.7 A "Scene Request Decision Making App" was developed to support the Scene Attendance Policy and Guidance, and aid Police Officer decision making. This simple to use App is available via the Intranet and allows Officers to assess whether a scene examination is required for volume crime incidents. The App has the capability of being deployed on mobile devices in the future.
- 2.8 SAP&G evaluation criteria have been identified and data analysis will commence in May 2018, with subsequent submission to HMICS as evidence to support discharge of Recommendation 13.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

4 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this paper.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications in this paper to those listed above.

6 REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no reputational implications associated with this paper.

7 SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no social implications associated with this paper.

8 COMMUNITY IMPACT

8.1 There are no community implications associated with this paper.

9 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct equalities implications associated with this paper.

10 ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this paper

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to note the information contained within this report in closure of Forensic Services Committee Action 20171107 – PFSC – 009.