

**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**

Meeting	Forensic Services Committee
Date	14 August 2018
Location	Pacific Quay, Glasgow
Title of Paper	UKAS Assurance
Item Number	7
Presented By	Tom Nelson
Recommendation to Members	For Consultation
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to:

1. Provide an update on the status of UKAS accreditation following the 2017 audit work; and
2. Highlight the progress made over the last 20 years on the growth and maintenance of UKAS 17025.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The paper provides details of the reaccreditation and maintenance of the UKAS accredited 17025 quality standard.
- 1.2. Recognition of the work of all staff, past and present, who have worked to maintain and grow UKAS accreditation of forensic science processes over the last 20 years.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1. Confirmation has been received from UKAS of the 20th consecutive year of successful reaccreditation of Forensic Services ISO 17025 quality standard.
- 2.2. This follows over 400 hours of audit carried out by UKAS.
- 2.3. Maintaining this crucial laboratory accreditation provides the users of Forensic Services with absolute confidence in the laboratory work which is carried out on their behalf.

3. 20 YEARS OF 17025

- 3.1. On the 1st of July 2018 Forensic Services reached the 20th Anniversary of holding the UKAS accredited laboratory standard ISO 17025. A recognisable milestone and one which Forensic Services are delighted to have achieved.
- 3.2. Forensic Services first gained UKAS accreditation of the Dundee laboratory in July 1998.
- 3.3. Since 1998 there has been significant growth and expansion of the accreditation of the business managed through the quality management system. This has involved accrediting all Forensic Services laboratories, all significant operational processes and instrumentation, further expanding accreditation as technology and procedure change.
- 3.4. The future will see further development of accreditation across the business as well as a new quality standard against which compliance will be mandatory by 2019. Work has already commenced on understanding what changes will be necessary to ensure ISO 17025:2017 is complied with.

3.5. 20 years of ISO 17025 demonstrates a strong commitment to quality and continuous business improvement. Embedding these high standards within the business over such a long period of time provides evidence of the very high standards to which Forensic Science operates in Scotland and for the benefit of all.

3.6. The slide at Appendix 1 shows Forensic Services 20th year highlights of being an accredited laboratory.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

3. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this paper.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this paper.

5. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no reputational implications associated with this paper.

6. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no social implications associated with this paper.

7. COMMUNITY IMPACT

7.1 There are no community implications associated with this paper.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no equality implications associated with this paper.

9. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to note the significant achievement in:

- a) Reaccreditation and maintenance of the UKAS accredited standard ISO 17025; and
- b) Reaching 20 years as a UKAS ISO 17025 accredited laboratory.

Appendix 1



FORENSIC SERVICES

UKAS 17025 Quality Accreditation

OFFICIAL

