

**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting Public Session
Date and Time	24 February at 11.00
Location	Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling FK9 4AE
Title of Paper	SPA Forensic Services Report
Item Number	9
Presented By	Tom Nelson, SPA
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached:	Yes

PURPOSE

To provide Board Members with information on delivery of SPA Forensic Services for Quarter Three 2016/17 and an update on current activities.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 For Year Two of the SPA's evolving performance framework "Performance Matters", corporate performance reporting has changed for 2016/17. As reported at the October Board SPA Corporate performance and Forensics Services performance is now presented within two separate documents at the SPA Board. Corporate performance remains integrated within the SPA CEO report whilst Forensic Services is now reported on a standalone basis by the Director of Forensic Services.

1.2 This report captures activity conducted across SPA Forensic Services. This performance evidence also informs the content of the Authority's quarterly Strategic Police Plan Delivery Review and the Annual Review of Policing 2016/17.

1.3 The report demonstrates SPA Forensics Services delivery over the last quarter through the following components:

- Progress updates on Forensic Service commitments laid out in the annual business plan
- Qualitative performance data;
- Evidence of service initiatives and improvements

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Forensic Services are working to deliver on budget for the 2016/17 year with the quarter three results showing good progress in this regard. The forecast for the full year is challenging however as we improve the management of service demand this is becoming more achievable.

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 legal 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 impact implications associated with this paper.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this paper.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note the information presented in the attached Forensic Services report.

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Forensic Services Performance
Quarter 3 Report

February 2017

Presented to: Scottish Police Authority February 2017 Board
Reporting Period: Q3 2016/17

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Scottish Police Authority's Forensic Services Directorate provides an end-to-end service to the criminal justice process in Scotland, from Crime Scene to Court. Forensic Services is organised into four distinct functions: Scene Examination, Biology, Physical Sciences and Business Support. These national functions deliver forensic science technologies and expertise in the investigation of crime to Police Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and Police Independent Review Commission.

1.2 The following report provides performance information pertaining to service delivery by Forensic Service, in addition to qualitative evidence of business change, initiatives and examples of continuous improvement designed to enhance the capability, capacity and efficiency of SPA Forensic Services.

2. BUSINESS PLAN DELIVERABLES

There are three ongoing deliverables for Forensic Services identified on the 2016/17 SPA business plan, two have been completed; details are listed in the table below:

Deliverable	Completion	Update	Status
Work with Police Scotland and Scottish Government to develop a Biometrics Strategy for Scotland	Q2	<i>Paper outlining options developed and presented at the FSSPF in Q2. Strategy completion is dependent on outcomes of further meetings arranged with SG & HO</i>	On-going
To better understand baseline capacity and report into the FSSPF	Q2	<i>Now business as usual reporting into partnership forum.</i>	Completed
Introduce an advanced scientific technology to support policing	Q4	<i>On-going</i>	On-going
Establish PMO structure in Forensic Science to delivery partner expectations	Q3	<i>The PMO has been scoped however propose to move establishment of PMO to 17/18 see note below*</i>	<i>*Propose moving to 17/18</i>
Maintain all areas currently under scope of Forensic Science Accreditation	Q3	<i>UKAS undertook assessment visits in November 2016. With a positive recommendation to maintain accreditation.</i>	Completed

* The establishment of a PMO has been scoped but it requires investment and given the ongoing development of Police Scotland 2026 Strategy and the Forensic Science strategy it is proposed that this deliverable moves to 17/18.

3. SERVICE INITIATIVES & IMPROVEMENTS

3.1 Capacity and Demand

The Short Life Working Group to take forward the Capacity and Demand recommendations for the Joint National Forensic Gateway (JNFSG) has met now on several occasions and a programme of work is ongoing.

We are working with partners in particular to understand how we manage the demand vs capacity challenges. We made significant moves forward and launched the new Joint FS National Gateway with all partners working together to ensure best value in relation to forensic investigations. We have in January extended the scope to include other investigative work going through the gateway for assessment. A benefits report will be brought to a future Board meeting.

3.2 Bar Coding

The project plan implementation is ongoing with the development of EMS functionality the next key step. Significant input from FS staff, the supplier and IT means that the project is on schedule to deliver in Q2 2017/18.

3.3 Cold Case reviews

The cold case review team are providing support to the review and examination of 16 cold case murder inquires across Scotland.

3.3 United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)

Forensic Services had around 52 days of concurrent UKAS assessment activity from 7 Nov 2016 to 2 Dec 2016. Accreditation was successfully maintained across all Forensic Services sites for all scheduled testing activity.

3.4 Roll out of EMS SE Report in West

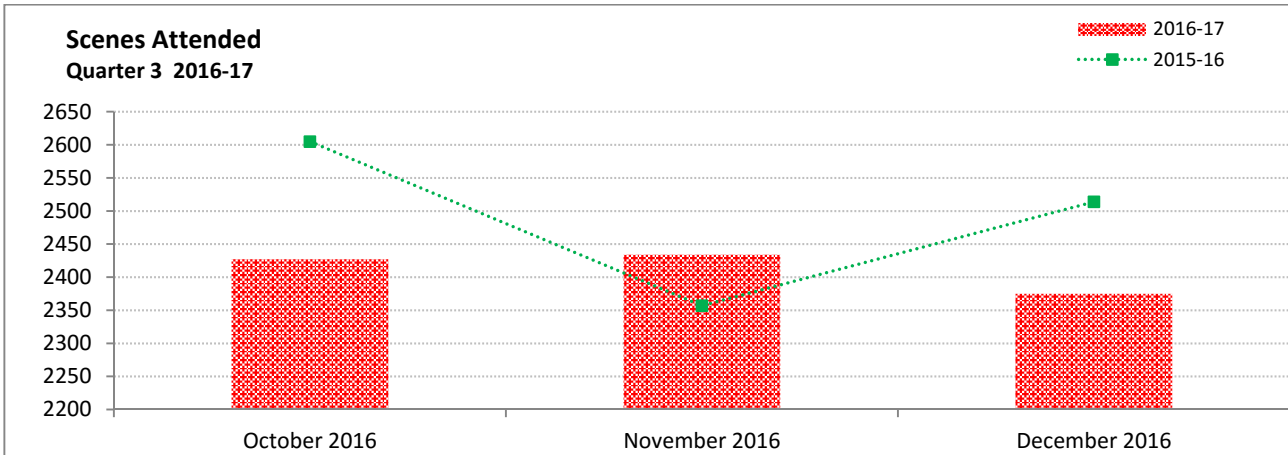
The EMS SE Report process is now well embedded in the West that provides an improved scene examination reporting process. As reported previously this reporting mechanism is available nationally, and further roll out is being considered in collaboration with Police Scotland.

3.5 Image Management System implementation

Following successful implementation of IMS in July 2016, phase 2 of the project has resulted in 8 of the 17 SE satellite offices now having a capability to upload images directly onto IMS. All satellite offices will be completed by the end of February 2017. The new process brings significant benefits in terms of information security, end to end turnaround times and accessibility to scene photographs and video. Engagement is ongoing with Police Scotland to provide access to IMS.

4. PERFORMANCE

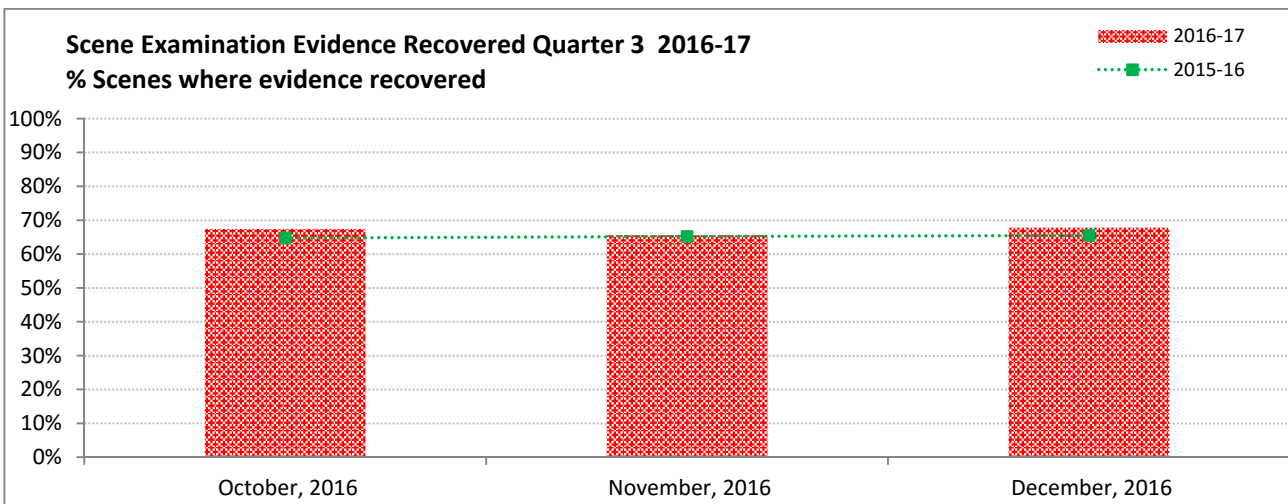
4.1 Scene Attendance & Evidence Recovery Rates



Scenes Attended

The above chart shows **output only** (actual scene attendance) as true demand data is not available. Quarter 3 scene attendance shows normal monthly fluctuations.

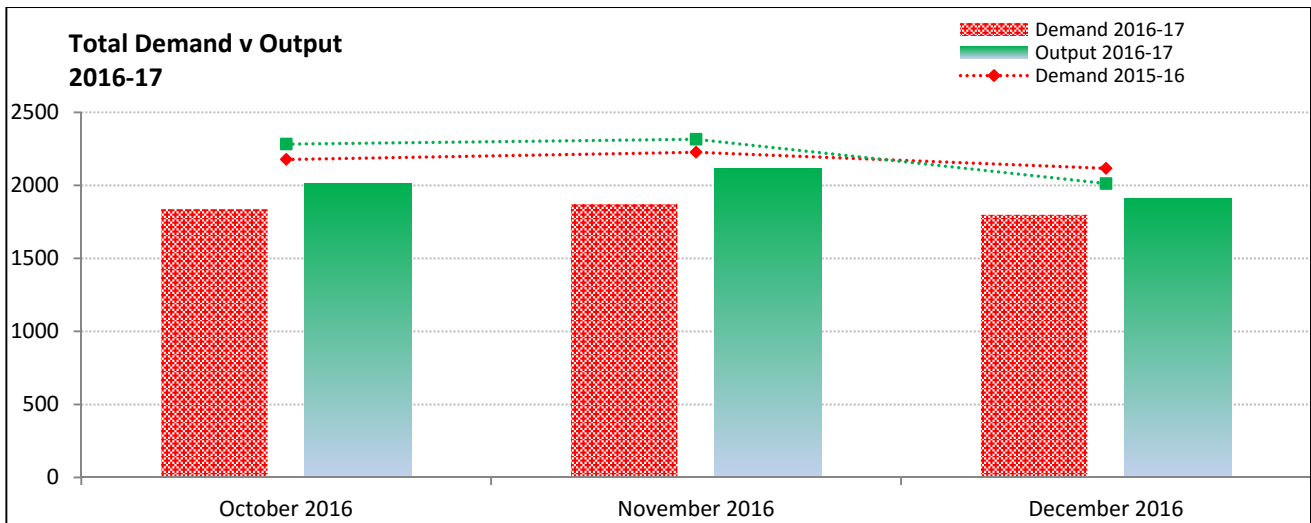
Although there was a drop in scene attendances in Quarter 3 in comparison with 2015 data, there was an increase in November reflecting the responsive nature of Scene Examination dependent on crime reported to Police and scene attendance requests made.



Evidence Recovered

Evidence recovery rates remain consistent at approximately 60-70 %, as shown in the above chart.

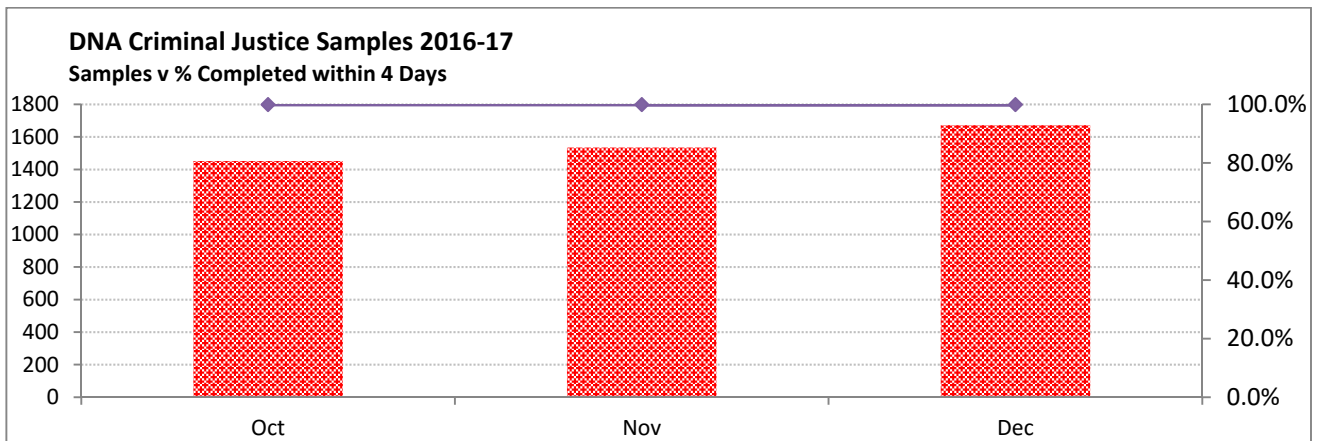
4.2 Laboratory Casework



Laboratory Demand and Output

When compared with last year's figures YTD Demand is down. However demand in Biology (LSL) and Physical Sciences remains high and in particular Forensic Services continues to receive a **high level of urgent and complex cases** in these two areas. If this increase in demand and complexity continues then this could pose a risk to service delivery. During Quarter 3 we have launched the new Joint FS National Gateway with all partners working together to ensure best value in relation to forensic investigations which will assist with the demand management.

Criminal Justice Samples



Criminal Justice Samples

The chart illustrates sample demand compared with the percentage of samples processed within 4 days.

The target for completion is 90%. During Quarter 3, 100% of samples were completed within the 4 days.

The volume of samples received has dropped by 13.2% in Quarter 3 when compared to Quarter 2.