

SCOTTISH POLICE  
AUTHORITY

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Public SPA Board Meeting</b>
<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Tuesday 19 December 2017</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>City Suite, Apex City Quay, Dundee</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>SPA Forensic Services Director's Report</b>
<b>Item Number</b>	<b>10.1</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Tom Nelson</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Noting</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on the key highlights since the presentation of the last Board performance report on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2017.

This update covers:

- Forensics 2026 Strategy engagement process
- Update on business cases submitted
- UKAS quality audit
- Business plans
- HMICS recommendations update

## **1. FORENSIC SERVICES BUSINESS ACTIVITIES – DECEMBER 2017**

### **1.1 Forensics 2026 Strategy**

The engagement period for the Forensics 2026 Strategy has now formerly commenced with all of our key stakeholders. Engagement is being managed to ensure that all those that wish to contribute to our Strategy have the opportunity to do so.

For those that we work with most closely there will be formal face to face meetings and for our staff a series of workshops will be run across the country at the beginning of 2018. It is especially important for us to engage with our staff at all levels as they are fundamental to the successful delivery of the strategic outcomes and to the future shape of Forensic Services in Scotland.

The feedback captured during the engagement period will be reported more formerly through the Forensic Services Committee in February 2018 and then the final draft Strategy will be presented to the Board by the end of March 2018. This will then allow the Forensics 2026 Strategy to be published.

### **1.2 Update on Business Cases**

The Biology Transformation business case was discussed in the closed session of the November Board meeting and approved by Members. The impetus behind the business case was to allow Biologists to further focus on Police Scotland Investigative casework whilst continuing to meet the judicial time frames required by COPFS. This programme of work aligns to the Forensics 2026 Strategy.

The business case, as noted in the last performance report, provides for a number of solutions to be implemented to create much needed additional capacity within the Biology business area. Work to implement the plan put forward has already commenced and Biology staff have been informed of this positive investment.

The business cases to support the improvements to the main business operating system, EMS are being considered by Scottish Government for funding from the Reform budget. The draft 2018/19 budget allocation of £28.6m will be used to support the New Psychoactive Substances Centre of Excellence and Drugs Intelligence Unit.

### 1.3 **Drug Driving Toxicology Service**

The business case to support the new Drug Driving Toxicology Service is being reviewed by the Scottish Government's Criminal Justice division who may be able to provide support for this new toxicology work.

The service implementation working group, consisting of Forensic Services, Police Scotland, Scottish Government and COPFS, is due to meet during the middle of January 2018 and will be reviewing the implementation programme for this new service.

### 1.4 **United Kingdom Accreditation Service Quality Audit**

The annual accreditation visit by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to assess our continued compliance against the international standard ISO17025 has been ongoing since October 2017. The final site visit was to the Aberdeen during the first week in December. I am pleased to inform the Board that on this series of visits Forensic Services has received in particular, a very positive endorsement on the technical aspect of our business. The recommendations raised during these visits are now being addressed with evidence to be provided back to UKAS in January 2018.

### 1.5 **Business Plan**

Having successfully applied for and received funding for improvements to operational delivery (as detailed in 1.2) the focus in Q4 2017/18 will be to take full advantage of this. Meetings are taking place with Police Scotland Corporate Services to ensure that appropriate support is provided to enable actions to be undertaken within the appropriate timeframes.

Initial planning work has taken place to ensure the initiatives being supported are prioritised accordingly and the opportunities which will be created are built into business activity running across the coming months. A fuller update of this work will be taken to the Forensic Services Committee in February 2018 in addition to the draft business plan for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 years.

### 1.6 **HMICS**

Work on the HMICS recommendations has been positive over the last month. The Short Life Working Group (SLWG) had its first meeting as did each of the 4 sub-groups reporting to it.

### **Highlights of Progress to Date**

- The HMICS report identified a requirement to develop a Forensic Services Strategy. The draft Forensics 2026 Strategy was presented to the November Forensic Services Committee and approved for consultation. As noted earlier, the Strategy is now being consulted upon and it is the intention to present to the full SPA Board in March 2018 for approval (rec. 2).
- The Forensic Services Committee was established and met for the first time in November 2017 (rec. 3).
- As part of the enhanced engagement approach within Forensic Services, the staff PDC process started to be rolled out on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. In addition, more structured Forensic Services Senior Management/Trade Union engagement sessions have been arranged on a bi-monthly basis from November 2017 (rec.19).
- The Scene Attendance Policy and Guidance was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017. The documents outline the national approach to scene attendance across Scotland. A pack of evidence on this launch has been provided to HMICS for review. A 6 month post implementation review period has been established to ensure the effectiveness of the policy, guidance and associated communications (rec. 13).

In prioritising operational delivery resource required to complete the HMICS recommendations may be compromised. A period of detailed planning is now taking place to ensure business activities are appropriately considered and resource is deployed accordingly. The Forensic Services Senior Management Team will be fully engaged in this process and will work with the Forensic Services Committee in relation to the delivery of all HMICS recommendations.

## **2. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

2.1 As noted above.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this paper.

**4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct personnel implications associated with this paper.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this paper.

**6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct reputational implications associated with this paper.

**7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct social implications associated with this paper.

**8. COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no direct community implications associated with this paper.

**9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

**10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no direct environmental implications associated with this paper

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.