

**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting Public Session
Date and Time	25 August 2016
Location	Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling
Title of Paper	SPA Forensic Services Report
Item Number	10
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 One 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 June 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 Forensics are working to deliver on budget for the 2016/17 year with the quarter 1 results showing good progress in this regard however the forecast for the full year looks more challenging as the management of service demand is considerably more difficult than was assumed at the time the budget was set.

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.

SCOTTISH POLICE
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**Forensic Services Performance
Report**

August 2016

Presented to: Scottish Police Authority August 2016 Board
Reporting Period: Q1 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, supported by its key stakeholders UKAS (UK Accreditation Service) and the Forensic Science Regulator. 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

The three deliverables for Forensic Services identified on the 2016/17 SPA business plan 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 for Scotland being developed and will be presented at the FSSPF.</i>	On-going
Establish baseline capacity required to meet existing and future demand	Q2	<i>Detail being scoped and reported into partnership forums.</i>	On-going
Introduce an advanced scientific technology to support policing (dependant on PS APP)		<i>On - going</i>	On-going
Establish PMO structure in Forensic Science to delivery partner expectations	Q3	<i>Being scoped and to be part of Governance Review</i>	On-going
Maintain all areas currently under scope of Forensic Science Accreditation	Q3	<i>UKAS scheduled to undertake assessment visits November 2016.</i>	On-going

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 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. This will be addressed through the FSSPF.

3.2 Bar Coding

The project plan implementation is ongoing with the development of EMS functionality the next key step. The project is due for completion by Q4.

3.3 United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)

UKAS carried out an unannounced visit to Forensic Services on 21st July the visit went well resulting in UKAS accreditation being maintained across all 4 sites. This represents the final part of our assessment for 2015-2016 until the next round of visits scheduled for November 2016.

3.4 Biometric Database Development

Forensic Services met with representatives from the Home Office Biometrics Programme, Scottish Government and Police Scotland on 29th June regarding the Biometrics Strategy and Database Development and the impact of the integration of Scotland into the programme. A paper outlining the options for Scotland is being developed and will be presented at the next FSSPF meeting.

3.5 Fingerprint Inquiry Report

On 13th June, Sir Anthony Campbell, author of Fingerprint Inquiry Report visited the Scottish Crime Campus and Forensic Services where Forensic Services updated him on the successful implementation of the core recommendations from his report and the successful attainment of ISO 17025 accreditation for Fingerprint Comparison. Sir Anthony has written a very complimentary letter back to Forensic Services noting this significant achievement.

3.6 Collaborative working regarding new legislation in relation to NPSs

Forensic services continues to working in partnership with Police Scotland and COPFS regarding the implementation of new procedures and working practices with regards to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

3.6 Implementation of national Image Management System (IMS)

In June 2016 the IMS went live, delivering a centralised database for all images captured by Scene Examiners. Following success of this first phase of the IMS project, remote upload of images from Scene Examination Offices directly into the IMS is on track for delivery during October to December 2016. This will provide a more effective workflow and mitigate logistics and information security risks associated with the movement of digital media in CD format. Engagement is ongoing with Police Scotland to agree processes and policies to allow police officers direct access to images on IMS.

3.7 Provision of Scene Examination Reports- West

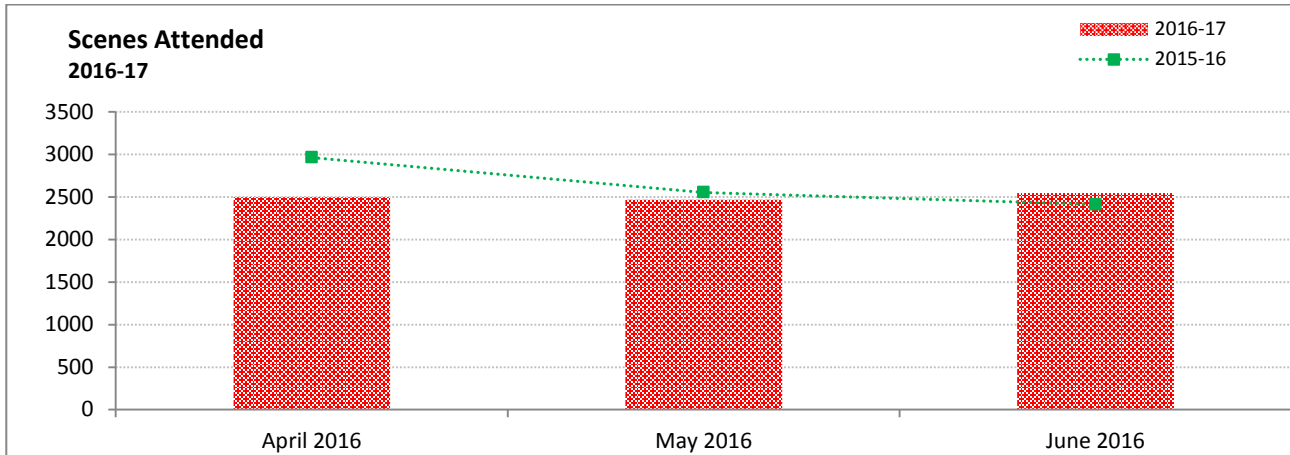
An improved scene examination reporting process was implemented in West on 1st August 2016, following successful completion of a pilot in U and V Division. This provides more timely and detailed information on scene examinations which was not previously provided to Police Scotland in West. The reports are generated by EMS and emailed to Police Scotland directly from the system. This reporting mechanism is available nationally; however, legacy processes are still in place, with negotiation required on any potential process changes in the East and North.

3.8 Launch of Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science

Forensic Services attended the launch of a major research programme relating to Forensic Science at the University of Dundee on 6th July. This is a long term programme which is well funded and presents opportunities for partnership working with Forensic Services and associated partners.

4. PERFORMANCE

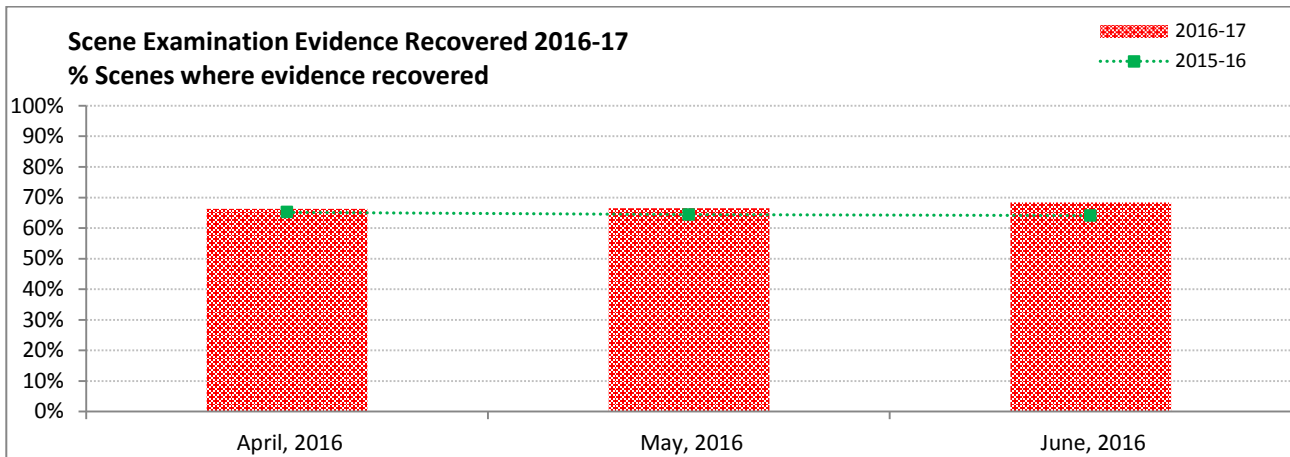
4.1 Scene Attendance & Evidency Recovery Rates



Scenes Attended

Scene attendance is responsive and reliant on Police Scotland submitting a request to attend a scene, variation from month to month is expected. In spring 2015-16 East had a local HB initiative that raised their average attendance figures, and that together with expected monthly variation could account for the apparent lower scene attendance for the same months in 2016-17.

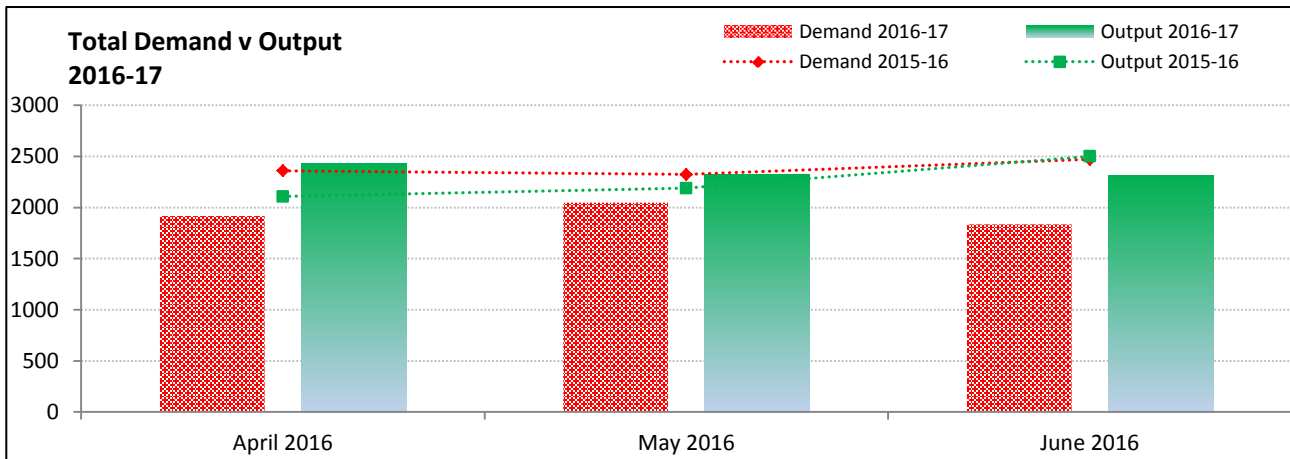
It should be noted that there was a significant amount of activity associated with major incidents during this quarter (14 murders in a 2 month period).



Evidence Recovered

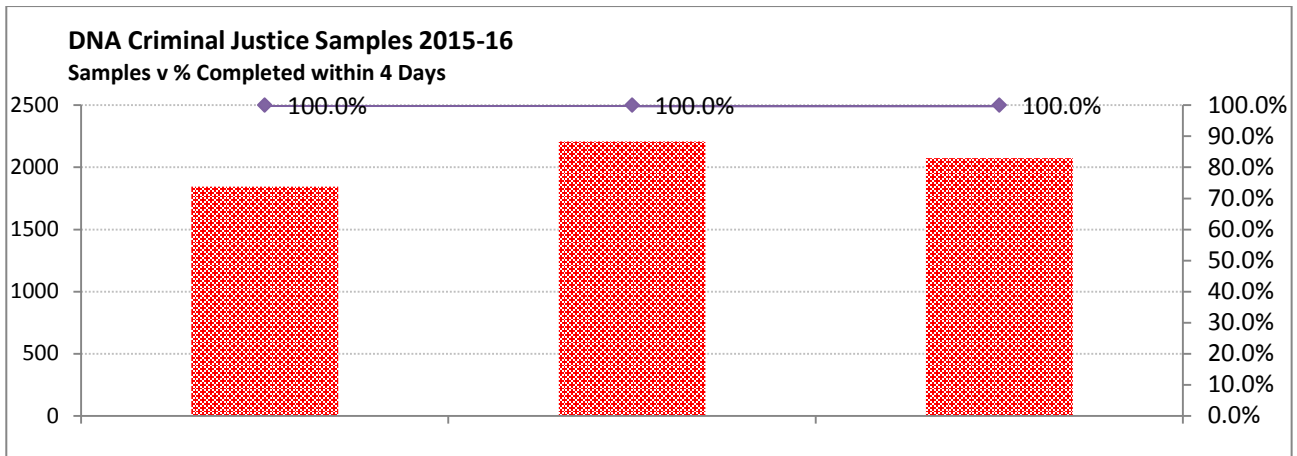
Evidence recovery rates continue to be steady, and above those for 2015-16. YTD recovery rates for 2016-17 have increased by 2%. Whilst attendance figures for 2016-17 now co-align with 2015-16 for June the recovery rate exceeds that recorded for this same period last year, increasing by 4%.

4.2 Laboratory Casework



Laboratory Demand and Output

When compared with last year's figures YTD Demand is down by 28%. 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 significant risk to service delivery if not addressed.



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 1, 100% of samples have been completed within the 4 days.

The number of samples processed has decreased by 6% over the first quarter when compared with the same period in 2015-16