

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>SPA Board Meeting</b>
<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>29 April 2015, 12.30 – 15.30</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Corn Exchange, Edinburgh</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Forensic Services Board Update March 2015</b>
<b>Item Number</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Tom Nelson</b>
<b>For Approval / For Information</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Appendix Attached: Yes or No</b>	<b>No</b>

**PURPOSE**

Board Members are invited to:

1. Review the report and provide any comments on areas requiring further clarification.

**BACKGROUND**

**2. Service Improvements**

**Scene Examination (West) – Accommodation Review**

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Scene Examination in the West of Scotland successfully completed changes to their service delivery footprint. The drivers for the change were to support PSoS rationalisation of estate under the corporate strategy (managing assets to support PSoS in improving efficiency and sustainability) and to strengthen the service delivery model based on divisional demand data and in alignment with the National SE shift pattern. The change comprised the number of working offices for Scene Examination with a reduction from nine to six in the West of Scotland.

**Research and Development Day**

On 31st March, Forensic Services, in conjunction with SIPR, hosted a Research and Development event at Dundee University. The event was attended by six different universities across Scotland and was based around six key subject areas encompassing a range of forensic disciplines. A number of actions were recorded from each of the group discussions and these will be progressed over the coming months. It was a very positive meeting which has initiated development of a core network across Scotland in progressing forensic science related research opportunities.

**Biometric Database Development Day**

On 1st April, representatives from the Home Office project team working on the establishment of a UK Biometric Database visited the Scottish Crime Campus to meet with members of Forensic Services and Police Scotland. The purpose of this meeting was to provide information on the progress of the programme so far. The meeting highlighted that there was an opportunity for us to provide a greater input in to the programme as it progresses.

### **3. Forensic Services Initiatives**

#### **Strategic Business Planning and Core Business Process**

In conjunction with development of the strategic business plan, Forensic Services is developing a consistent and effective core business process to drive effectiveness across the organisation. This will involve a new method of recording and managing casework through the organisation and implementing a methodology to ring-fence work into specific packages. This will deliver an outcome to Police Scotland/COPFS and enable timely performance to be accurately recorded. Central to this development is the requirement to develop a joint tri-partite understanding of the role and purpose of the Joint National Forensic Gateway and Forensic Services role within this. The new core business process will be implemented Q3 2015.

#### **Effective utilisation of forensic science.**

On 7th April 15, Forensic Services initiated a pilot to carry out a review of the effectiveness of all urgent and high priority casework carried out across the organisation. This will involve an assessment at the end of the case of the results obtained and an allocation of a score of effectiveness which can then be collated and reviewed to establish if any cases undertaken in these categories appear to add no value to any stakeholder. Alongside this pilot, the Forensic Services Partnership Forum has approved a separate pilot to monitor the end to end process for high priority 7 day COPFS instructed custody related casework. This pilot will capture key timeliness across the end to end process. This information will be supplemented with an evaluation of the value added at each stage of the process and how forensic science has contributed to any outcome. Following the completion of both pilots, the results will be combined to formulate a number of actions for completion within the short, medium and long term as required.

#### **Drugs Strategy**

Forensic Services has secured funding from Scottish Government to develop a 'Centre of Excellence' for Drugs work relating to New Psychoactive substances and to optimise the value of our new Nuclear Magnetic Resonance instrument (NMR). On 22nd April representatives from Scottish Government and Police Scotland will meet to define the key objectives and scope of this important piece of work

### **4. Quality UKAS Surveillance assessments**

UKAS formally confirmed the submission of satisfactory evidence and all Forensic Services laboratory sites have had notification of the maintenance of accredited scope for the next twelve month period. The next round of UKAS surveillance assessment activity is planned for October 2015.

#### **Extension to Scope**

The accreditation of the new legal alcohol limit was confirmed by UKAS on 26 March 2015.

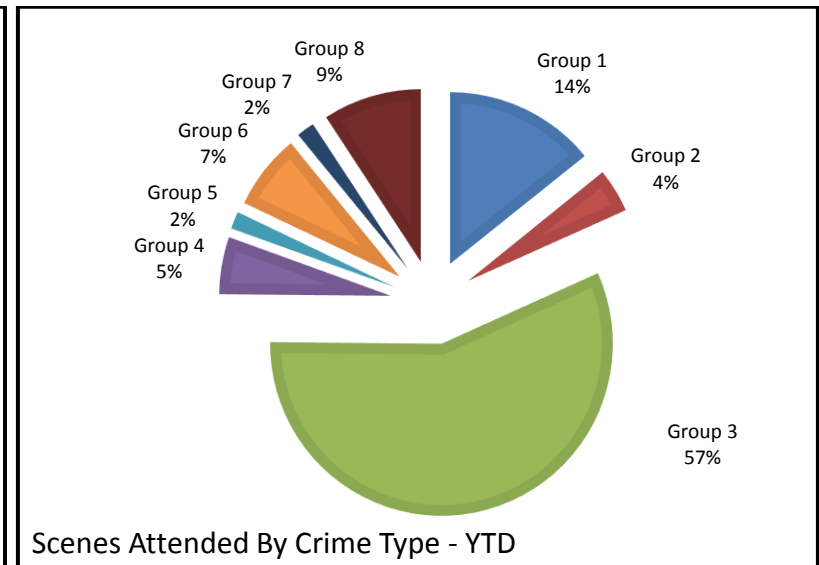
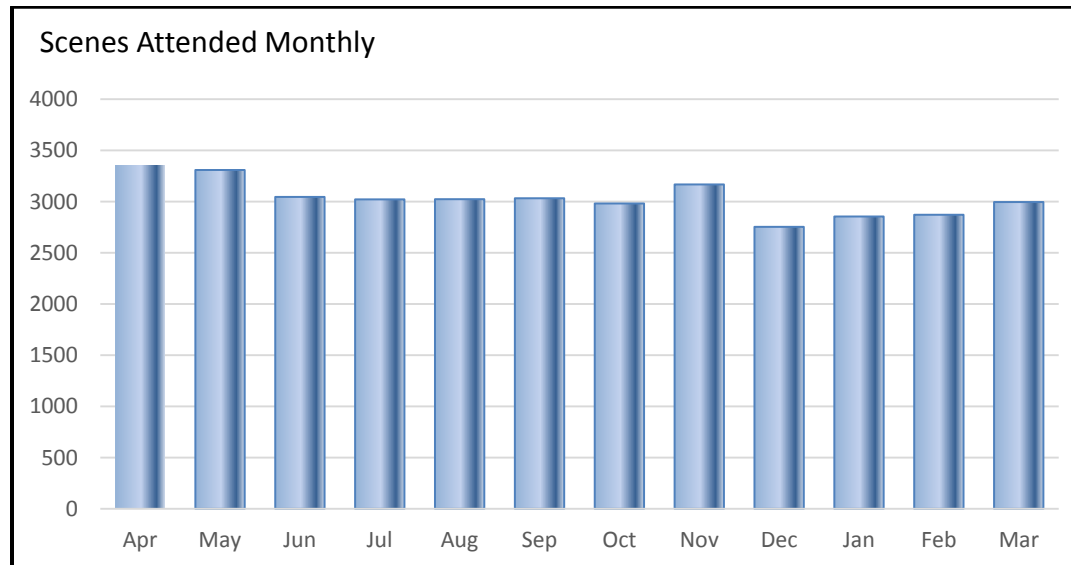
**Forensic Regulator**

Forensic Services delivered a presentation on the 'Journey to Fingerprint Accreditation' at the Forensic Regulators conference in March 2015. This conference was attended by Police Forces from across England & Wales and other Forensic Services providers from across the UK.

**7. Performance  
Scene Examination - March 2015**

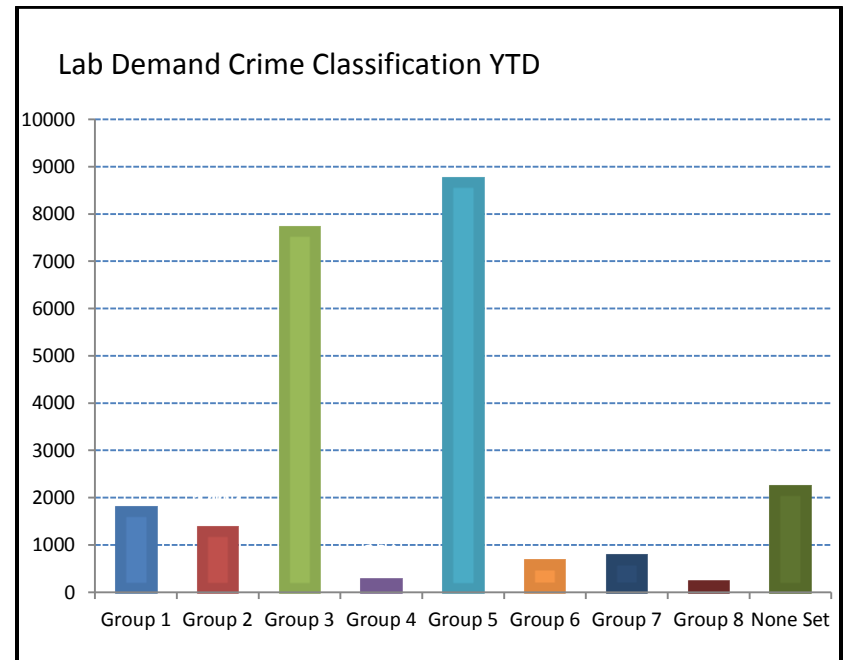
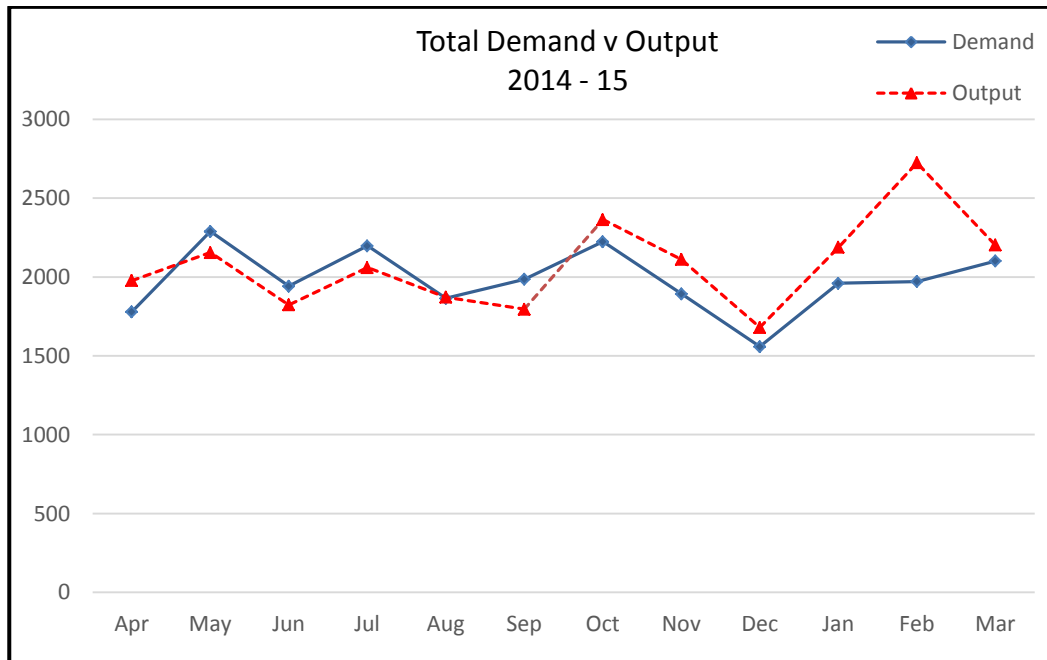
Scenes Attended		Police Scotland North				Police Scotland East				Police Scotland West					Total	
Police Scotland Divisions		Div A	Div B	Div D	Div N	Div C	Div E	Div J	Div P	Div G	Div K	Div L	Div Q	Div U		Div V
Mar-15	Scenes Attended	204	95	229	45	179	594	247	152	456	144	57	368	178	47	2995
	Scene Evidence Recovery	72%	70%	77%	90%	66%	61%	68%	59%	57%	51%	70%	57%	60%	72%	63%
YTD 2014-15	Scenes Attended	2282	1218	3156	746	2061	5338	2643	2130	7196	1978	932	3712	2431	576	36399
	Scene Evidence Recovery	74%	72%	73%	87%	67%	58%	59%	60%	56%	58%	65%	59%	51%	78%	62%

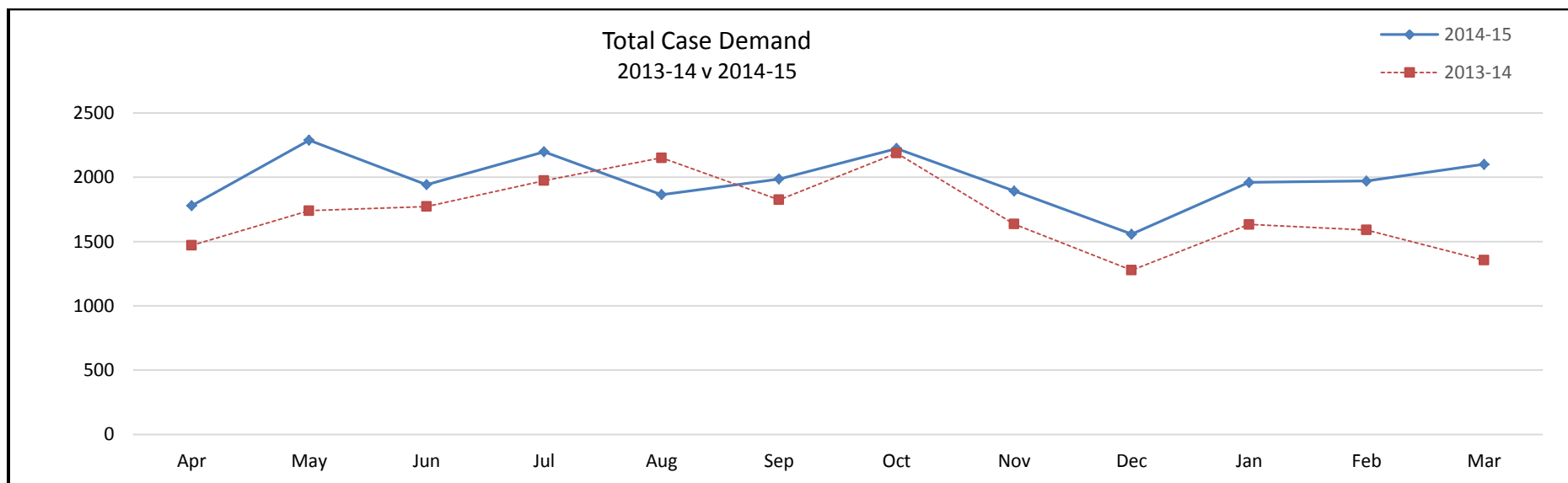
Crime Classifications		Gp 1	Gp 2	Gp 3	Gp 4	GP 5	Gp 6	Gp 7	Gp 8	Total
Mar-15	Scenes Attended	407	94	1813	114	44	203	40	280	2995
YTD 2014-15	Scenes Attended	5166	1497	20690	1925	584	2573	609	3355	36399



Laboratory Casework – March 2015

Laboratory Casework Units		Biology		Physical Sciences					Total
		LSL	HVPU	Drugs	Toxicology	Chemistry	Firearms	Fingerprints	
Mar-15	Case Demand	297	356	924	75	53	28	368	2101
	Case Output	290	167	932	105	67	22	620	2203
YTD 2014-15	Case Demand	3335	4891	8464	974	726	342	5034	23766
	Case Output	3050	4025	9214	964	835	493	6373	24954





The above charts illustrate demand and output of laboratory casework; however the following points should be noted when considering the data;

- Over the period of 2014-15 there has been a 15.3% increase in demand in cases submitted to Forensic Services versus the demand in 2013-14. This, together with a similar increase in urgent requests, is continuing to put significant pressure on the fixed capacity of Forensic Services.

The following charts for Biology and Physical Science show that demand remains high in the Biology LSL and in Drugs areas. This issue combined with the increase in urgent analyses continues to be addressed by the FSSPF. The Biology HVPU output figures have been decreasing over the past few months; this is attributed to the HVPU suffering abstractions of staff for DNA validation and equipment issues. For the last 6 months the output in Fingerprints has exceeded demand and there is a similar trend in Drugs over the last three months. Forensic Services performance with regard to DNA Criminal Justice samples remains consistently strong.

