

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting
Date and Time	24 June 2015, 11.30 – 14.30
Location	Tollcross International Swimming Centre, Glasgow
Title of Paper	Forensic Services Board Update
Item Number	8
Presented By	Tom Nelson
For Approval / For Information	For Information
Appendix Attached: Yes or No	No

PURPOSE

Board Members are invited to:

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

BACKGROUND

2. Service Improvements

2.1 SIPR Funding Application

Following on from the Research and Development day in March, the SIPR Executive has agreed to allocate a dedicated amount of funding to support research initiatives that originate from an interactive research workshop.

The application process has now been agreed and communicated to all stakeholders that attended the original event and has a closing date of 7th August.

2.2 Forensic Innovation Group

Following further discussion at the Forensic Performance and Operational Group in May, agreement has now been reached with Police Scotland and COPFS to establish the Forensic Innovation Group.

The purpose of the working group is to consider technological developments and how these will support Police Scotland and COPFS strategic priorities.

It was also agreed that this group will be the key link between Forensic Services and the Police Scotland 'Futures' Project to ensure, where appropriate, cognisance is made of future developments from a technical and scientific perspective.

SIPR will also be invited to this group to be the key link between Forensic Services, Police Scotland, COPFS and academia.

2.3 Biometric Database Development

Following on from workshop on 1st April with Home Office representatives of the UK Biometrics Programme, a further meeting took place at the SCC between Forensic Services and the SRO for the Biometrics Programme, Stephen Webb. This has resulted in Forensic Services securing a permanent position on the Programme Board to ensure that the different requirements for Scotland are represented.

2.4 EMS Roadmap

The key business priorities have been defined by Forensic Services and dialogue has commenced with ICT and Abbott Informatics regarding resource and technical requirements that will support the EMS programme.

2.5 Role of Forensic Services in the Joint National Forensic Gateway (JNFG)

Several discussions have been undertaken to review expectations of all partners of the role of the JNFG. We are currently arranging a ½ day session involving all partners to discuss how best we can build on the good working relationship and practices currently in place.

3. SERVICE INITIATIVES

3.1 Business Planning Update

Together with the strategic business plan that is in the process of development and will be brought to the SPA Board at a future date, Forensic Services is initially 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, implementing a methodology to ring-fence work in to specific packages which will deliver an outcome to Police Scotland/COPFS and enable timeliness performance to be accurately recorded.

A first draft of the Forensic Services Balanced Scorecard for 15/16 is being produced and the reporting structure against this document is being discussed.

3.1.1 Forensic Business Process Development

This topic encompasses a number of areas of development which were highlighted in the last Business Performance Meeting; this will culminate in the LEAN process optimisation work stream which will be reported in future meetings.

Packages of Work (POW)

An initial prototype of the POW module in EMS will be delivered to Forensic Services in the next week. This will allow initial testing to be undertaken which will then subsequently inform the preparation of training material. At this stage the project is on track for an October implementation.

Business Rules

Agreement has been reached that the Business Rules will be split into two separate documents;

1. Acceptance of Requests for Forensic Casework
2. Forensic Services Internal Business Rules

Document one will require ratification through the FSSPF meeting. It is anticipated that an initial draft will be available by mid-July.

3.2 CAPEX Update

No issues to be reported. 15/16 spend is ongoing and Finance have now provided Forensic Services with a central cost code for all CAPEX expenditure to ensure that the yearend accounting process is more effective and efficient this year.

4.0 The Joint National Forensic Gateway Engagement

The National Forensic Gateway comprises of members from COPFS, Police Scotland and SPA Forensic Services. Forensic Services presented at a joint meeting with partners on the types of substrates that DNA and Fingerprints are likely to be recovered from.

Within Forensic Services the Volume Crime Unit (VCU) and Mark Enhancement Laboratory (MEL) are focussed on the recovery of DNA and Fingerprints on items submitted to Forensic Services.

The VCU recovers DNA in undetected volume crime and certain categories of serious crime cases, whereas MEL recovers primarily fingerprints but also DNA in volume and serious crime, and drugs cases.

The purpose of the presentation was to highlight the range of success rates that are found for the item and surface types that are typically submitted for examination and to offer guidance with respect to assessment prior to submission.

We are currently arranging a ½ session involving all partners to discuss how best we can build on the good working relationship and practices currently in place.

5.0 Partnership working update

We are currently engaging with HMRC to scope new opportunities for further partnership working. The main focus has been on the benefits the Multi-Media Unit brings in the presentation of evidence for Court and HMRC are keen to develop a working partnership with us to take this forward.

We are also working closely with Police Scotland, COPFS and the NCA on the recent case involving a large haul of drugs off the North coast of Scotland.

Forensic Services have been asked to engage with representatives of the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice community and the Forensic Science Northern Ireland to discuss the potential roll out in Northern Ireland of a delivery model mirroring the Scottish Crime Scene to Court model.

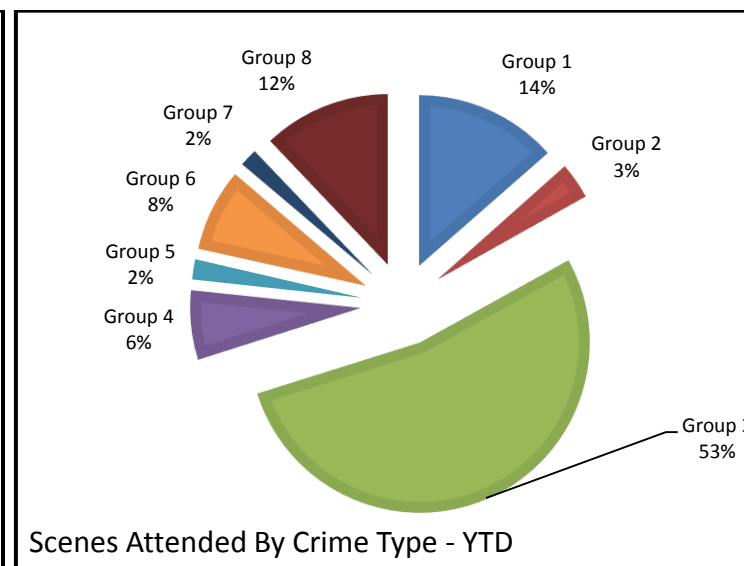
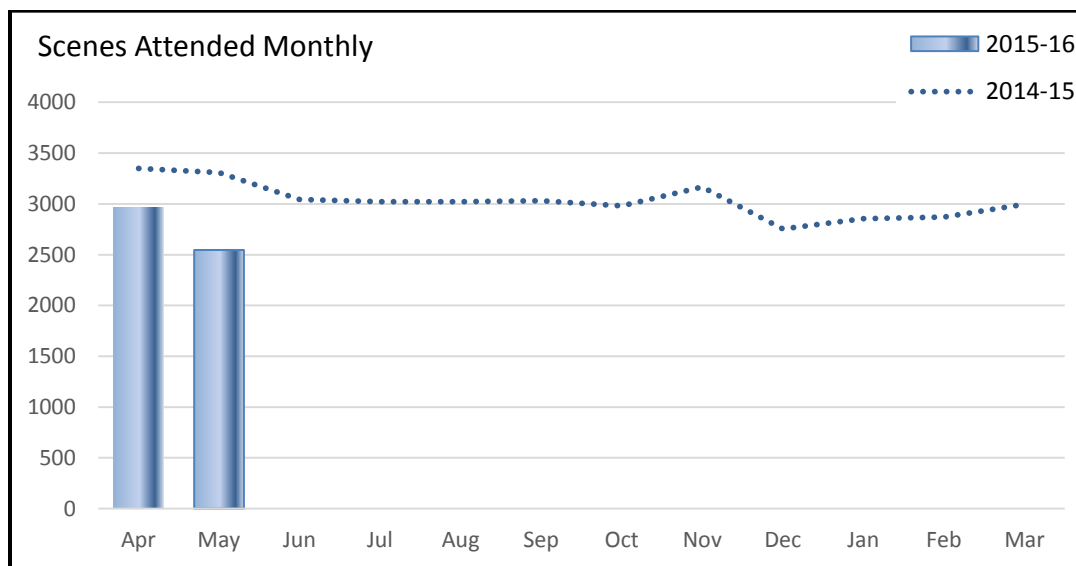
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6. Performance

Scene Examination - May 2015

Scenes Attended		Police Scotland North				Police Scotland East				Police Scotland West					Total	
		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
May-15	Scenes Attended	144	77	266	67	159	308	184	130	562	147	87	219	166	30	2546
	Scene Evidence Recovery	81%	77%	70%	80%	70%	52%	65%	71%	59%	58%	75%	62%	64%	95%	70%
YTD 2015-16	Scenes Attended	299	170	544	115	344	770	420	294	1107	336	181	472	368	86	5506
	Scene Evidence Recovery	77%	74%	72%	86%	68%	54%	64%	71%	58%	62%	76%	63%	68%	81%	70%

Crime Classifications		Gp 1	Gp 2	Gp 3	Gp 4	GP 5	Gp 6	Gp 7	Gp 8	Total
May-15	Scenes Attended	373	92	1274	182	47	205	47	326	2546
YTD 2015-16	Scenes Attended	744	189	2929	358	100	428	93	665	5506



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Scene Examination

In **June 2014** Forensic Services implemented revised, consistent data recording rules for scene attendance. From this time only **actual attendance** at a locus is recorded as a scene attendance. Prior to June 2014 the following are examples of activities that were recorded as scene attendance and therefore a direct comparison should not be made to 2015/16 figures:-

- Attendance at scene but access cannot be gained
- Multiple activity at single locus- now recorded as 1 attendance rather than multiple attendances

December 2014- saw the implementation of Scene Request Management Module (SRMM) in Police Scotland/Scene Examination West it is intended to roll this out across the other Police Regions

The EMS now provides more accurate management information across Scene Examination in comparison to legacy systems.

Laboratory

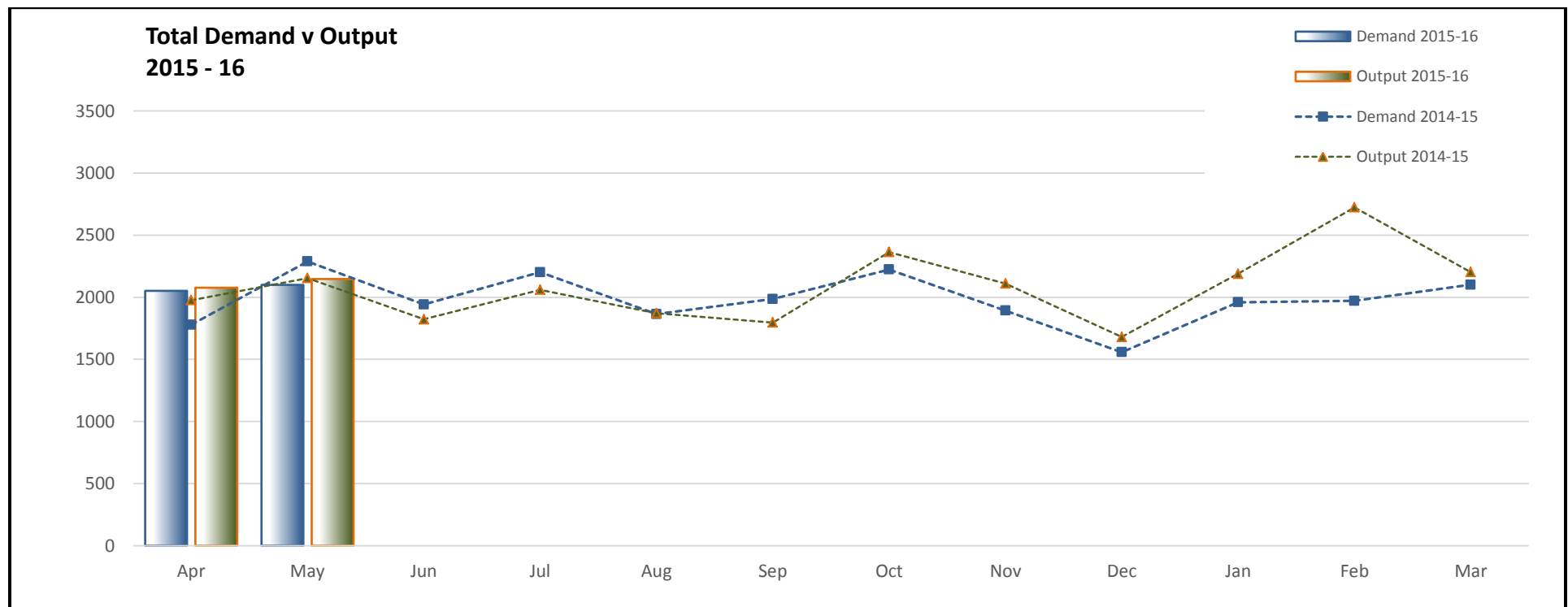
The charts below illustrate demand and output of laboratory casework; however the following points should be noted when considering the data;

- Over 2014-15 period there had been a 15% increase in demand in cases submitted to Forensic Services vs the demand in 2013-14. This trend is continuing into the first two months of 2015/16 and 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 had been decreasing over the past few months however the last two months have seen an increase in output. For the last 8 months the output in Fingerprints has exceeded demand.
- DNA (CJ) performance-The fibre optic cable link to Rushton Court was severed on two occasions during May 2015. This had a significant impact of the business and caused an increase in turnaround times (TRT).

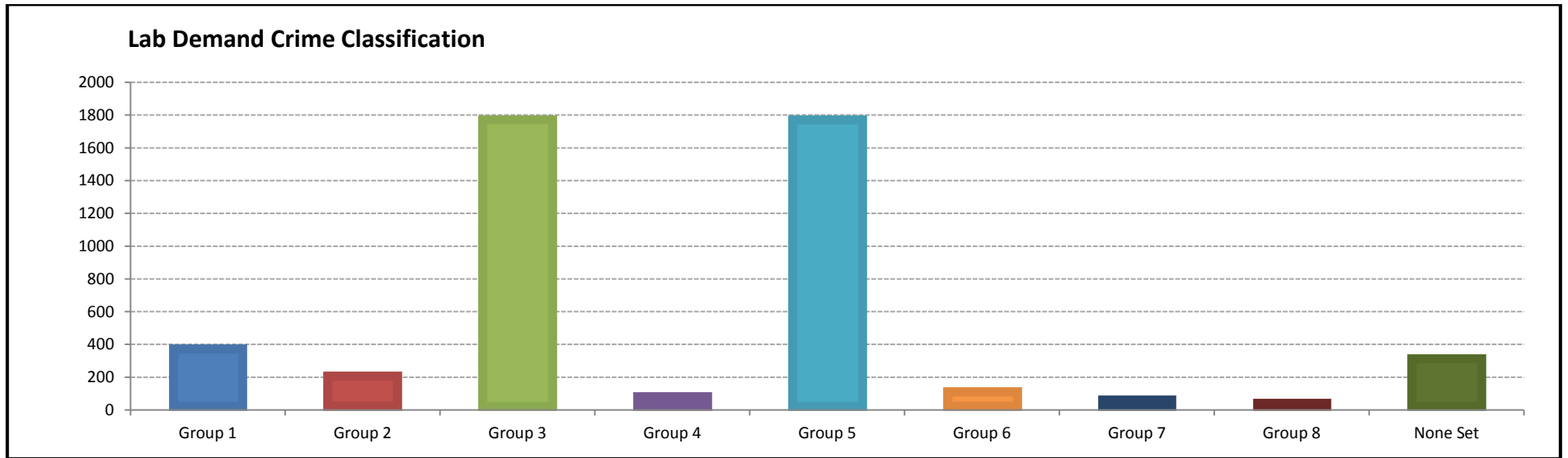
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Laboratory Casework – May 2015

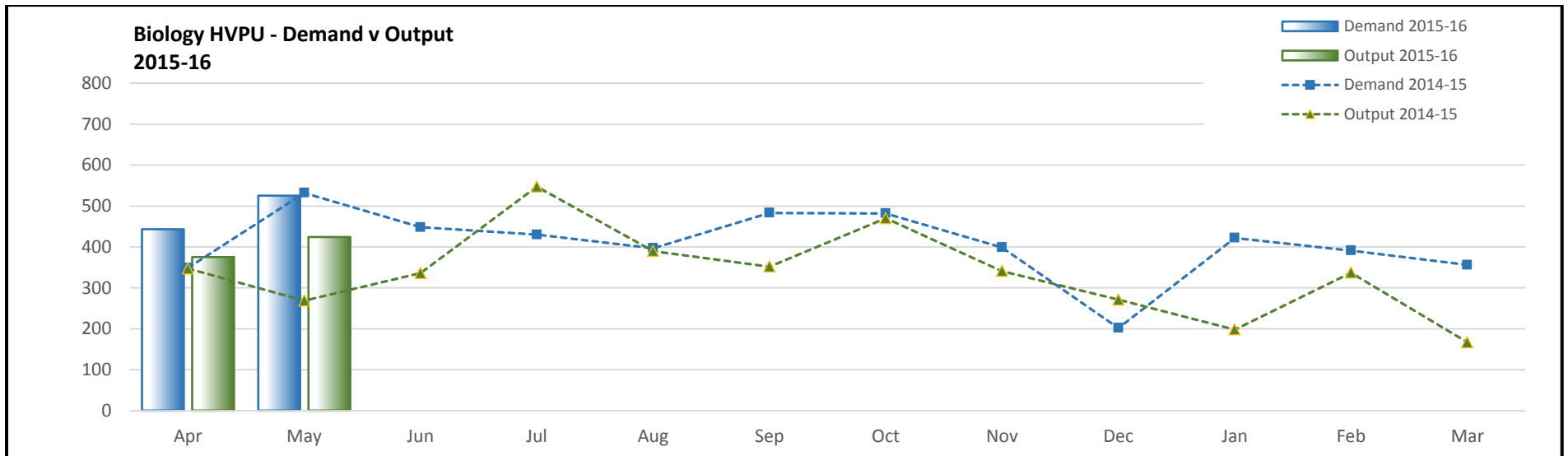
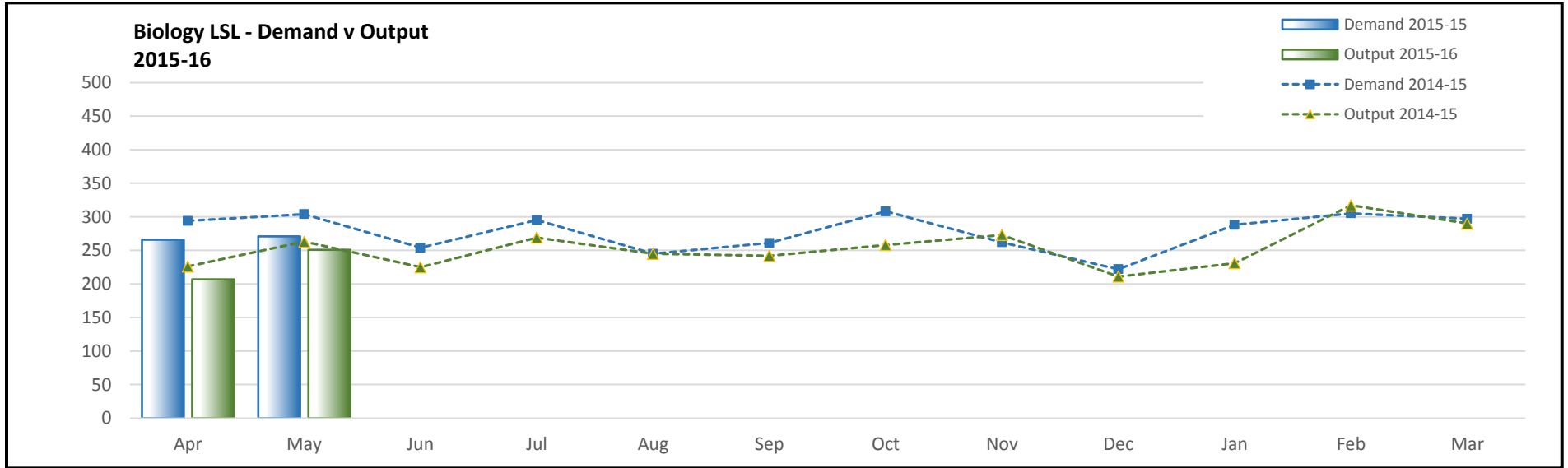
Laboratory Casework Units		Biology		Physical Sciences					Total
		LSL	HVPU	Drugs	Toxicology	Chemistry	Firearms	Fingerprints	
May-15	Case Demand	271	525	807	68	71	21	337	2100
	Case Output	251	424	686	88	59	15	624	2147
YTD 2015-16	Case Demand	537	968	1572	129	141	44	761	4152
	Case Output	458	799	1435	182	131	39	1180	4224



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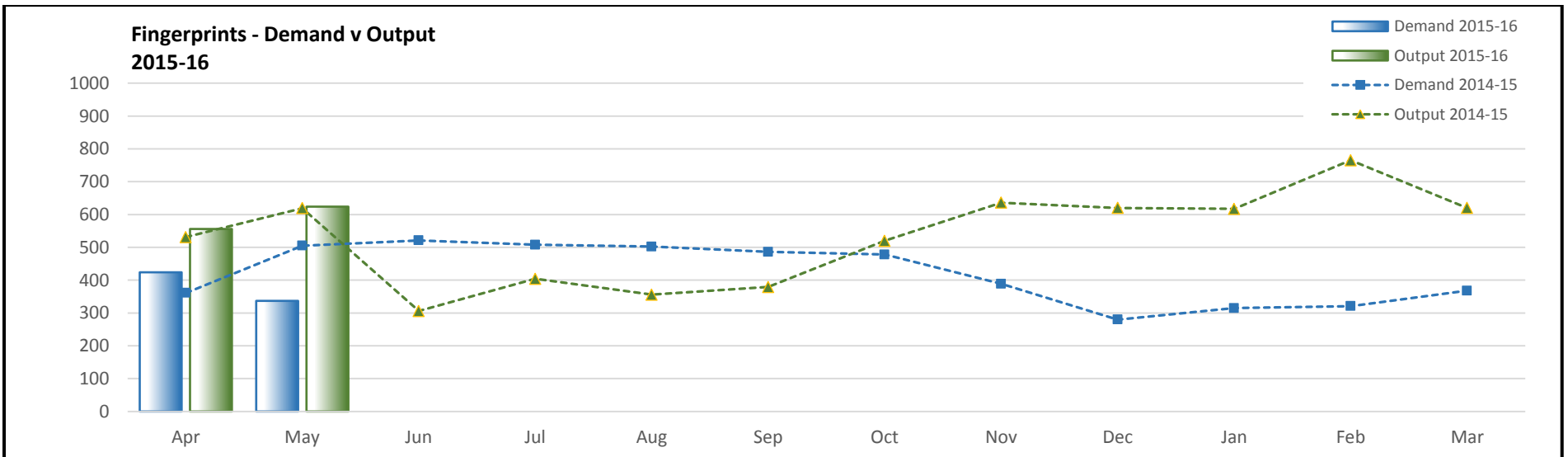
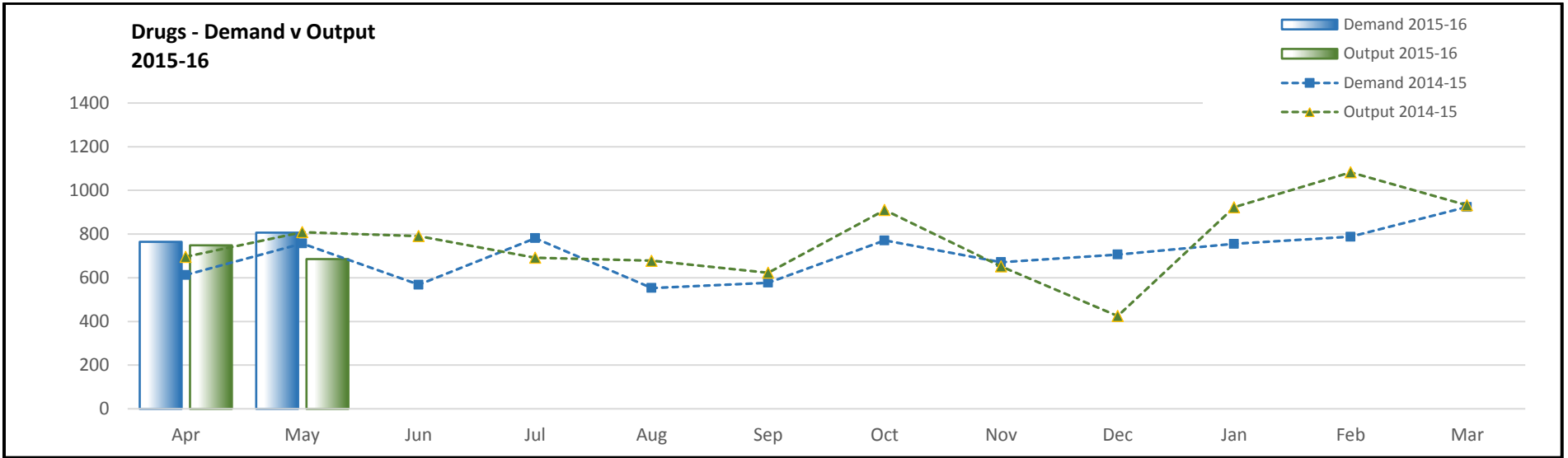


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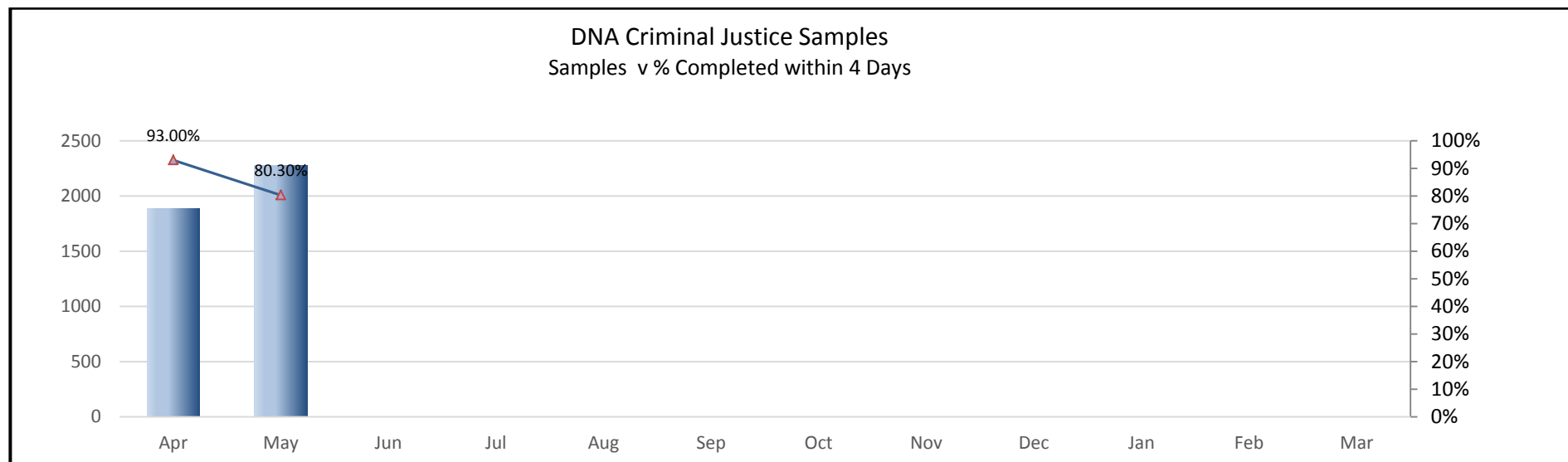
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