

**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**

Meeting	Public SPA Board Meeting
Date and Time	25 May 2017
Location	Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel
Title of Paper	SPA Forensic Services Performance Report
Item Number	11.1
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 Four 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 is expected to deliver on budget for the 2016/17 year with the quarter four results showing good progress in this regard.

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 4 Report

May 2017

Presented to: Scottish Police Authority May 2017 Board
Reporting Period: Q4 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

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>Awaiting SG decision</i>	Our role complete
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>A number of new services have been introduced including; roll-out of the Image management system (IMS), YStr DNA analysis and DNA interpretation software STRmix.</i>	Complete
Establish PMO structure in Forensic Science to delivery partner expectations	Q3	<i>Meetings have been held with PS HOPMO's and options paper is being developed.</i>	On-going

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
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3. SERVICE INITIATIVES & IMPROVEMENTS

3.1 Capacity and Demand

We are working with partners in particular to understand how we manage the demand vs capacity challenges. We extended the scope of the JNFG pilot. We are currently assessing the data with our partners and have submitted an Interim Report. The final report will be discussed at the next meeting of the Management Advisory Group (MAG).

3.2 Bar Coding

The project implementation is ongoing. There has been significant input from FS staff, the supplier and IT which 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)

During March UKAS Fingerprint Comparison assessments were undertaken in Forensic Services Dundee and Aberdeen. A positive recommendation to maintain accreditation was received.

UKAS Extension to Scope for Nabis at Forensic Services Glasgow and Drugs HPLC at Forensic Services Dundee have concluded with all findings closed out and award of accreditation granted.

Gary Holcroft Head of Function Physical Science has been asked to Chair the Forensic Science Regulators Fingerprint Quality Standards Group for the UK. This is further recognition for the work Forensic Services have done in being the first major organisation to obtain accreditation in Fingerprint comparison.

2017 Assessment dates

Dates for the 2017 UKAS assessments have now been finalised.

Site	Date from	Date to
Edinburgh	Tue 24 Oct 2017	Thu 26 Oct 2017
Glasgow/SCC	Mon 06 Nov 2017	Fri 10 Nov 2017
Dundee	Tue 21 Nov 2017	Thu 23 Nov 2017
Edinburgh	Tue 21 Nov 2017	Wed 22 Nov 2017
Aberdeen	Mon 04 Dec 2017	Wed 06 Dec 2017
Edinburgh	Tue 24 Oct 2017	Thu 26 Oct 2017

3.4 Business Continuity – Preparedness

Forensic Services held a Business Continuity table top event to exercise the Forensic Services response to an increase in threat level from severe to critical. The exercise considered several themes (people, communication, service delivery, estates) and tested our response at both national and local levels. The event was also attended by partners from Scottish Multi-agency Resilience Training and Exercise Unit (SMARTEU). All expected outcomes were met.

3.5 Staff Engagement (All staff)

A staff engagement programme was initiated across all four principle sites (SCC, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee) in January/February where staff were updated on the following: -

- Pay Reward and Modernisation programme
- Forensic Services 2026 activities

This was supplemented by further Scene Examination engagement sessions at some of the Scene Examination Satellite offices.

A further programme of engagement will take place in the first three weeks of May where we will update staff of the following: -

- The staff survey results and action plan
- The 17/18 FS Business Plan
- FS 2026 update
- PDC rollout

CPD Programme

Each of the Forensic Services functional areas have a CPD annual programme to support staff development. As part of the staff survey action plan it has been agreed for 17/18 to continue to allocate funding to each of the programmes and also establish a Management CPD programme.

Drugs Driving

A joint paper has been prepared by Forensic Services and Police Scotland to brief Scottish Government relating to the potential costs and issues relating to the implementation of Drugs Driving legislation in Scotland. A ministerial announcement was made on 21st April that this would be introduced by 2019 and that there would be active engagement across all stakeholders in Scotland regarding the scope of the legislation. Forensic Services will require to procure new capital equipment to then enable the methods to be developed. A report outlining the first 2 years' experience of the same legislation in England and Wales is being published by the Department for Transport on 25th April. This will provide additional data and information for all partners to aid the successful implementation in Scotland.

STRmix

Forensic Services are gathering feedback on the benefits of STRmix, including the anecdotal feedback from a recent Operation that 80% of the DNA results would not have been available had DNA24 and STRmix not been rolled out. The combination of the DNA24 process and the interpretation software package STRmix is adding significant value to the service we provide Police Scotland and our other partners.

Forensic Services will be submitting a paper on the benefits of STRmix at a future meeting.

HMICS Inspection of Forensic Services

We have received confirmation from HMICS that they have now commenced internal quality assurance with HMCIS as part of the ongoing inspection of Forensic Services. Thereafter, they will issue a draft of the report to Forensic Services for factual accuracy comments with two weeks to complete this process. We anticipate that we will receive this draft report in the coming weeks.

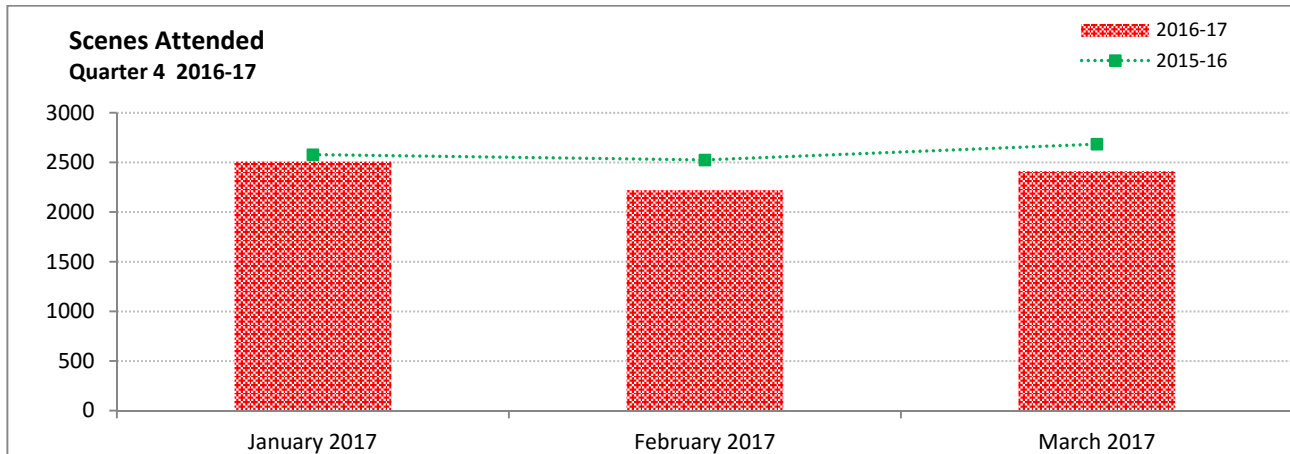
Following the checking of the report and its publication, Forensic Services will develop a plan on how we will deliver on the recommendations arising from the inspection.

Performance Reporting 2017/18

Forensic Services have developed new reporting conventions which will take effect in the 2017/18 performance reports. This information will provide enhanced reporting in regard to the profile of Forensic Services Demands including Cases and Packages of Work as well as defining Forensic Services Capacity. These new reports will inform the Forensic Services Management Advisory Group (MAG) as well as future SPA Board meetings.

4. PERFORMANCE

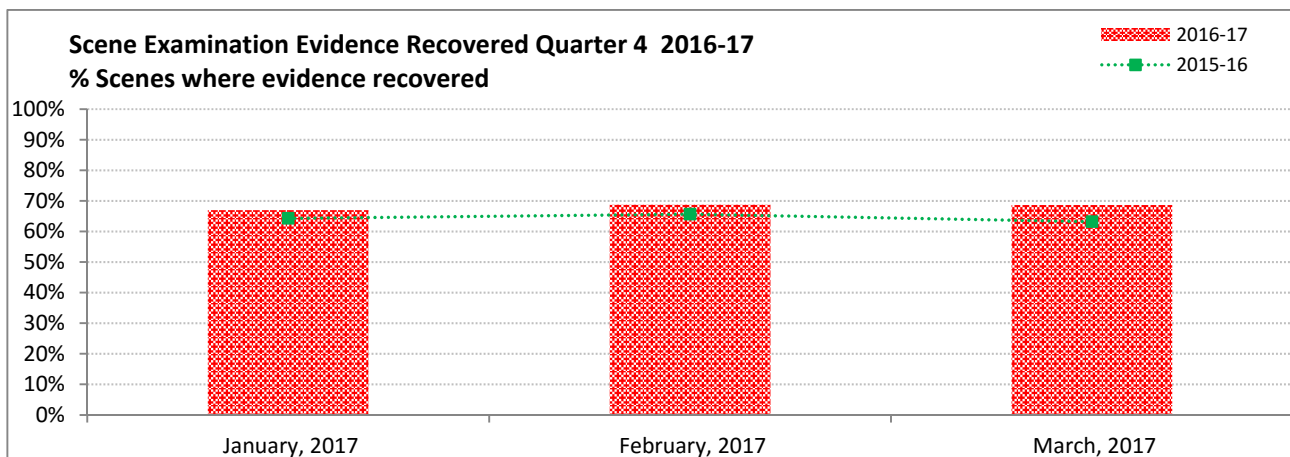
4.1 Scene Attendance & Evidency Recovery Rates



Scenes Attended

The above chart shows actual scene attendance.

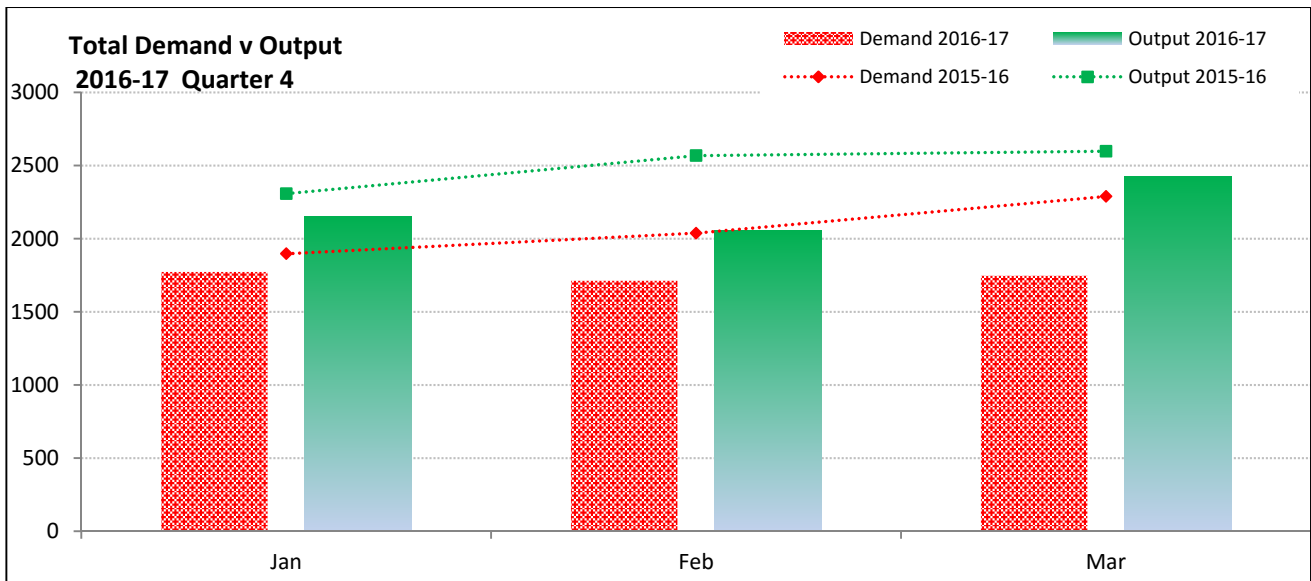
There has been an 8% drop in scene attendances in Quarter 4 2016-17 compared to Quarter 4 of the previous year. However, across the full financial year the number of scenes attended is comparable to that of 2015-16, seeing a marginal decline of 0.5%.



Evidence Recovered

All three months in the last quarter have seen small increase in evidence recovery rates compared to the previous year; furthermore, the overall rate for the full year sits at 67.9%, three and a half percentage points higher than for 2015-16.

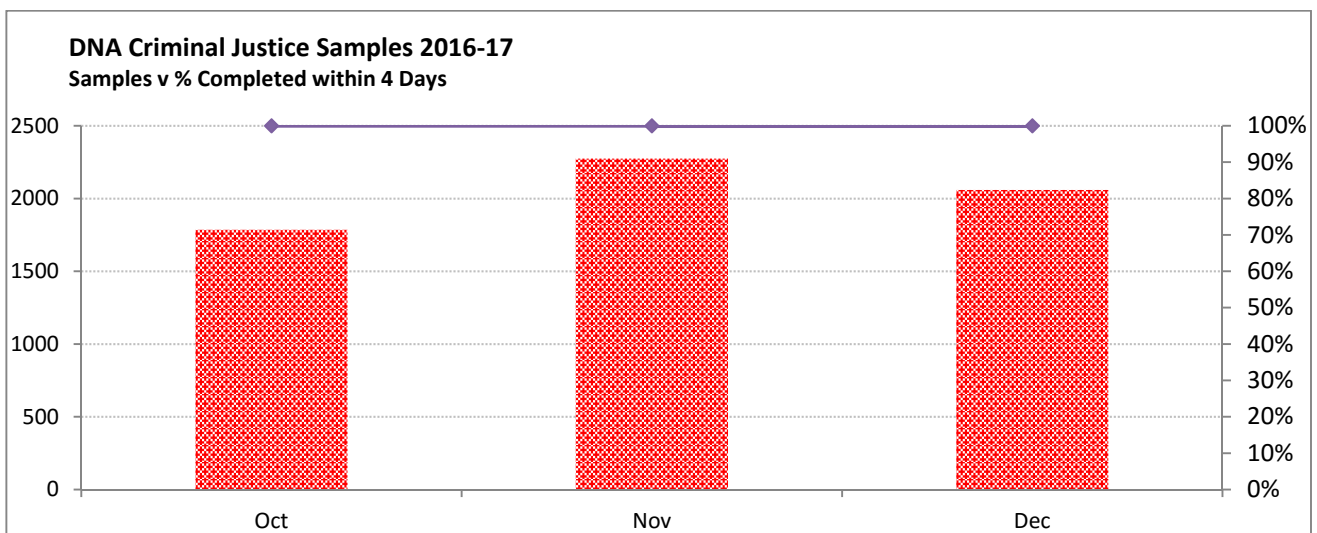
4.2 Laboratory Casework



Laboratory Demand and Output

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. Introduction of new techniques and processes is delivering a better quality output but has an impact on delivery. The Joint National Forensic Gateway with all partners is working together in regard to active demand management to ensure best value in relation to forensic investigations.

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