

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	19 February 2020
Location	The Barracks, Stirling
Title of Paper	Forensic Services Performance Report
Presented By	Tom Nelson, Director of Forensic Services
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Business Performance Report Q3

PURPOSE

To present Forensic Services Performance Report, Q3 2019/20 for Committee consideration.

This paper is presented in line with;

- The Scottish Police Authority Scheme of Delegation

This paper is for discussion.

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Forensic Services Business Performance Report is presented for Q3 2019/20.
- 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 2019/20.
- 1.4 The report demonstrates SPA Forensic Services delivery over the last year 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 The financial implications are noted in the report.

3 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct personnel implications associated with this paper.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this paper.

5 REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct reputational implications associated with this paper.

6 SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct social implications associated with this paper.

7 COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 7.1 There are no direct community impact implications associated with this paper.

OFFICIAL

SPA Authority Meeting
Forensic Services Performance October – December 2019
19 February 2020

OFFICIAL

8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

9 ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of the Q3, 2019/20 Performance Report.

Scottish Police Authority

Forensic Services

Performance Report

Quarter 3 2019/20

For presentation to the Authority

19 February 2019

Performance

- Average casework age has fallen over the last year in each area of FS. Considerable effort has been put into reduction of active workload although demand continues to increase particularly in drugs work.
- Demand has grown steadily over the last 12 months, this steady increase is forecast to continue
- Laboratory output has also increase over the same period offsetting the impact of this demand increase.
- Continued significant input to major crime cases and demand for such input. All areas of the organisation contributing to this requirement.

Engagement

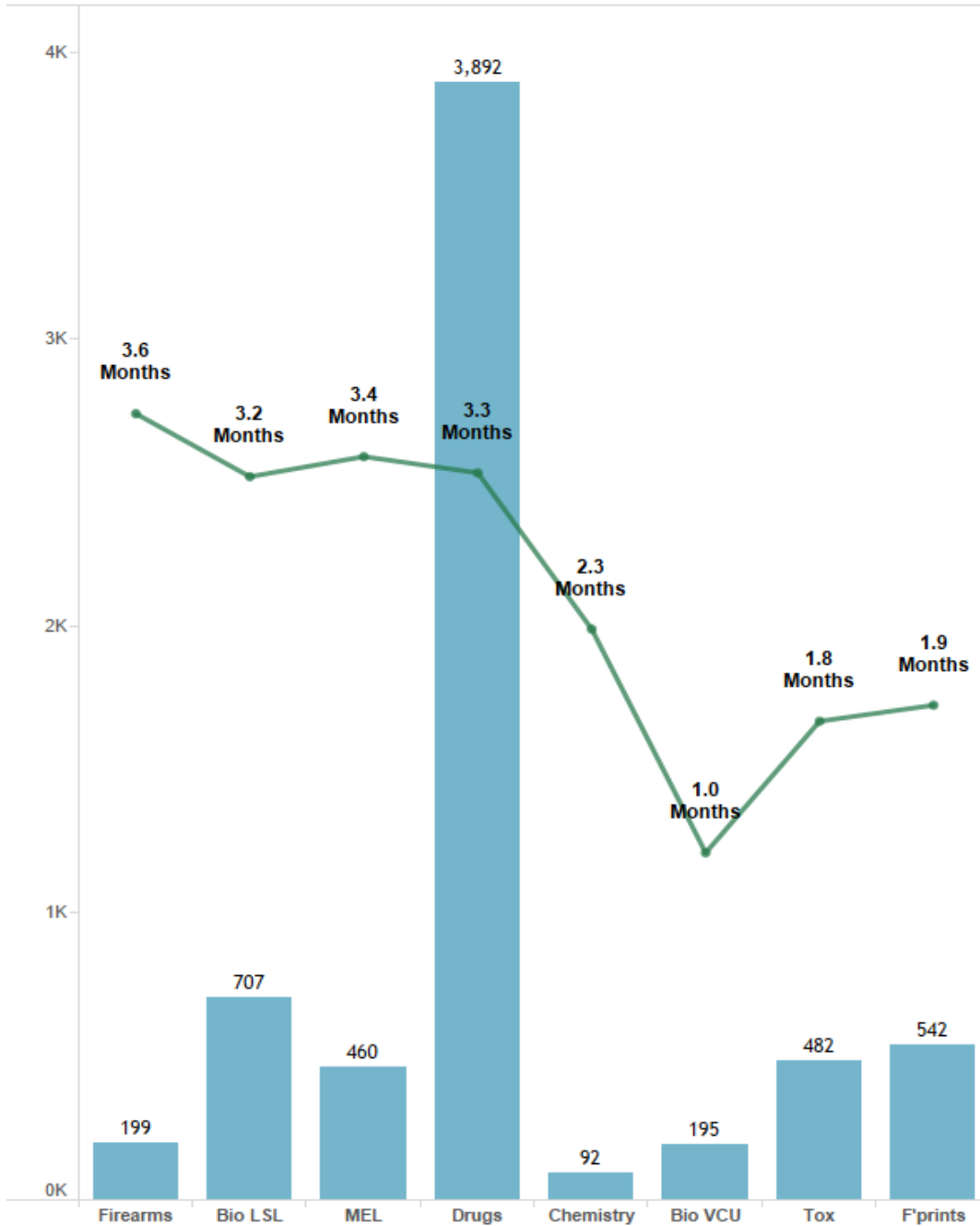
- Forensic Services have been working with Police Scotland in taking forward the expanded drug performance data discussed on page 4 of this report.
- Forensic Services are part of the Drugs Task Force Sub Group on Drugs Data Intelligence.
- Continued engagement with SIPR and Leverhulme Research Centre undertaking forensic science projects which are possible through the enhancement of science and technology.
- Considerable engagement within own staff in developing a clear understanding around the work being carried out on our new target operating model.

Business Update

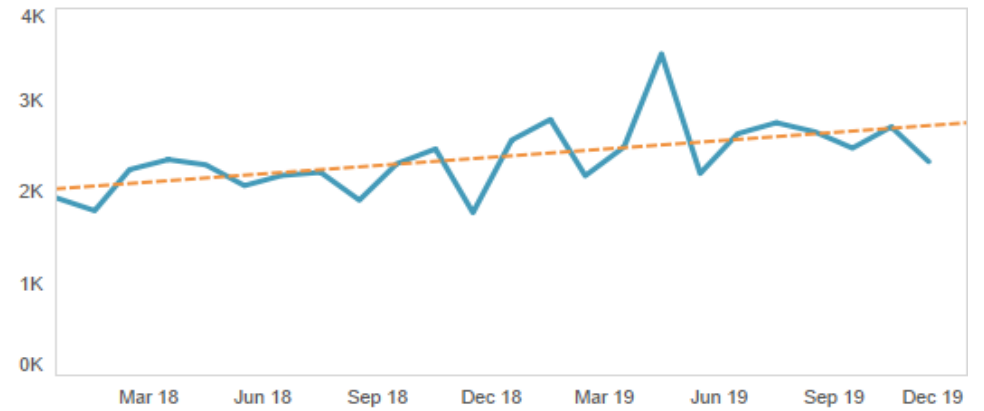
- Operational improvement projects are ongoing and delivering value supporting the wider change agenda.
- Workload reduction projects continuing and whilst not reducing casework in all areas, due to demand, output has increased.
- Capital expenditure for the year is complete with all funds committed through to March 2020.
- Roll out of new business reporting software to managers at the end of 2019 has provided improved graphical reporting – now assisting in workload planning.

Forensic Services - Laboratory Casework

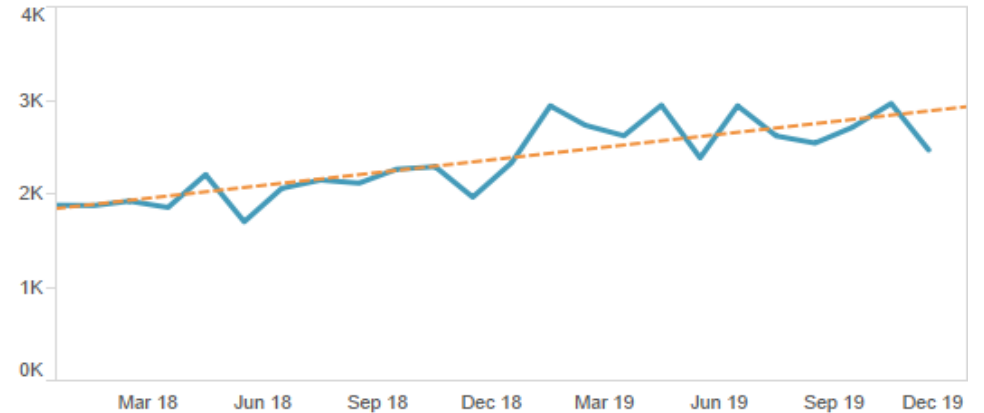
Open Cases - end Q3 19-20 with average age



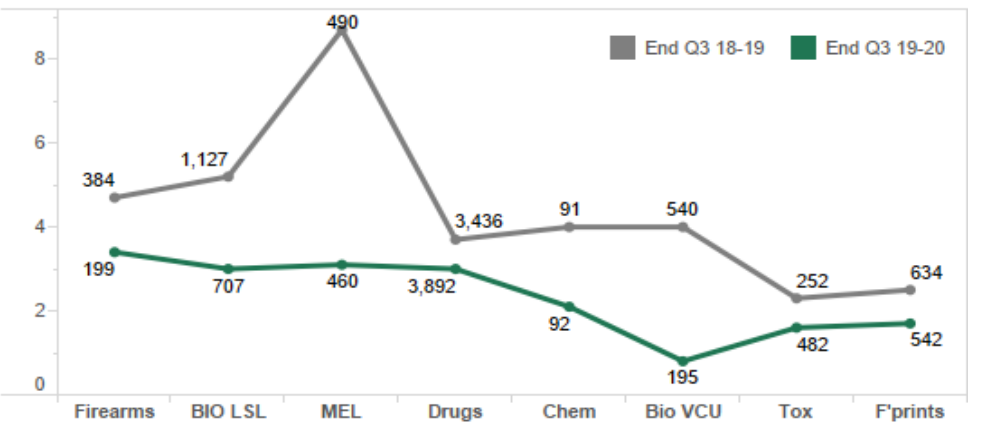
Casework Demand previous 2 years



Casework Output previous 2 years



Casework Ageing average months open / number of open cases



Forensic Services - Physical Sciences - Drugs Unit

Work Profile

Data based on calendar year reporting period. Based on those cases submitted to Forensic Services for analysis. All data based on Forensic Services management information and should be treated as provisional.

12,600 cases
in the previous 12 months

33%
3yr demand increase

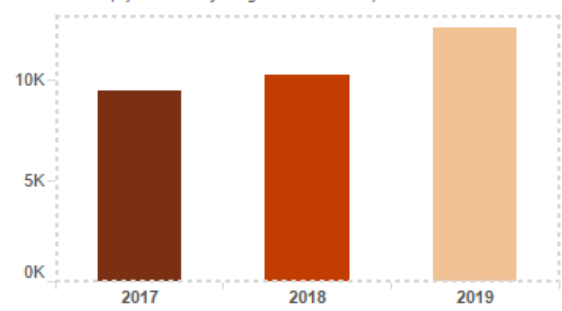
3,000

31%

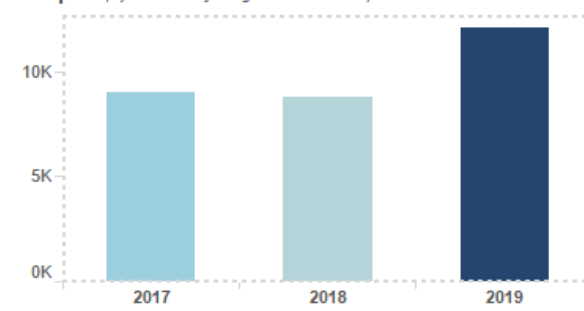
Additional Cases compared to 2017

Rise in Output

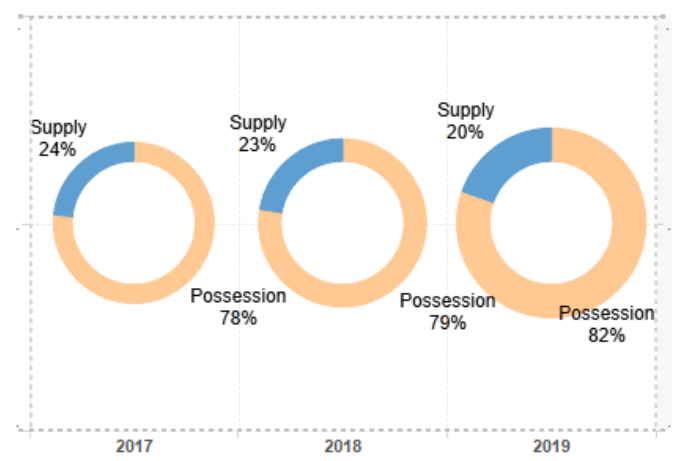
Demand (by number of drugs unit lab cases)



Output (by number of drugs unit lab cases)

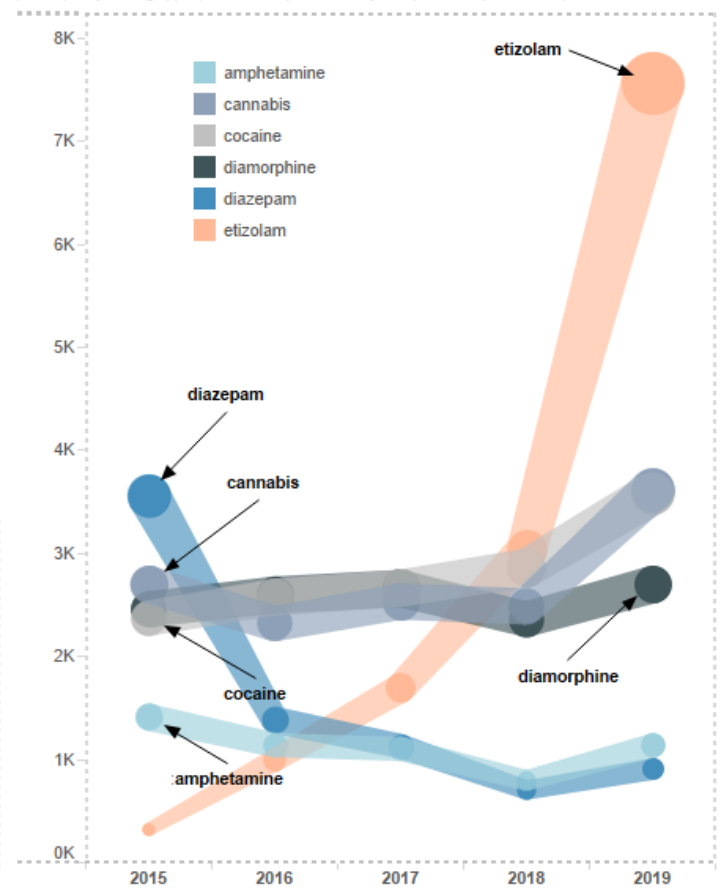


Case Profile - % of Drug Lab Demand



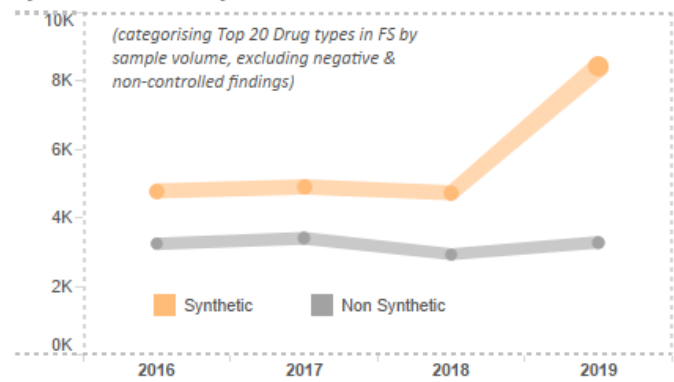
Drug Constituents

(most prolific drug types, counted by number of samples analysed in lab)



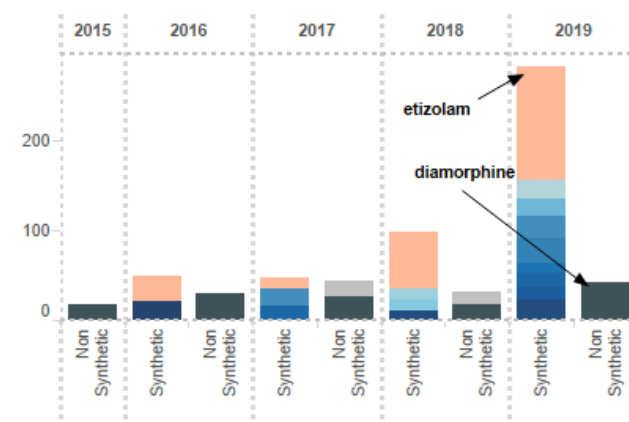
- Significant increase in demand since 2017
- Requirement to review internal processes to delivery faster, higher volume service
- Work ongoing with PSOs and COPFS to facilitate this initiative
- Pilot process to commence in early spring to test new process prior to implementation

Synthetic v Non Synthetic



Drug Related Deaths - Cases Analysed by Forensic Services

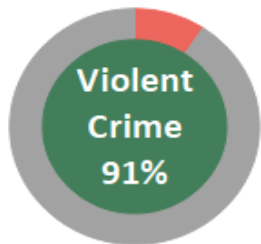
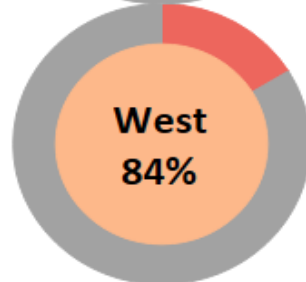
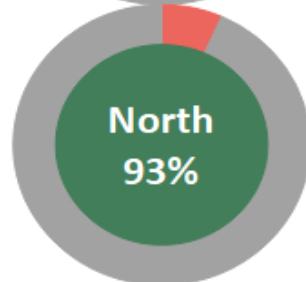
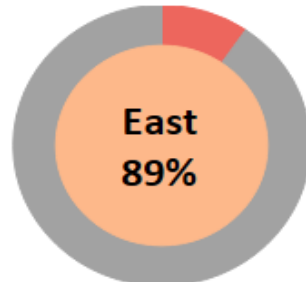
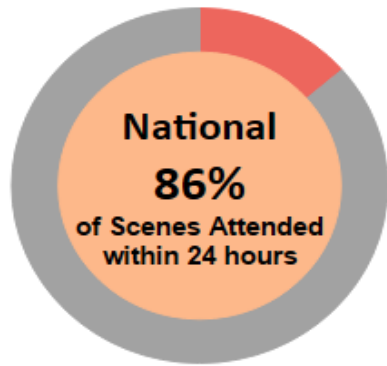
(total of those drug constituents with 10 samples or more analysed in lab for a case related to a Drug Death)



Forensic Services - Scene Examination Unit

Quarterly Performance Q3 19-20

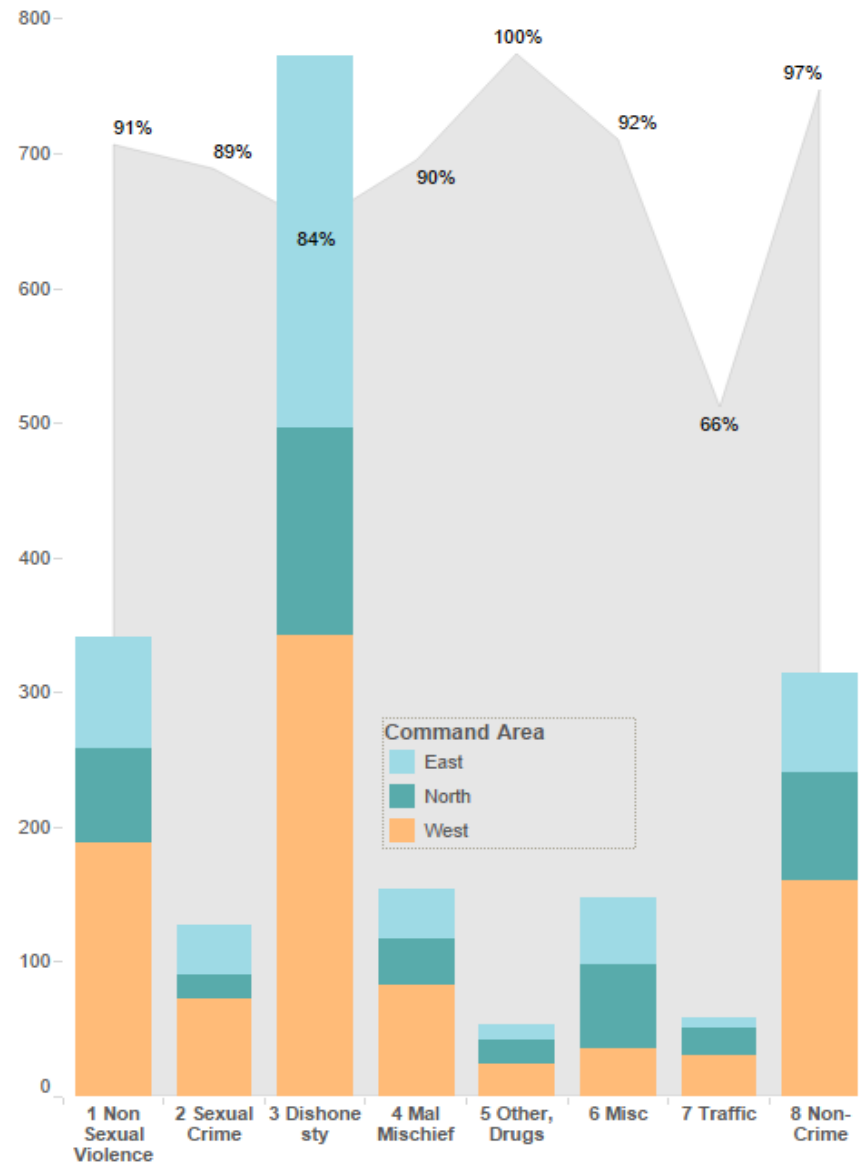
Timeliness Scenes attended within 24hrs of request
National target 90% within 24 hours



6,128 Scenes Attended Last Quarter

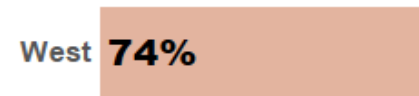
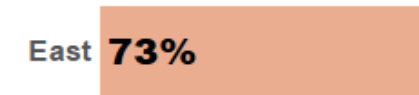
18,570 Scenes Attended Year to Date

Crime Group Number of Scenes Attended / % within 24hrs of request



Evidence Recovery Rates

Non-Photographic scenes resulting in an item recovery



Quality Quarter 3 2019/2020

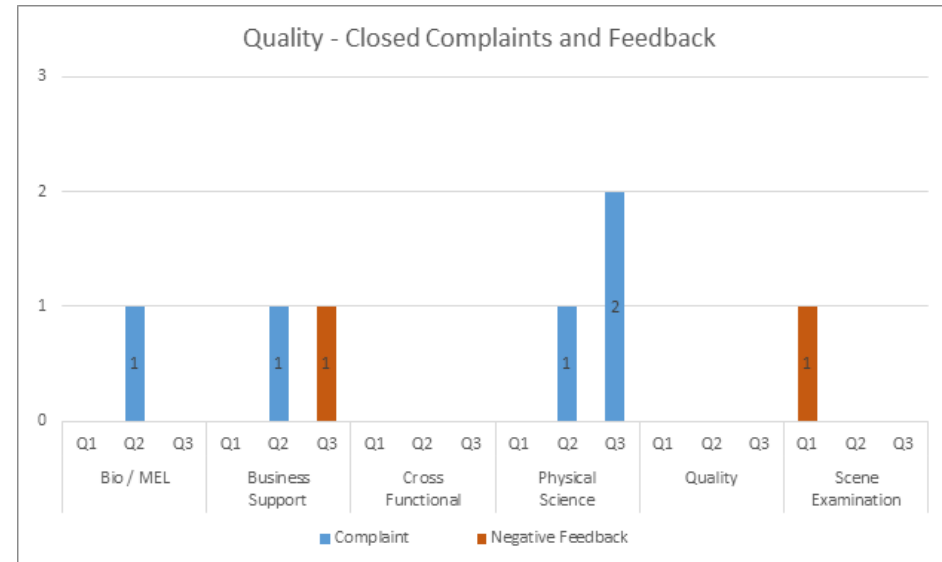
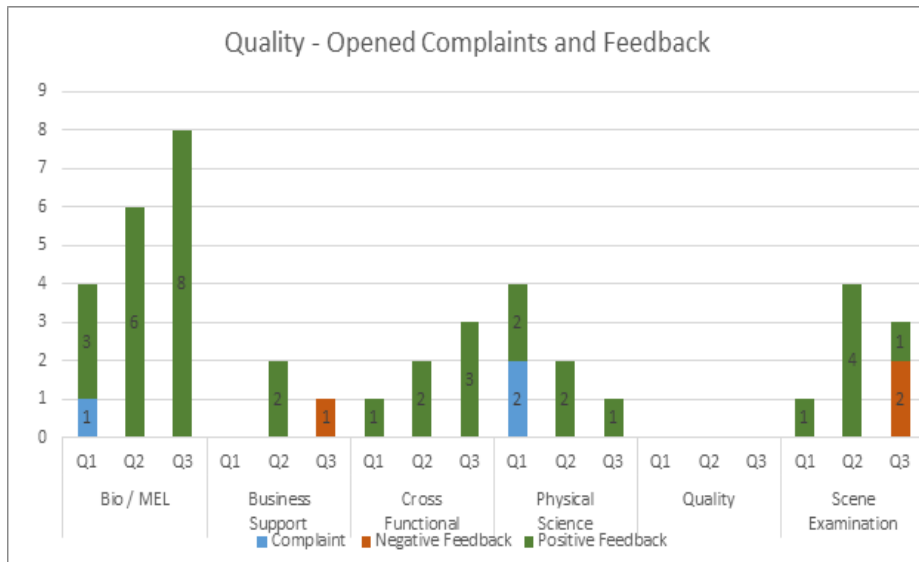
Current Standard

- The evidence for the findings raised at the 2019 UKAS assessment programme was collated and submitted to UKAS at the beginning of January 2020.
- UKAS will now review the submitted evidence for fitness for purpose with maintenance of accreditation to ISO 17025 expected in March/April.
- Forensic Services transition to the revised ISO 17025 Standard was also submitted. This is key to continued accreditation compliance and must be completed by end of Nov 2020.

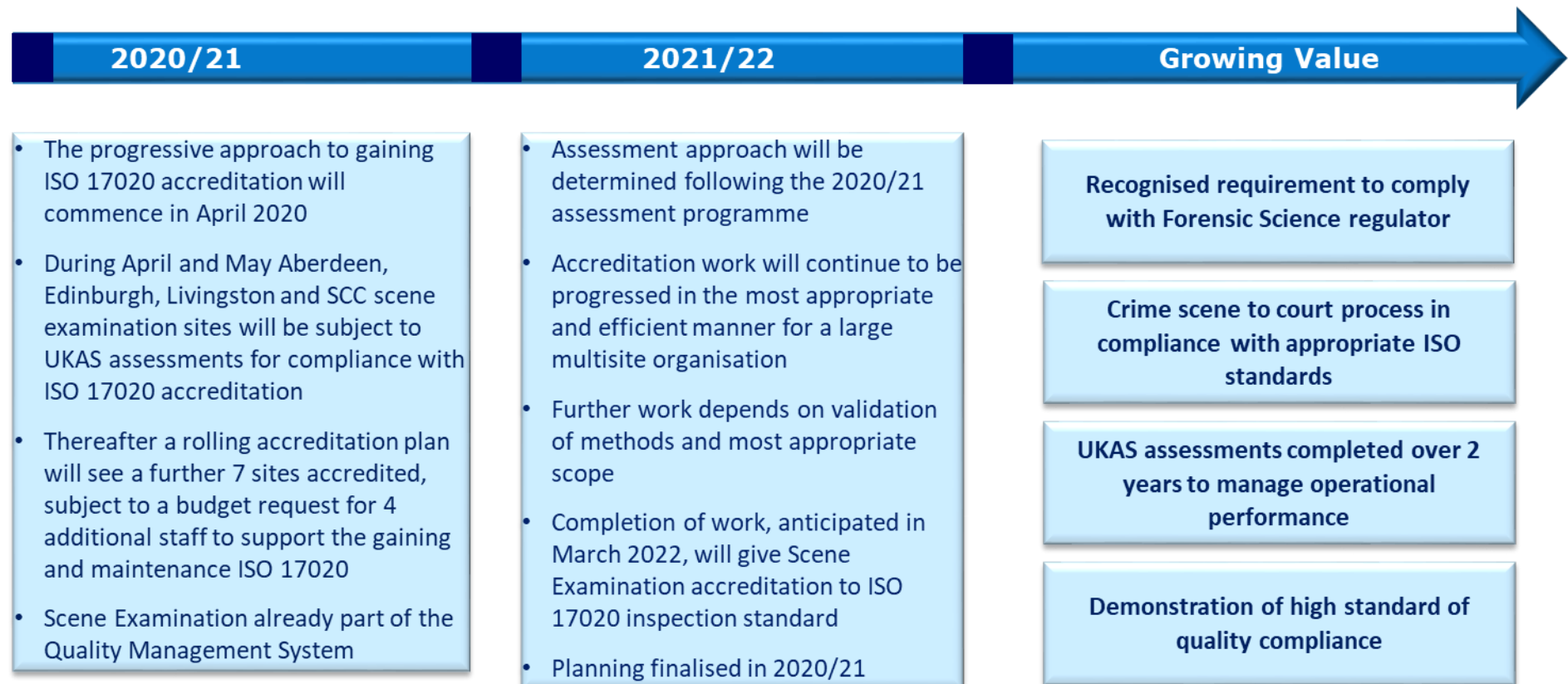


Extension to Scope (EtS)

- Evidence for findings raised for three enhancements to the biology service was submitted. Grant of accreditation has been received for one of these with the remainder expected in Apr 2020.
- The recommendation for accreditation for the drug driving service was received in December 2019.
- The planned Extension to Scope for accreditation to ISO 17020 in Scene Examination will commence in Apr 2020.



Scene Examination ISO 17020 Accreditation—Progress for Compliance with a new standard



2019/20 Business Plan and Strategic Change Delivery

PHASE 1

Increasing Capacity, Improving Utilisation and Demonstrating Value

2018 to 2020

- Average casework age reduced across FS
- Operational improvement projects contributing to this improvement
- Enhanced management reporting tools better support casework management with partners



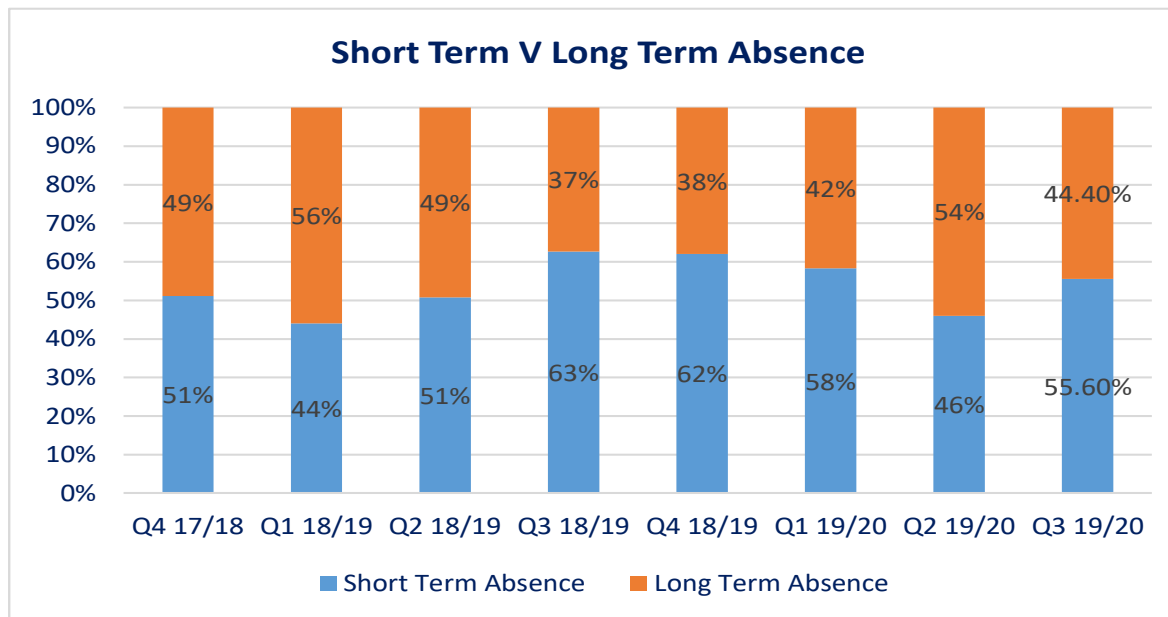
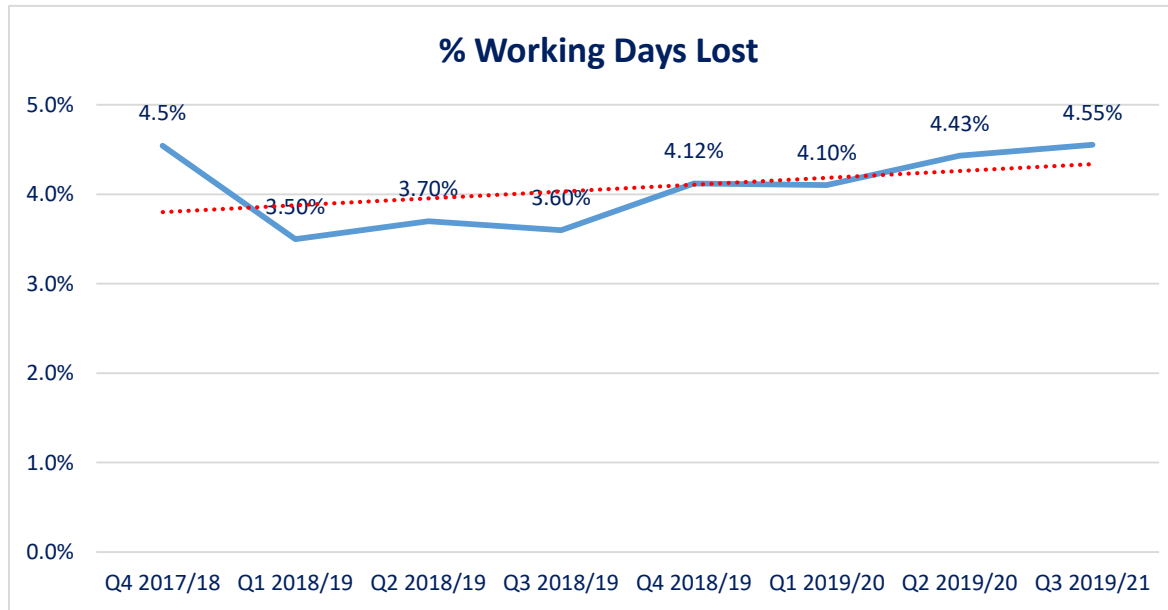
PHASE 2

Transitioning to an Enhanced Operating Model and Enabling Infrastructure

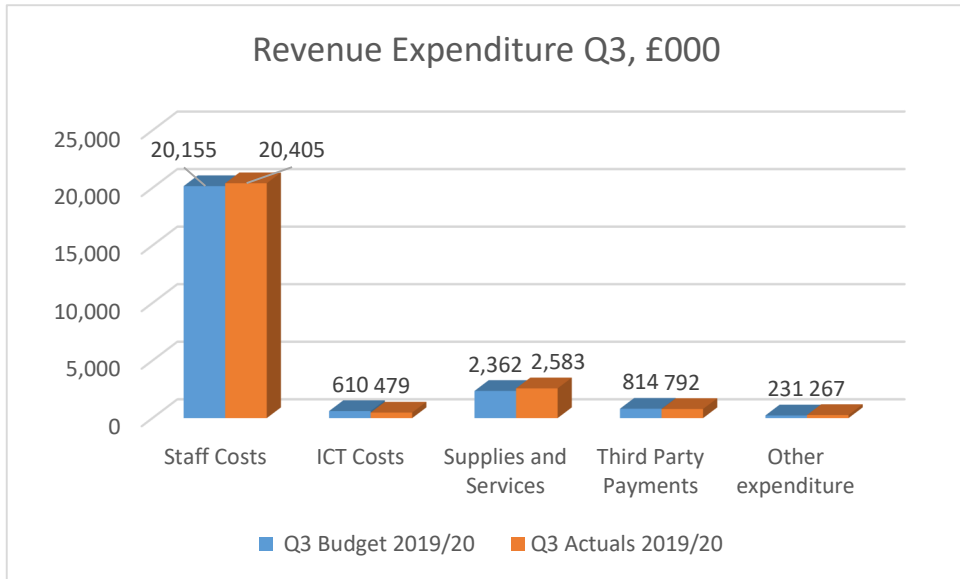
2020 to 2023

- Target operating model scoping work commenced
- Communications exercise underway across organisation to ensure all staff are engaged in process
- Core operating infrastructure planning work due to be part of the 2020/21 project work

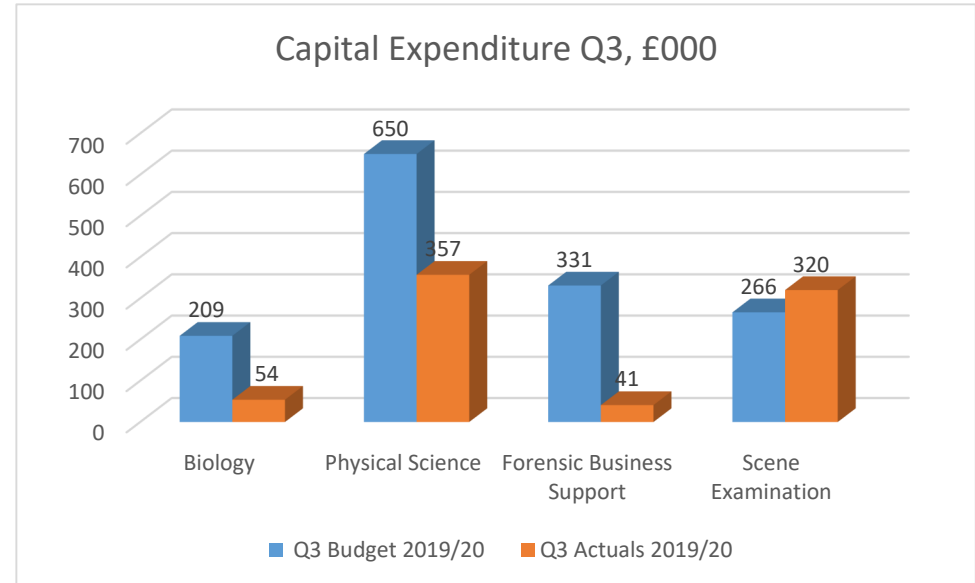
People Report Quarter 3, 2019/20



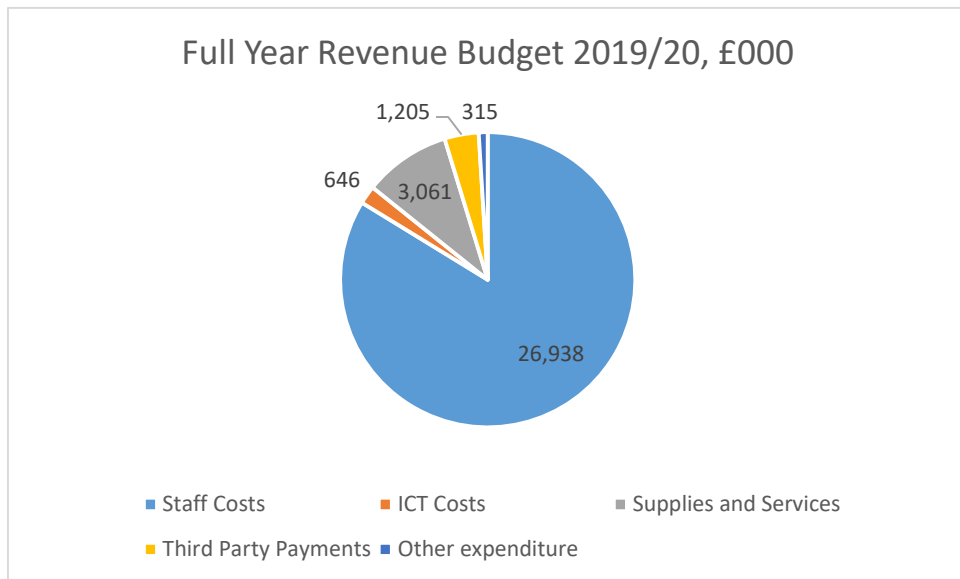
Financial Performance Q3 Revenue



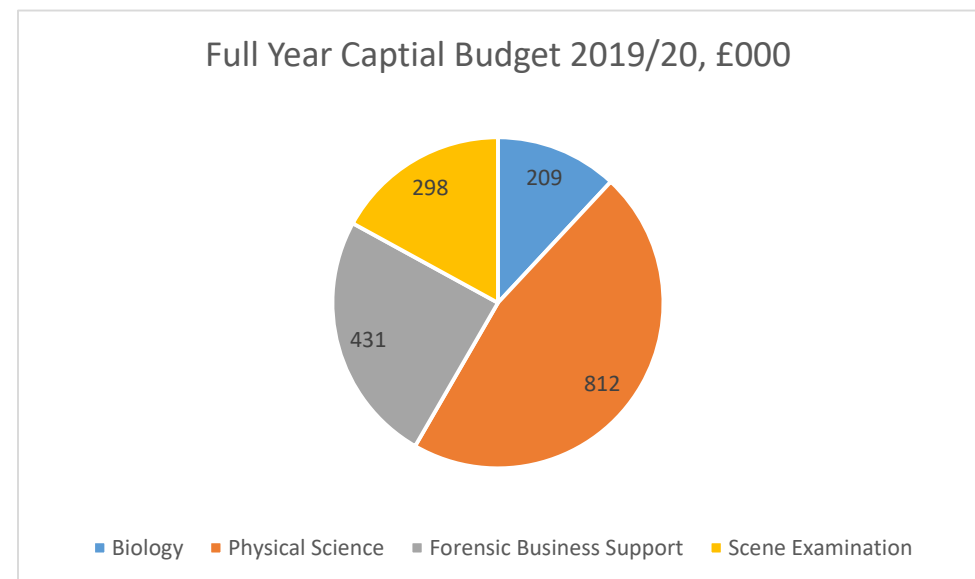
Financial Performance Q3 Capital



Full Year Revenue Budget 2019/20, £000



Full Year Capital Budget 2019/20, £000



Forensic Services Drugs Analysis Service

Service

- Team of scientists and examiners supporting Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.
- Large number of substances received from Police Scotland for analysis to determine what the substance is and whether it is illicit or not.
- Forensic investigation work covers a significant number of substances for both supply and possession cases, sometimes analysis is complex. Other forensic evidence types can also be used in support of such cases.
- Demand for drug identification and analysis service has grown markedly over the last 3 years.
- Dedicated teams progress drug analysis work across 2 laboratory sites.

Outcomes

- The forensic substance analysis is carried out to recognised laboratory standards. Results being provided to support prosecution cases being taken forward by the Police and COPFS.
- Forensic technology used allows for identification of substances which can cause harm – this is of equal value when public health is considered. The ability to identify substances quickly which may be harming people is important for public safety.
- Focusing on harm also allows all substances which Forensic Services analyse to be considered whether they are currently illicit or not. In addition the dynamic nature of changes of synthetic drugs requires this wider understanding. This also helps to identify new trends, information which can be shared with partners.