

Meeting	Forensic Services Committee
Date	2 February 2022
Location	MS Team
Title of Paper	Digital Forensics
Presented By	DCI Richy Taylor
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Appendix A- ISO 17025 Draft Project Timeline Year 1 Appendix B- ISO 17025 Draft Project Timeline Year 1 – Year 3

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide SPA Forensic Services Committee members with an update on Police Scotland's progress towards obtaining ISO 17025 within Digital Forensics.

This paper will specifically provide an update in respect of:

- Agenda item 6 – Digital Forensics

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) is the largest publisher of quality standards in the world. ISO develop and publish standards across multiple industries. Adherence to these standards ensures that organisations around the world conform to the same management techniques, processes, controls, quality, products and services.
- 1.2 ISO 17025 is the international standard for testing and calibration in forensic science labs. Essentially it is a set of requirements used to demonstrate that labs are operating a robust quality management system/framework and are competent to conduct the work that they are required to do.

Specifically, the accreditation covers a variety of areas:

- Qualifications, training and experience of staff
 - Equipment – is it properly calibrated and maintained
 - Adequate quality assurance procedures are in place
 - Sampling and testing procedures
 - Measurements can be traced
 - Accurate recording and reporting
 - Suitable test facilities
- 1.3 Similarly to SPA Forensics, ISO 17025 has been deemed as the most appropriate and internationally recognised framework under which Digital Forensics can be assessed. It is used by police services in England and Wales and has now been formalised as a project within Police Scotland. Achieving ISO accreditation will build trust and confidence in our provision of evidential products and services to victims and witnesses.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The ISO Project will take a staged approach to both the scope of accreditation and implementation across the 5 existing Digital Forensic Hubs in Aberdeen, Inverness, Dundee, Glasgow and Newbridge (It should be noted that a strategic review of Digital Forensic capabilities has also now been instigated which may influence the number of Hubs – outline proposals will be presented through established Programme governance in March 2022).

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In terms of scope of accreditation Digital Forensics can be split in to two distinct areas when considering examinations and extractions, these being:

- Mobile Phones
- Computers

- 2.2 The Project has now formally commenced and is anticipated to conclude in 2024 (Please see attached Appendix A - ISO 17025 Draft Project Timeline Year 1, Appendix B - ISO 17025 Draft Project Timeline Year 1-3). The aforementioned timelines are awaiting formal approval through Police Scotland Change Process however are indicative of projections. These timelines will also be dependent on external factors including the recruitment of the ISO Quality Team, delivery of external training and availability of Hardware from external suppliers particularly in light of global supply issues due to the impact of Covid.
- 2.3 In terms of the current progress of the project the decision was taken to initially limit the scope of accreditation to Mobile Phones. This decision was taken through consultation with a number of forces whom are already accredited and also through liaison with SPA Forensics and their extensive experience of the ISO process. Mobile Phones also account for the vast majority of examinations within Digital Forensics with this trend increasing year on year.

Progress to Date

- 2.4 Gap analysis has been completed and a report produced with the assistance of Professional Services. This has provided a detailed understanding of Police Scotland's Digital Forensic position against that which achieving ISO accreditation will require.
- 2.5 The Digital Forensic Hub which has been identified as the first location for undertaking the process is Aberdeen, specifically Muggiemoss. This is a new premises which provided the opportunity to tailor this premises during the build to satisfy the requirements as identified in the Gap analysis.
- 2.6 Staff within the Muggiemoss Hub have commenced relevant training and hardware procurement is also in progress again in line with the requirements detailed in the Gap analysis.
- 2.7 The recruitment of the Quality Team for ISO which will comprise of a Quality Manager, Technical Officer, Data Officer and Audit Officer

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has also commenced with candidates for three of the four roles having been identified.

Next Steps

- 2.8 The attached timelines (Appendix A - ISO 17025 Draft Project Timeline Year 1, Appendix B - ISO 17025 Draft Project Timeline Year 1-3) detail the sequence of accreditation by Hub location. At the conclusion of this cycle, on the assumption that re-accreditation will be achieved at already accredited locations, the scope of accreditation would then be expanded to include computers as the Project moved from Programme activity to BAU.
- 2.9 The on-boarding and recruitment of the remaining Quality Team post will take place over the forthcoming weeks. In conjunction with this additional Police Officer resource will be identified in order to provide the necessary support for the Project as it moves forward.
- 2.10 The aforementioned Quality Team will then be provided with ISO specific training courses which, regardless of their professional experience, will ensure the team are provided with the requisite knowledge and skills to then commence the process of Digital Forensics adherence to the Gap analysis with assistance from a technical knowledge perspective from Digital Forensics analysts and the Cyber Capabilities Programme Team personnel.
- 2.11 This work will include the creation of a Quality Manual, establishment of Standard Operating Procedures, utilisation of the Quality Assurance module of the recently implemented new Digital Forensics Case Management system all of which will assist in aligning to project timelines and achieving accreditation.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no new financial implications associated with this paper. Costs relating to the ISO 17025 Project will be reported separately through established governance, when defined.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this paper.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this paper.

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6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The introduction of ISO 17025 accreditation will demonstrate that Police Scotland are achieving a high standards of service delivery in relation to Digital Forensics, in support of wider Criminal Justice service needs and to better meet the expectations of victims and witnesses. Reputational risks exist if this accreditation is not achieved and criminal justice processes are negatively affected.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no social implications associated with this paper.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no community implications associated with this paper.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality implications associated with this paper.

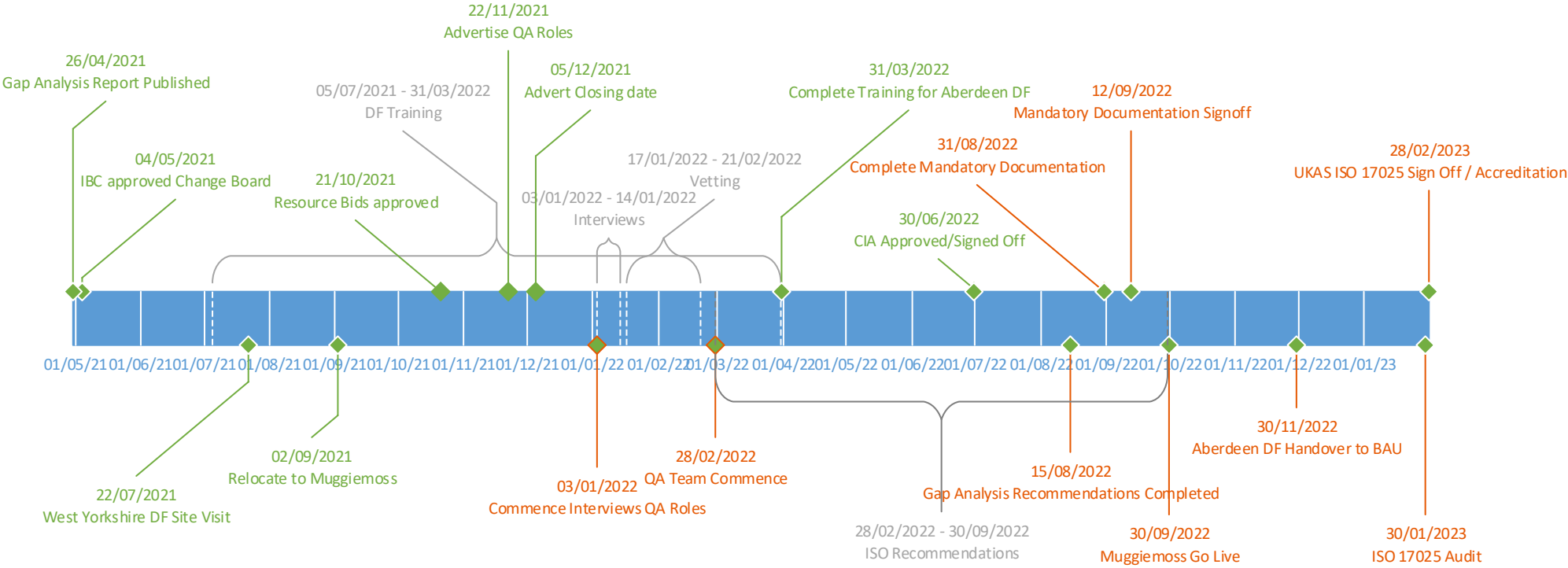
10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 *There are no environmental implications associated with this paper.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to discuss the content of this report.

DRAFT - ISO 17025 Accreditation – Enhanced Digital Forensics Project
Year 1

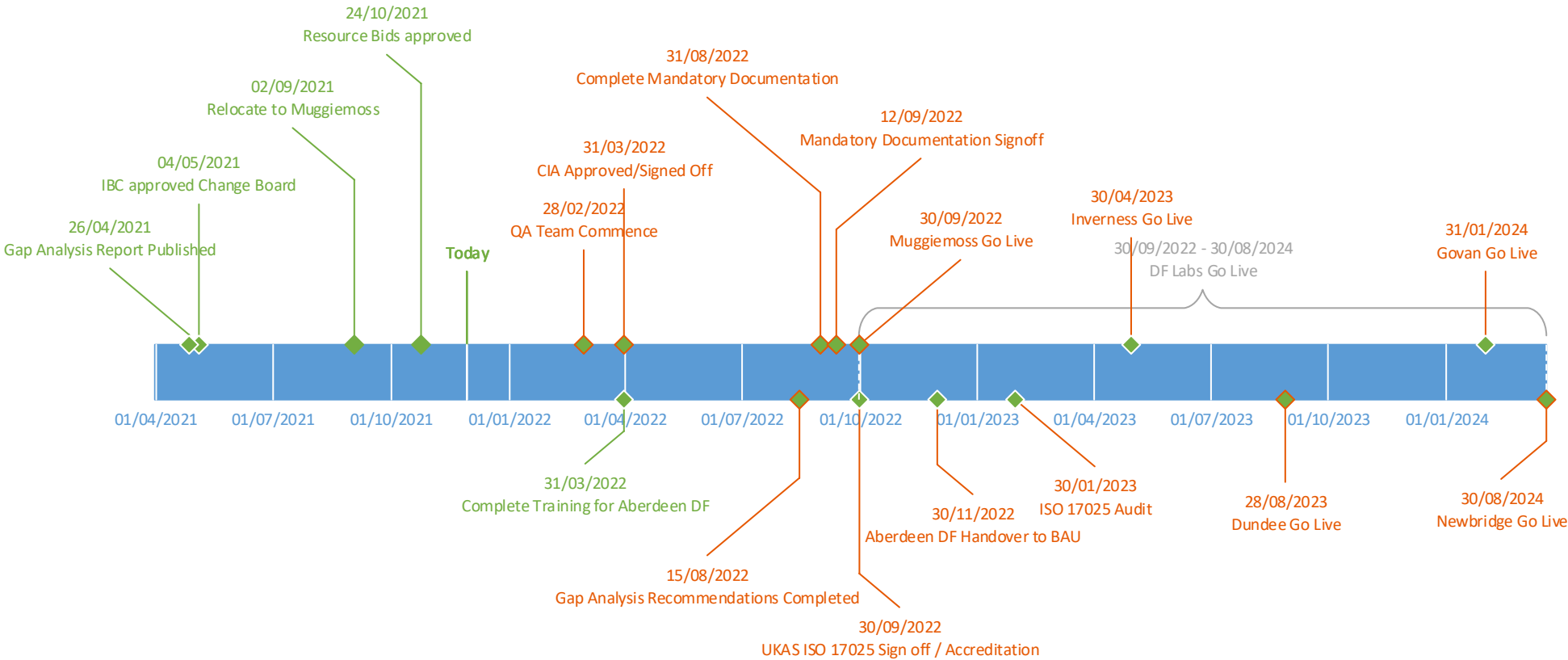


Project Milestones

Milestones at Risk – Unknown target predicated by full compliment of Resources to develop Documentation and complete Recommendations

Project Red Line without Resources / Milestone Missed

Draft - ISO 17025 Accreditation – Enhanced Digital Forensics Project Year 1 – Year 3



Project Milestones

Milestones at Risk – Unknown target predicated by full compliment of Resources to develop Documentation and complete Recommendations

Project Red Line without Resources / Milestone Missed