



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Forensic Services Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>7 August 2025</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Video Conference</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Drug Driving Pilot</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Superintendent Andy Barclay</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

### PURPOSE

This paper is to provide the SPA Forensic Services Committee with details regarding the evaluation of the Shetland Drug Wipe pilot, the forthcoming incremental expansion of drug-wipes and the current communications in place internally and across road safety.

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this paper.

## **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. On 1 December 2025, a roadside Drug Wipe pilot was undertaken on the Shetland Islands for an initial period of 9 months. The pilot involved Local Policing officers on the island being trained in Drug Impairment Recognition and Preliminary Impairment Testing (DIRPIT) as well as to be users of the DW3S roadside Drug Wipe.
- 1.2. The pilot commenced in line with the launch of the 2024-25 Festive Drink Drug Drive Campaign and is due to continue throughout the summer Drink Drug Drive Campaign (30 June to 13 July) as well as the dedicated Drug Drive Week (18 to 24 August).
- 1.3. The pilot has been subject to a 6-month evaluation to ascertain the effectiveness of roadside Drug Wipes, offences detected, sample submission timescales and summary of responses from officers surveyed who took part in this pilot.

## **2 KEY FINDINGS**

- 2.1. There has been a total of 30 Drug Wipes used in Shetland as part of the pilot with a breakdown of these showing 15 were positive and 14 were negative, equating to a positivity rate of 52%.
- 2.2. Over the same pilot period the force positivity rate was 56%.
- 2.3. In addition to the detection rate, the pilot on Shetland has delivered the following key findings:
  - 40% of detections in Shetland were female drivers compared to 9% nationally.
  - All 15 detections have been residents of Shetland.
  - 1 instance of repeat offending has been identified.
  - All evidential samples have met the 14-day submission timeline to SPA Forensic Services.
  - Production and transportation arrangements are robust.
  - All trained officers have been surveyed and feel having drug-wipes is beneficial.
- 2.4. The evaluation of the Shetland pilot will provide key learning for the forthcoming incremental expansion of drug-wipes into local policing. Whilst detection levels remain low, the training, legislative procedures, governance and administration can be imported into other areas and regarded as best practice.

### **3. INCREMENTAL EXPANSION - NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 The planning stage for the incremental expansion of drug-wipes into local policing has begun. A short-life working group, Operation Seltern, has been created to capture all the various development areas across various disciplines to deliver the drug-wipe specialism.
- 3.2 The strategic intention of Operation Seltern is to deliver a methodical, efficient and structured approach to rolling out drug-wipes to local policing. Increasing the volume of police officers capable of carrying out drug-wipes, and achieving subsequent detections, is intended to have a positive impact on road safety and improve the confidence of the public in policing interventions.
- 3.3 The incremental expansion requires to be carefully managed by local policing divisions with appreciation of the capacity of partners such as SPA Forensic Services, NHS and COPFS in dealing with new demand.

### **4. INCREMENTAL EXPANSION - KEY MILESTONES**

- 4.1 To deliver the incremental expansion, the following key milestones require to be met:
  - Selected Subdivisions to identify suitable officers to be trained.
  - Road Policing Management Support to deliver an administration and governance model to local policing DCU's to manage the implementation and performance.
  - TLD Driver Training to deliver approved and accredited DIRPIT and Drug-Wipe training to local policing officers.
  - Engagement with Force Medical Examiners (FME) to determine resource capability in local policing areas.
  - Robust management of evidential submission and testing arrangements.
  - Case Management arrangements to be robust to deal with additional Section 4 and Section 5(A) Road Traffic reports.
  - Effective liaison with COPFS in respect of increased volume of cases to be delivered within 6-month STL.
  - A clear Communication Strategy to inform the public of the powers available to local policing.

### **5. INCREMENTAL EXPANSION – DELIVERY OUTLINE**

- 5.1 The attached table provides an outline of the intention of the incremental expansion and how this would appear in terms of a divisional breakdown. The cost has been calculated based on a

single drug wipe costing £17 and the outsourcing cost per test of £266.

Divisional Training Order	Proposed Project Start	Number of Officers Trained	Projected Monthly Drug-wipes	Projected Monthly Submissions	Projected monthly cost PSOS
A Division	October 2025	15	45	22	£6617.00
U Division	October 2025	15	45	22	£6617.00
N Division	October 2026	15	20	10	£3000.00
Q Division	April 2026	30	150	75	£22,500.00
D Division	April 2026	30	75	38	£11383.00
J Division	April 2026	30	60	30	£9000.00
G Division	October 2026	30	150	75	£22,500.00
P Division	October 2026	30	60	30	£9000.00
C Division	October 2026	30	40	20	£6000.00
V Division	April 2027	30	50	25	£7500.00
E Division	April 2027	30	60	30	£9000.00
L Division	April 2027	30	40	20	£6000.00
<b>Subject to executive approval and consultation with Forensic Services</b>		<b>315 - LP Officers trained</b>	<b>795 - Drug-Wipes-monthly</b>	<b>397 - Samples submitted 50% Det rate</b>	<b>£119,117 Monthly when complete</b>

- 5.2 In terms of costs, if the model applied results in the projected number of drug-wipe tests, a 50% detection rate with all those suspects being subject to sample collection and submission, the cost per stage of the incremental roll-out will increase in the following way:

- £16,234 per month for A, U & N Divisions – 6 months - £97,404.00
- £42,883 per month for Q, D & J Divisions – 6 months - £257,298.00
- £37,500 per month for G, P & C Divisions – 6 months - £225,000.00
- £22,500 per month for V, E & L Divisions – 6 months - £135,000.00

If the projection on drug-wipe positive finding is accurate, at the completion of the incremental roll-out it is projected that the monthly cost will be:

- Monthly cost to PSOS - £119,117.00
- 6-monthly cost to PSOS - £714,702.00
- Yearly cost to PSOS - £1,429,404.00

## 6. FORCEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRUG-WIPES

- 6.1 The incremental roll out of drug-wipes is intended to provide local policing with access to a specialism that is currently reserved for road policing officers. Consequently, local policing will have the

skills and opportunity to carry out drug-wipes within local communities and capture additional offenders and make a positive difference to road safety outcomes.

- 6.2 The proposal of adding 315 local policing officers (3.2% of Police Scotland's statistical front-line) to the cadre of road policing officers and those in the Shetland Islands will expand evidential submissions by 400 a month and test the capability of out-sourced laboratory provider – Eurofins, who will be exclusively used for testing and reporting outcomes.
- 6.3 It is projected that at the conclusion of the incremental expansion, Police Scotland will be submitting in excess of 700 evidential samples per month.
- 6.4 The long-term goal of a Force-wide roll out of drug-wipes will require the support of significant investment in forensic services to cope with the scale and nature demand of drug-driving in Scotland.
- 6.5 Any consideration of a Force-wide roll out would need to be considered alongside significant demands of medical practitioners, custody suites, productions stores and criminal justice partners. In addition, consideration would need to be made on how to meet the cost to the organisation.

## **7. DRUG DRIVING - COMMUNICATIONS**

- 7.1 Action reference 20251305-FSC – 001 is seeking a written update in relation to what is being done in terms of Drug Driving communications and what is being done with partners.
  - Police Scotland – Road Policing have Drink and Drug Driving as part of dedicated periods of activity in the Annual Calendar of Road Safety.
  - The Annual Calendar of Road Safety Activity is decided following liaison and interaction with various partner agencies, including Road Safety Scotland, SFRS, Cycling Scotland and DVSA.
  - Analytical Products are prepared pre, during and post drug-driving activity to determine the impact of dedicated police activity – these are shared with partners and inform the delivery of future campaigns.
  - Police Scotland – Social Media communications team are proactive during campaigns, with partner agencies platforms to extend the messaging.
  - Police Scotland now has a dedicated page on the Force Website (Road Safety section) with links to the Road Safety Scotland website and drug-driving toolkits.

- Drug Driving is routinely discussed at multi-agency meetings and performance monitored at the Road Safety Governance and Performance Board.
- Partner agencies within the discipline of drug-driving have attended the initial Short-Life Working Group (SLWG) to implement all the necessary components of a phased roll-out (includes SPA, COPFS, NHS and RSS).
- An external communications strategy will be created, including support from partners to release information as to the launch and intentions of the incremental expansion of drug-wipes.
- The Shetland Islands Pilot that was launched on 1 December 2024 has been evaluated and the contents shared with partners to demonstrate the success of the implementation.

7.2 The further information above provides a breakdown of work and communications with partners in relation to Drug Driving and how Police Scotland is promoting Road Safety and tackling the issues of drivers under the influence of drugs on our roads.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The financial implications have been highlighted in this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

## **11. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no reputational implications in this report.

## **12. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no social implications in this report.

## **13. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

13.1 There are no community implications in this report.

## **14. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 There are no equality implications in this report.

## **15. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 There are no environmental implications in this report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this paper.