

Meeting	Forensic Services Committee
Date	19 April 2021
Location	Teleconference
Title of Paper	COP26 Forensic Services Preparedness
Presented By	Vicki Morton, Head of Physical Sciences
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached	NO

PURPOSE

To provide Committee members with an update on the engagement to date and potential Forensic Services resource requirements to support the COP26 climate change summit.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In November 2021, the UK Government will host the United Nations 26th Conference of the Parties, otherwise known as COP26, at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow. This was previously arranged for November 2020 and postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 World leaders, climate experts, business leaders and citizens will come together to discuss and agree actions on how to tackle climate change on a global scale.
- 1.3 The significance and scale of this event should not be underestimated. The Conference will be held over two weeks (from 1 - 12 November 2021), although the build will start mid-October.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1. Forensic Services have been involved in the support of national events such as the Olympic Torch Relay (2012) and Commonwealth Games (Glasgow- 2014). This support consisted of provision of CBRN trained Scene Examination resource as part of the Multi Agency Specialist Assessment Team (MASAT) to allow swift deployment to major incidents including chemical incidents, a dedicated Event Scene Attendance resource, and additional Event On Call Forensic Scientist resource.
- 2.2. Engagement between Forensic Services and Police Scotland on COP26 commenced in November 2019, with Forensic Services represented on the Specialist Crime Division (SCD) Strategic and Tactical Planning Groups. The groups have reconvened in January 2021.
- 2.3. An initial proposal for Forensic Services COP26 resource requirements was submitted to Police Scotland in December 2019 and this has now been updated and expanded into a Forensic Services Tactical Plan.
- 2.4. The resource requirements includes all scientific functions- Scene Examination, Physical Sciences and Biology resource- and includes training and exercising prior to the event.
- 2.5. Regular interaction between Forensic Services and the Operation Planning Team is established at strategic and tactical levels.
- 2.6. Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) continue to develop their expectations of Forensic Services which will further inform our planning process.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. Forensic Services have provided full costings to Police Scotland to support financial planning. This will be further refined as the tactical requirements from Forensic Services are more clearly defined.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. It is anticipated that there will be personnel implications, with amendment to shifts and on call arrangements for a cadre of Scene Examination and Forensic Scientists during the COP26 period. There are no significant risks identified at this time.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The planning activities and engagement with partners aim to mitigate any potential reputational risks during the period of the COP26 event.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no direct social implications associated with this paper and the Forensic Services planning and service provision.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

8.1. There are no direct community impact implications associated with the Forensic Services planning and service provision.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are no equality implications associated with the Forensic Services planning and service provision. Forensic Services will contribute to the Police Scotland Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1. There are no environmental implications associated with the Forensic Services planning and services provision at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to note the content of this paper.