

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	19 August 2020
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Forensic Services Performance Report – Quarter 1
Presented By	Tom Nelson, Director of Forensic Services
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Business Performance Report Q1

PURPOSE

To present Forensic Services Performance Report, Q1 2020/21 for Committee consideration.

This paper is for discussion.

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Forensic Services Business Performance Report is presented for Q1 2020/21.
- 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 2020/21.
- 1.4 The report demonstrates SPA Forensic Services delivery over the last year through the following components:
 - Impact of COVID-19 on capacity and how this will be grown during the year;
 - 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.

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 discuss the content of the Q1, 2020/21 Performance Report.

Scottish Police Authority

Forensic Services

Performance Report

Quarter 1 2020/21

For presentation to

19 August 2020

SPA Board

Executive Summary Quarter 1, 2020/21

Performance

- Forensic Services have continued to deliver work to Police Scotland and COPFS during Q1 despite restrictions due to the Coronavirus outbreak. New working arrangements have been put in place to ensure appropriate physical distancing. Available capacity has been reduced in the short term however levels return to near normal at the end of the calendar year.
- Action has been taken to address the Drugs workload with additional staff being seconded into the Section. Secondments will commence during the summer for a period of 6 months to start working down the caseload in this area. The aim being to deliver real time intelligence in 2021.
- There continues to be significant input to major crime cases and has been throughout the lockdown period. All areas of the organisation contributing to this service.

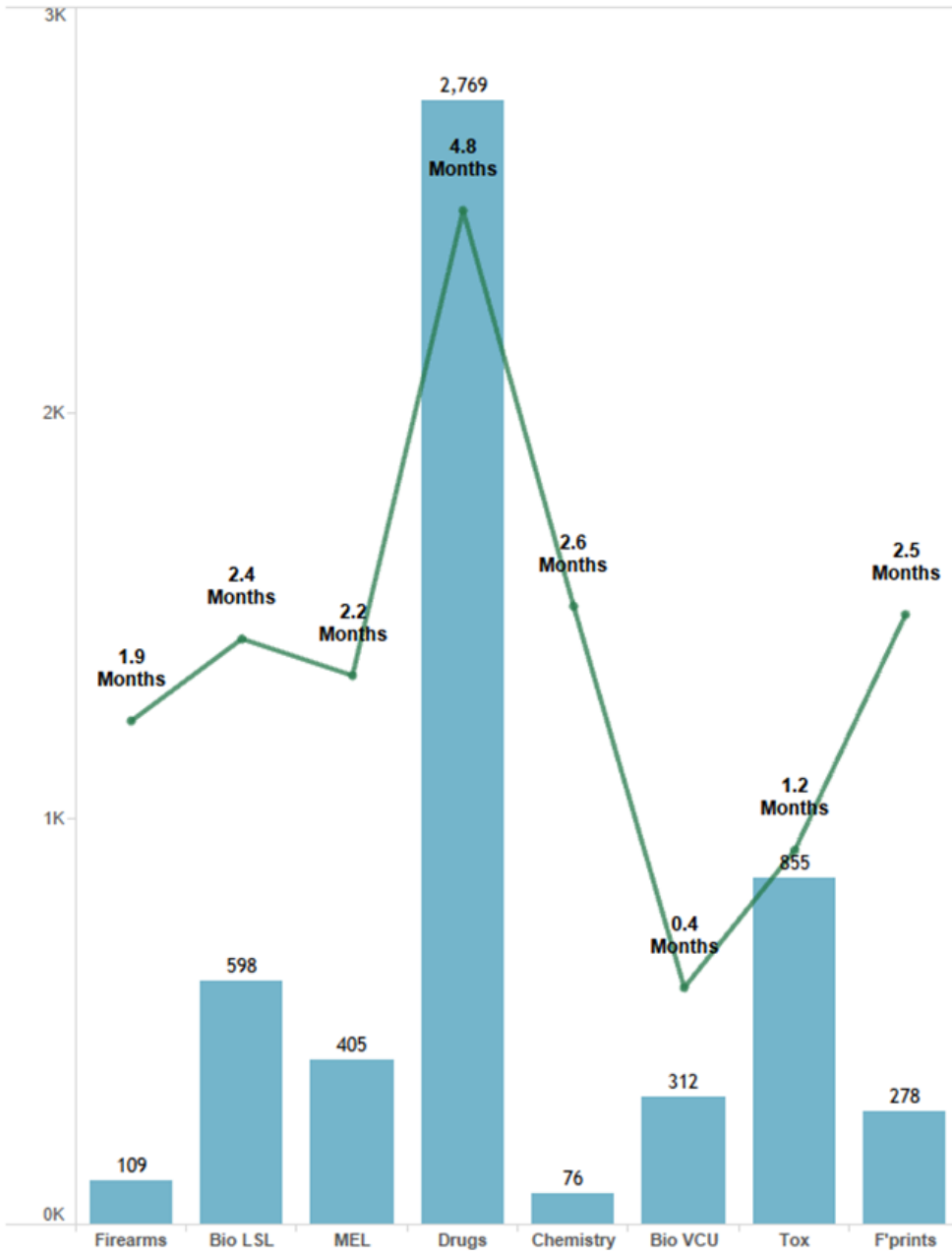
Engagement

- Over the last quarter staff coronavirus prompted engagement has been high. Daily comms were issued, briefings held, appropriate support provided to keep staff informed and services running.
- The Digital Forensics Working Group Report taken to the May SPA Board meeting, and endorsed by Members, recommended Forensic Services guide and support Police Scotland in quality accreditation processes.
- Management development training has started with the Senior Management Team and will be cascaded throughout the organisational over the coming year.
- During the last quarter a National Scenes Request process was implemented across Police Scotland and Forensic Services. This allows for national visibility of all scene requests and also greater efficiency in staff deployment.

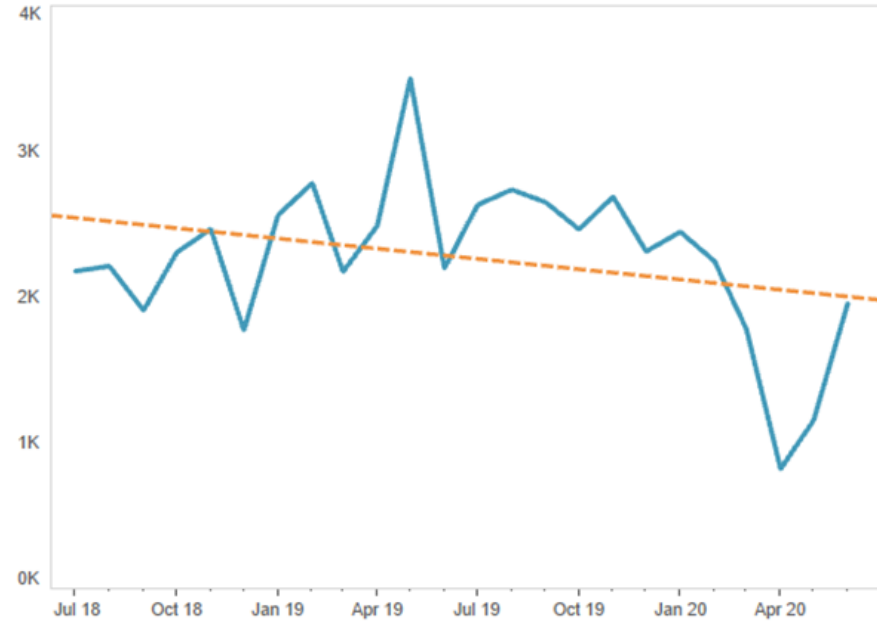
Business Update

- A new Performance Board has been established to manage performance across all areas of the business. This will assist in driving positive actions forward using data to pinpoint better areas of focus allowing for a more planned approach to the way of working.
- Business improvement projects have continued with transformational change and operational improvement projects progressing. The coronavirus outbreak has had some impact with projects delivery dates adjusted accordingly.
- The COP26 Forensic Services tactical plan has been submitted for the planned November 2021 conference.
- Q1 revenue overspend is £325k over budget. This is largely due to in year overspend on staff costs caused by little to no staff movement.

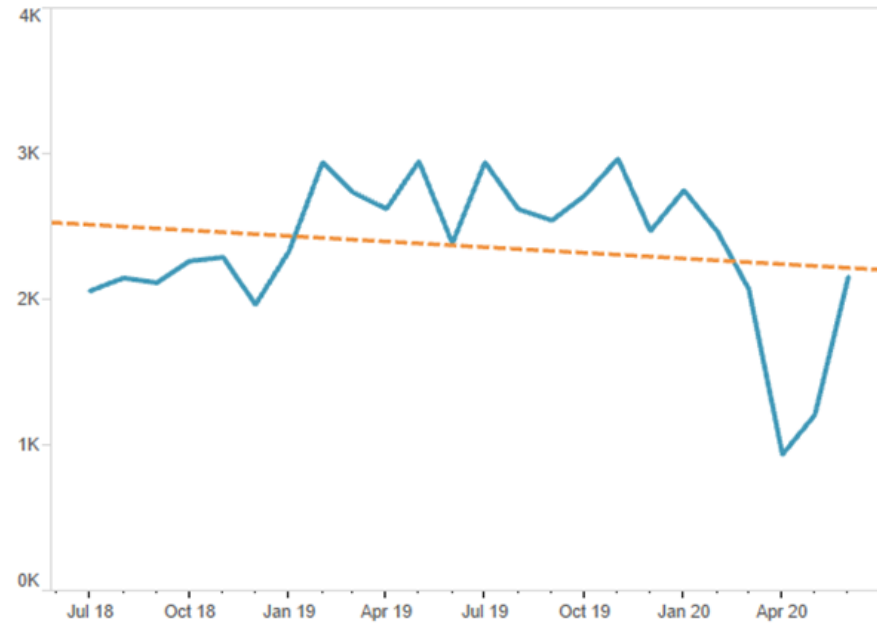
Forensic Services - Laboratory Casework Open Cases - end Q1 20-21 with average age



Casework Demand previous 2 years



Casework Output previous 2 years

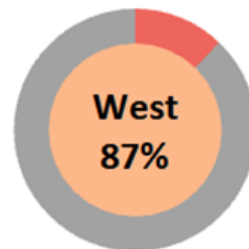
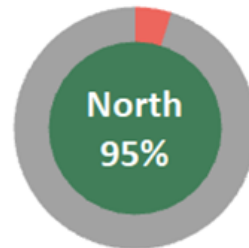
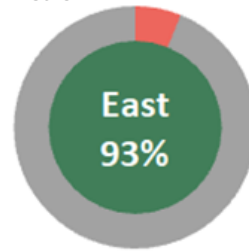
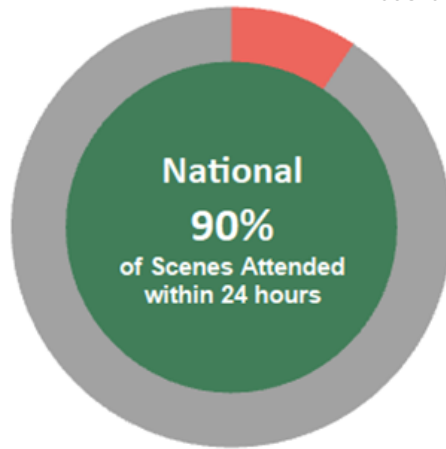


Forensic Services - Scene Examination Unit

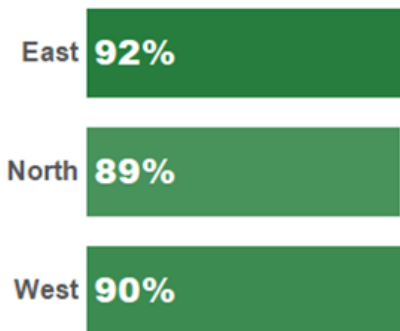
Quarterly Performance Q1 20-21

Timeliness Scenes attended within 24hrs of request

National target 90% within 24 hours



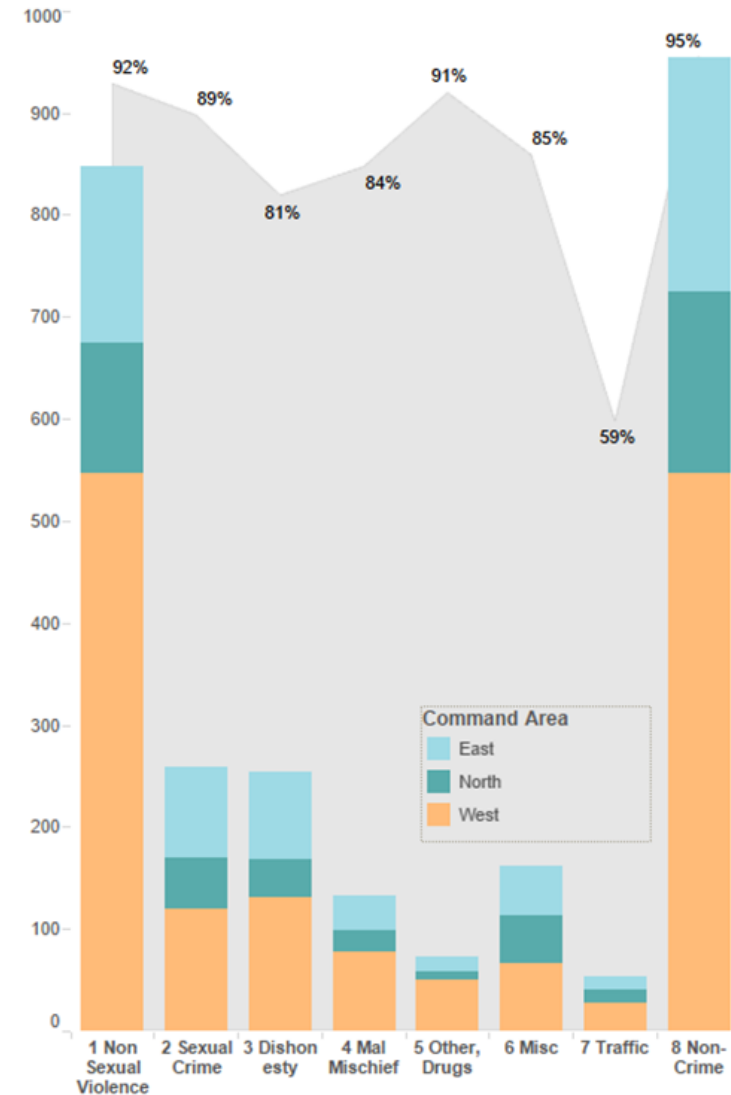
Evidence Recovery Rates
Non-Photographic scenes resulting in an item recovery



2,641 Scenes Attended Last Quarter

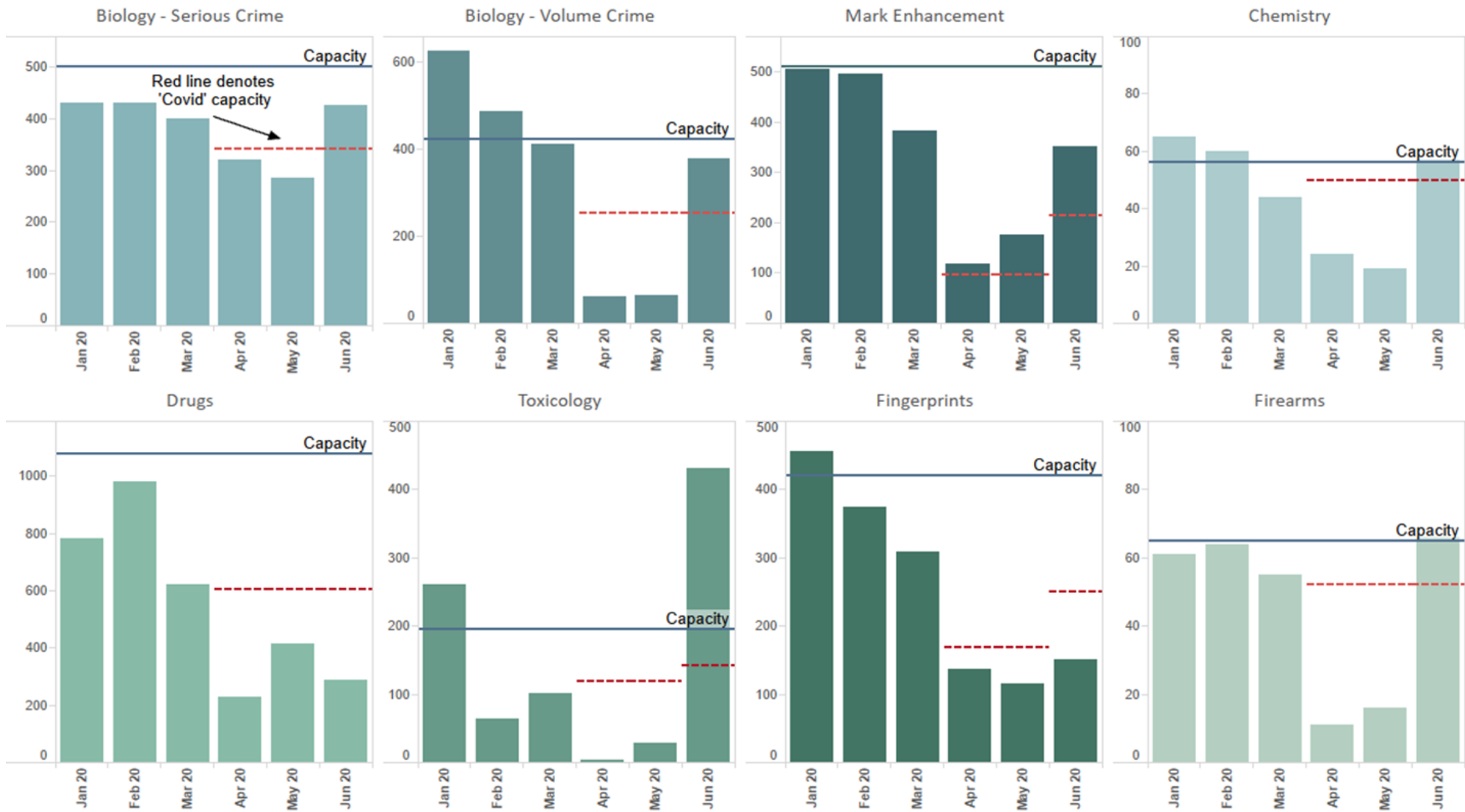
6,498 Scenes Attended Q1 previous year

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



Forensic Services - Laboratory Capacity

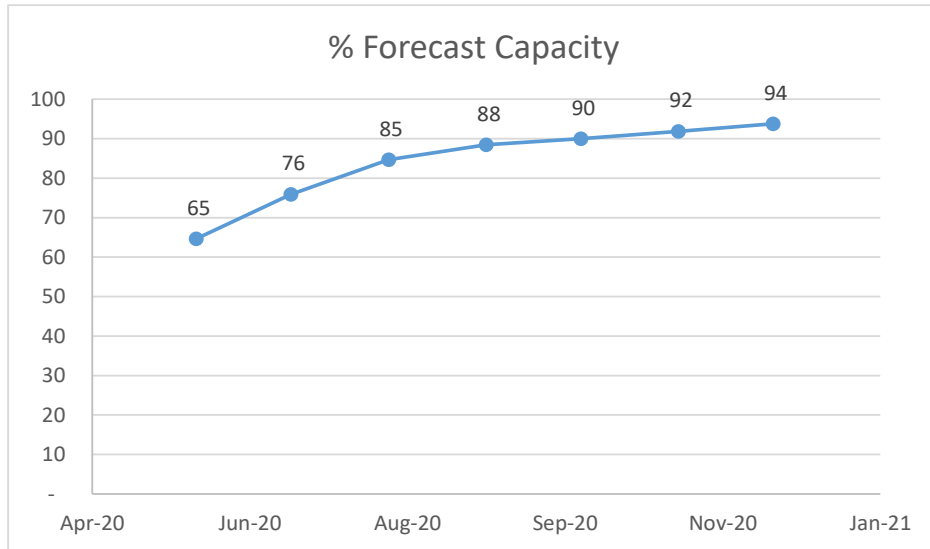
Monthly charts show casework opened per month



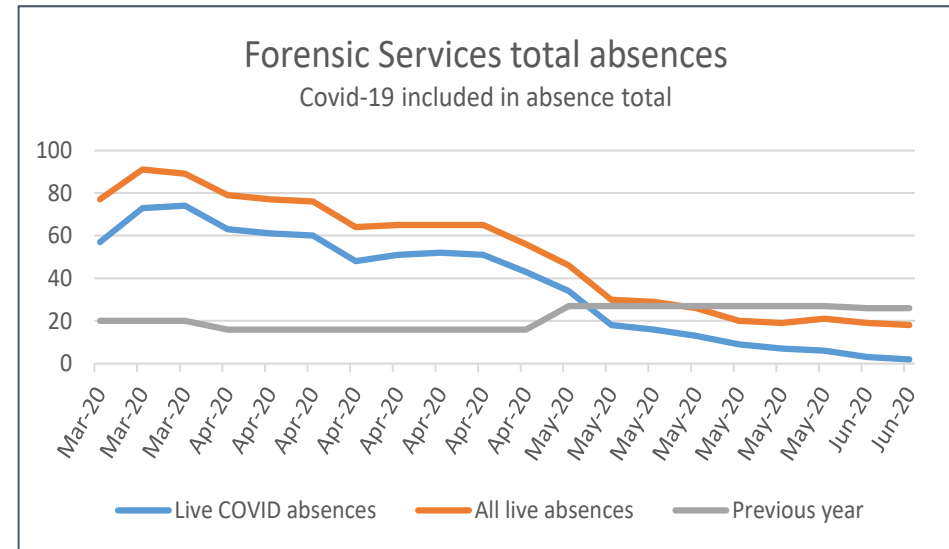
Toxicology casework in June is high as some of the May Drug Driving cases have been opened in June .

Drug cases in April, May and June are assessed as low. Due to the Coronavirus outbreak not all drugs cases have been passed through to Forensic Services.

Coronavirus Response—Q1 2020/21



Staff Absence Data—Q1 2020/21



- ⇒ Process improvements for PS drugs investigative cases to increase capacity and targeted analysis for COPFS drugs cases.
- ⇒ Working across all partners to explore a number of options to increase capacity for Drug Driving now and find a long term sustainable approach to service delivery.
- ⇒ Exploring the possibility of using electronic signatures and reporting of results.
- ⇒ Exploring phased reporting process for COPFS with submission of initial summary report of key forensic evidence prior to generation of full Joint Report to aid case progression.
- ⇒ More use of digital records for fingerprints and imaging generating increased capacity and efficiency by moving away from hard copy records.
- ⇒ Exploring the possibility of enabling COPFS and PS access to FS crime scene images in the longer term.

- ⇒ The staff absence data illustrates a positive first quarter position with overall absence being lower than the previous year.
- ⇒ Staff welfare has been a priority over the past quarter with Health & Safety prioritised for the protection of staff and those people our staff work with.
- ⇒ There have been daily briefings to make sure all staff were kept up to date with required operational changes and how this would impact them.
- ⇒ There has been adherence to the Scottish Government advice and consistency with Police Scotland safe working practices.
- ⇒ The 'new normal' is now well established and services continue to be provided to key stakeholders.

Quality Quarter 1 2020/2021

Current Standard

- Preparation and planning is now underway for the 2020/2021 UKAS accreditation assessments in Oct-Nov 2020. Due to changes in working practice due to COVID-19, adjustments will be implemented to ensure safety and compliance is maintained.
- The UKAS assessments will be conducted to agreed standards and a detailed plan is being developed in partnership with UKAS.
- This year's assessments will be conducted to the revised 2017 version of the ISO 17025 Standard following award of accreditation in early 2020.

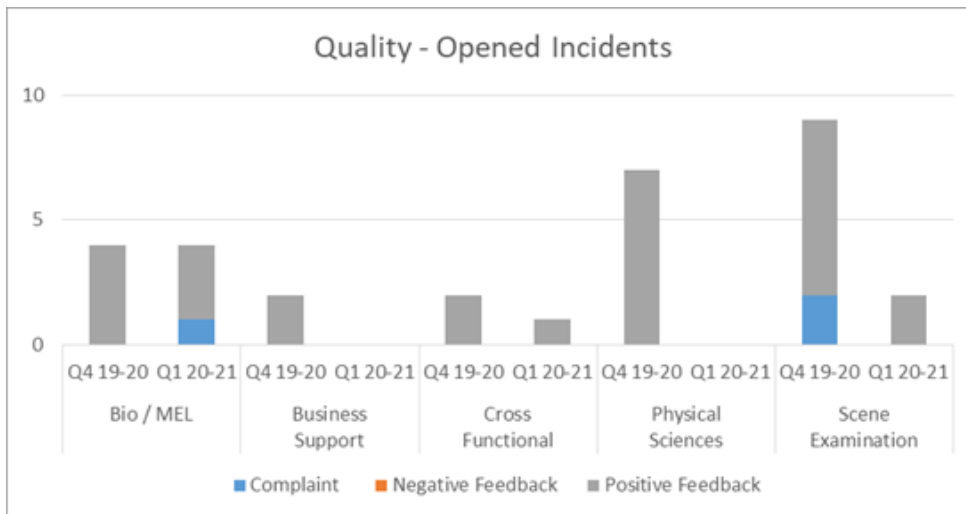
Digital Forensics

- Forensic Services are supporting Police Scotland in their planning to address the recommendations of the Digital Working Group report.
- Forensic Services will assist in the forward planning for accreditation of this service developing a delivery road map.

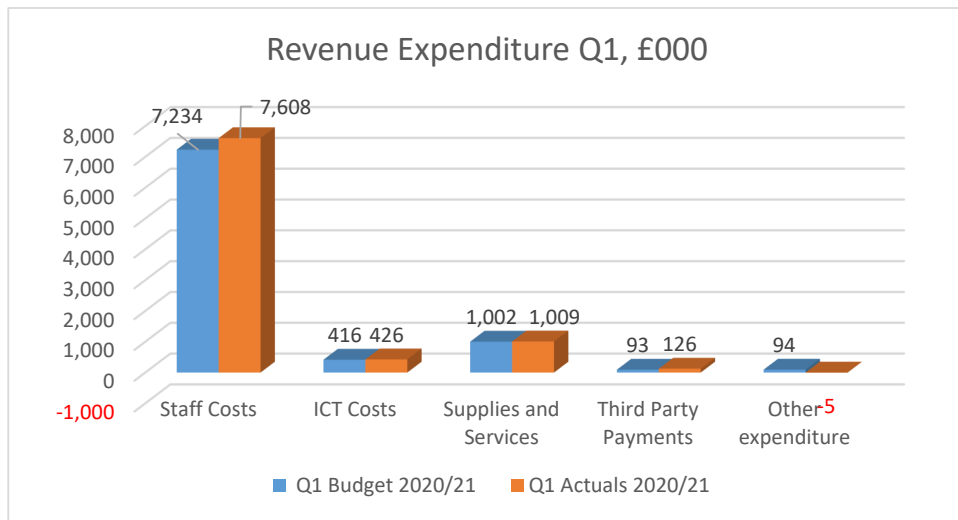


Extension to Scope

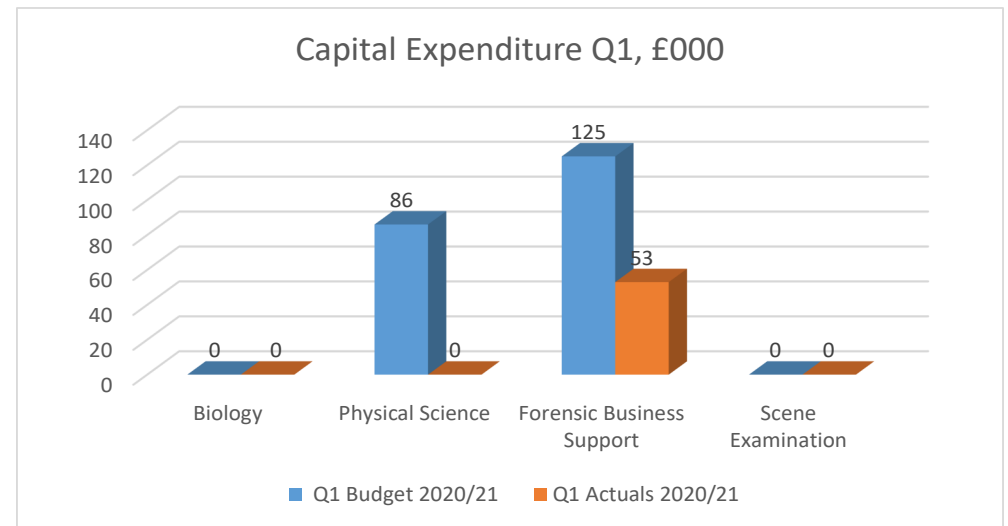
- The accreditation assessments of Scene Examination to ISO 17020 was postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The assessments may now be scheduled in January 2021 from Spring 2020 and on a reduced number of sites. This has resulted due to a change in approach by UKAS and limits on available and qualified UKAS assessors.
- Budget authority was provided for additional staff to support the ongoing needs of this standard – due to timing posts were not included in the 2020/21 budget .



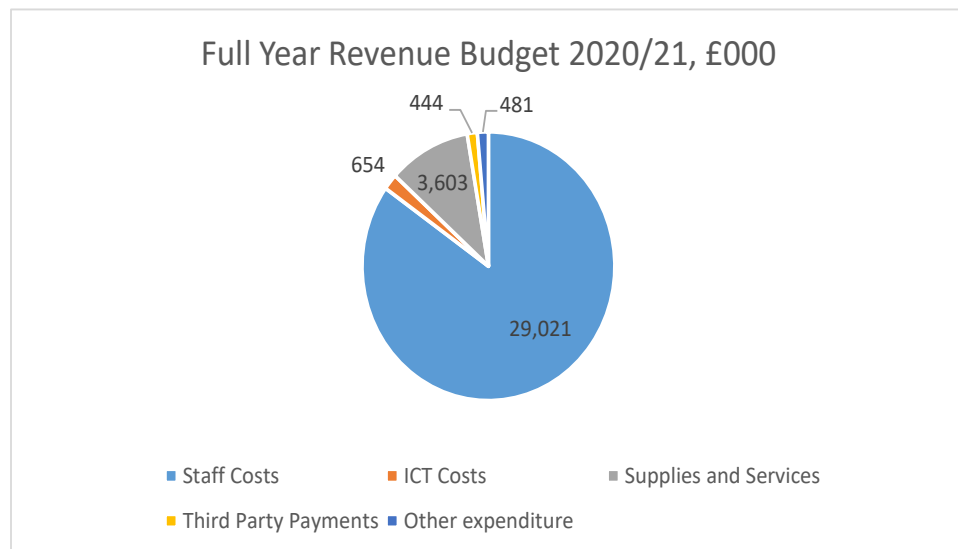
Financial Performance Q1 Revenue



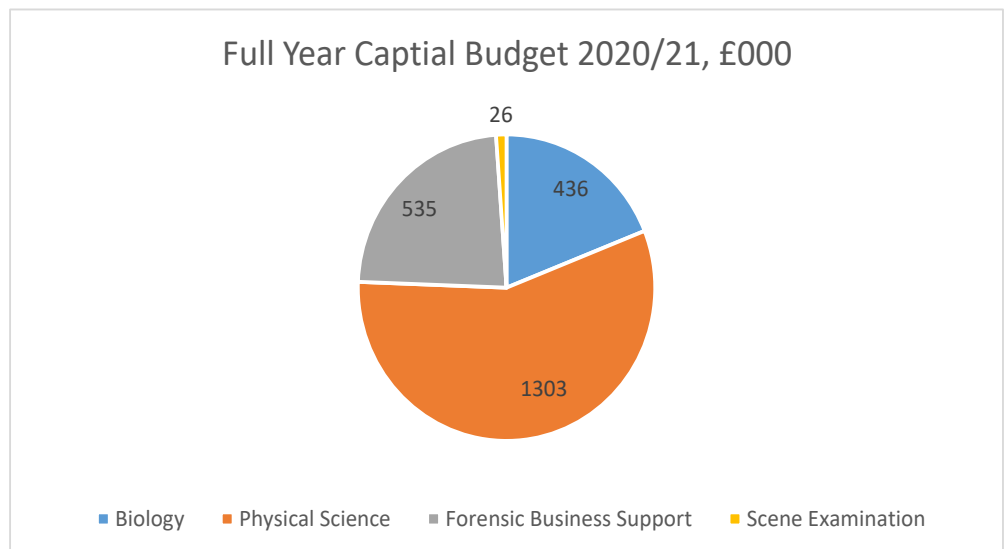
Financial Performance Q1 Capital



Full Year Revenue Budget 2020/21, £000



Full Year Capital Budget 2020/21, £000



Forensic Services Case Study

Case Study – Robbery Edinburgh

- Forensic Services supported in the delivery of evidence relating to the violent robbery of a bank in Edinburgh.
- A group, wearing balaclavas, stole cash from men who had been depositing the money at the bank night safe. One of their victims was assaulted in the robbery, and left with a serious facial injury.
- This case involved Scene Examination, Biology, Drugs, Mark Enhancement, Fingerprints and Firearms teams working together. 90 productions were recovered and analysed by Forensic Services.
- These items allowed for DNA profiles to be obtained which then resulted in multiple arrests. Police backed up this evidence by information they had collected.
- Forensic evidence moved the case forward during the early stages of the enquiry as positive identification of suspects was possible.
- All of the accused were given custodial sentences. A number of the accused pled guilty when presented with the case against them.