

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Forensic Services Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>MS Teams</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Update on Forensic Services engagement with Conference of the Parties (COP26) planning</b>
<b>Item number</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Vicki Morton, Head of Physical Sciences</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For noting</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

**PURPOSE**

To provide 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 October and 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. 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.
- 1.2. The significance and scale of this event should not be underestimated. The Conference will be held over two weeks (from 31 October -12 November 2021), although the build will start early September.
- 1.3. COP26 will be the biggest and most complex event ever staged in Scotland. This will necessitate the largest mass mobilisation of police officers that has taken place in the UK in many years.

## **2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC**

- 2.1. Forensic Services continue to undertake planning activity to prepare for the event.
- 2.2. The COPFS Bilateral meetings continue to take place involving Forensic Services, focusing on casework administration.
- 2.3. The FS tactical plan has been updated to incorporate the completed actions identified at the Gold Challenge Panel.
- 2.4. A meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> May between the FS Planning Team and representatives of the Metropolitan Police to gather any learning from climate protests in London. This identified some learning points/ intelligence that has been shared with partners.
- 2.5. Forensic Services are included in the training and exercising requirements with both table top and practical exercising now being planned to support the anticipated range of responses required. A number of potential scenarios will be tested and each one involves Forensic Services. A multi-agency mass casualty table-top exercise led by Scottish Government is being arranged and Forensic Services are preparing to participate in this.
- 2.6. A gap analysis of Forensic Services DNA matching capability in the event of a large scale mass casualty event has been carried out. Measures are being taken to close identified gaps internally but as a contingency, action is being taken to engage with an external supplier to provide support where the Forensic Services internal capacity cannot meet the demands of a large scale mass casualty incident.
- 2.7. Regular interaction between Forensic Services and the Operation Urram Planning Team continues at strategic and tactical levels.

## **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. Regular finance planning meetings are taking place.
- 3.2. Bids for funding of both equipment and consumables have been made which have been partially approved via the financial governance process. Final approvals at UK government level is expected.

- 3.3. The true costs will be dependent on the levels of overtime payments actually incurred during the event.

#### **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 and communication and engagement internally is ongoing.
- 4.2. A communication to staff relating to leave restrictions during the policing of the event was delivered by the Director of Forensic Services on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. An excusal process for staff is in place to aim to accommodate those who have leave requirement for exceptional circumstances. There are no significant risks identified at this time.
- 4.3. Forensic Services are fully engaged in the Police Scotland wellbeing workstream and work is ongoing to review tactical plans in line with corporate direction.

#### **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, such as failure to deliver operational forensic services 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. However, Forensic Services aim to contribute to the Police Scotland strategic intention of commitment to embrace a sustainable approach to the planning and delivery of the COP26 event.
- 10.2. Current fleet within Forensic Services are Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles and will be replaced according to the Police Scotland Fleet Strategy.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are requested to note the content of this paper.