

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Forensic Services Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>19 April 2021</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Video Conference</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Digital Forensics Update</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>T/Chief Superintendent Stevie Dolan</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to provide the SPA Forensic Services Committee with an update in relation to the progress of the Police Scotland Cyber Strategy and associated ongoing work in relation to Digital Forensics.

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this paper.

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Police Scotland Cyber Strategy was approved by the SPA Board when it was presented by DCC Graham on 30 September 2020 and an update was provided in relation to the developing Implementation Plan to the Police Scotland Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) and SPA Members Seminar in February 2021.

The Cyber Strategy Implementation Plan (FY21/22) was presented to the SLB on 10 March 2021, where it received approval. It was subsequently presented to the SPA Board for discussion on 24 March 2021.

Relevant governance arrangements are being refreshed, with oversight being provided by DCC Graham as Chair of the Cyber Strategy & Capabilities Change Co-ordination Board and ACC Campbell and DCIO Andrew Hendry as SRO's in relation to related Programmes.

- 1.2 The plan sets out the increasing and complex demand presented by Cyber enabled and dependent crime and recognises that delivery of the Strategy is wide-ranging and cross-cutting within Police Scotland, so a substantial amount of co-production and development will be required, e.g. in relation to protecting young people, reducing online harm and Local Policing design.

Creation and implementation of the Strategy is within the context of a global growth of cybercrime and, more locally, a significant increase in victims within Scotland during the ongoing pandemic.

A significant element of Strategy delivery will be continuing work which has previously commenced under the Cyber Capabilities Programme (CCP) in relation to Digital Forensics.

- 1.3 Two ongoing projects will deliver outcomes in this regard, focussing on the provision of a new Case Management System (CMS) and ISO 17025 accreditation for Digital Forensics.

ISO 17025 is the most widely recognised framework under which Digital Forensics are assessed, is used by police services in England and Wales and is an aspiration of Police Scotland to achieve, to build trust and confidence in our provision of evidential products and services to victims and witnesses.

- 1.4 Whilst these two projects are distinct and have different timescales and benefits, they complement one another, with ISO requirements

helping to shape the build and capabilities of the Digital Forensics system, through enhancing processes and improving quality.

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

### **2.1 Case Management System**

Prior to the procurement of a new NIMBUS Case Management System, considerable liaison was carried out with SPA Forensics, learning from the use of the CMS there. Through this work, benefits and dis-benefits of the SPA Forensics system were identified and reflected upon. The CMS project is now at the 'build' stage, with Police Scotland working with the provider to build the required functionality.

2.2 The CMS will ensure that the demand on Digital Forensics is more fully understood. The system will record all workflow activities, including internal and external communication, time required to complete joint reports and statements, as well as accurately recording timings for all types of examinations. The system will provide numerous benefits: -

- The data will allow the identification of achievable service level agreements;
- A greater understanding of the complexity of demand, not just the numbers of devices requiring examination;
- An enhanced understanding of individual and team workloads will support improved line management and staff welfare and wellbeing;
- The system will support ensuring that all hardware/software is validated and licensed for evidential purposes;
- The system will ensure that staff have had the appropriate training prior to completing any task;
- The system will drive delivery of a number of ISO required processes;
- Efficiencies can be achieved by automation of processes and reporting.

2.3 The next phase of the project is for various aspects of testing to be completed. Work is ongoing with other users of the NIMBUS system to ensure best use of the system is achieved. Implementation of the system to all Digital Forensics labs is anticipated to be completed by the end on June 2021.

## 2.4 ISO 17025 Accreditation

This is a multi-year project aiming to achieve and maintain ISO 17025 accreditation for the 5 existing Police Scotland Digital Forensic Hubs.

Police Scotland are currently undergoing a Gap analysis of current processes, supported by professional services. This is proving valuable in terms of understanding those processes which are already in place and need some amendments, and those processes which need to be introduced. On the completion of this work in April 2021, Police Scotland will devise an action plan to address gaps and ensure progress. When complete, this plan will be presented through Programme governance.

2.5 Liaison commenced some time ago with SPA Forensics in relation to their ISO experience and benefits of providing Quality Assurance teams. The CCP currently benefits from ongoing support and engagement from members of the SPA Forensics Quality Assurance team. This is in conjunction with reviews of accredited Law Enforcement organisations throughout the UK to ensure maximum learning is achieved.

2.6 A new site for Cybercrime Investigations and Digital Forensics in Aberdeen is due to ready for operational use in August 2021. The building design has taken account of ISO 17025 security and environmental requirements and learning shared by SPA Digital Forensics staff. Opportunities to enhance service provision through engagement with SPA Forensics staff will continue.

## 3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no new financial implications associated with this paper. Costs relating to the Police Scotland Cyber Strategy Implementation have been reported separately to the Authority.

## 4. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this paper.

## 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## 6. **REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are reputational implications associated with this paper.

6.2 The introduction of the CMS will provide significantly more Management Information than the previous system and will allow the organisation to better understand and report on demand and how it will be met.

6.3 The introduction of ISO 17025 accreditation will demonstrate that Police Scotland are achieving a high standard 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 invited to discuss the contents of this paper.