



# Forensic Capability Network

## Quarterly report April-June 2023

Welcome—FCN's new quarterly reports are here to keep our stakeholders updated on progress against our annual delivery plan. You'll find all the key activities we've completed in the previous quarter. Please share, and send questions to [fcn@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fcn@dorset.pnn.police.uk)—and thank you for reading.

### 1. Quality of forensic science & accreditation compliance (approx. 29%)

Accreditation support team policy reviewed and memo circulated. <b>Complete</b>
Onsite visits: x3 CSI, x2 DF, x4 SARC and 4 virtual CSI reviews). <b>Complete</b>
<i>Quality Matters</i> being published fortnightly. <b>Complete</b>
National material published this quarter ( <b>complete</b> ) includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality Issue Escalation Policy for Forensic Consumables,</li> <li>• CSI Evaluation Log for forces when relying on other forces as a supplier</li> <li>• Validation-specific Gap Analysis from codes to Code—<a href="#">download here</a></li> </ul>
Interim compliance status summary report shared and discussed at Boards. <b>Complete</b>
Accreditation cost framework completed for performance workshop. <b>Complete</b>
Set of 6 awareness raising videos and supporting material published. <b>Complete</b>
<b>SARC</b> activity <b>complete</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE guidance updated and central cleaning validation completed</li> <li>• National webinar held to share learning and outcomes</li> <li>• Quality manual, consumable guidance, glove study, facilities gap analysis, x4 articles</li> </ul>
<b>Fire Investigation</b> project restarted and new guidance material shared. <b>Complete</b>
<b>Swab Out Crime</b> project launch <b>complete</b> and sampling underway, with initial comms produced and distributed, and training delivered to 15 forces. Sampling continues



## Understanding accreditation

To help forces understand the accreditation journey we've published [six training videos and supporting guides](#).

With introductory videos from the regulator Gary Pugh OBE and NPCC forensic lead Nick Dean.

<b>2. Digital forensics</b> (approx. 16%)	DF validation working groups established for phones and computers. <b>Complete</b>
	Validation documentation templates for computers produced and published. <b>Complete</b>
	Validation template library expanded with revised versions and further docs. <b>Complete</b>
	Engagement underway with Home Office and NPCC Digital Forensic Programme on a future DF operating model as per HMICFRS recommendation. Support ongoing
	Approval secured to create Level 7 digital forensic apprenticeship. <b>Complete</b>
	Professional profiles and curriculum drafted and with College of Policing. <b>Complete</b>
	Memo of Understanding drafted and sent to Digital Forensic Programme. <b>Complete</b>
	Rape Review Response Project 1 training and awareness complete. <b>Complete</b>



## Swab Out Crime

Help FCN and Home Office FINDs create the UK's first Y-chromosome DNA database.

*Pictured: FCN's Paul Roberts and Debbie Sharp with Police Chief Scientific Adviser, Prof Paul Taylor (left).*

Visit [www.fcn.police.uk/swaboutcrime](http://www.fcn.police.uk/swaboutcrime)

FCN's Paul Roberts and Debbie Sharp with Police Chief

<b>3. Whole supply chain and marketplace reform</b> (approx. 26%)	Operational engagement established with forces at regional and local level. <b>Complete</b>
	Rhythm for physical and digital suppliers in place monthly. <b>Complete</b>
	Updated HO SUN's for digital and physical forensics to respond to immediate needs (Replacement HFE7100, VAWG Filed Test Kits efficacy and accuracy). <b>Complete</b>
	Ongoing support for Op Kettle Drum and Tox Silver.
	Ongoing collection and reporting of marketplace demand and supply data.
<b>4. NPCC support</b> (approx. 16%)	FORSTRA (Forensic Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment) published. <b>Complete</b>
	Ongoing support to NPCC Forensic Portfolio Board and strategic boards.

## Supporting SARCs

National accreditation and validation activity continued this quarter.

*Pictured: FCN's Michelle Gaskell (centre right) with The Glades SARC team.*



<b>5. Criminal justice partnerships</b> (approx. 4%)	Latest version of the Streamlined Forensic Reporting guidance published. <b>Complete</b>
	Meetings underway with MoJ and others to review FSR Code Risk Categorisation model.
	Discussions underway with CPS on Statutory Code and Fingerprint/DNA Instrument.
	Engagement underway to support Op Churchill Gold Lead and FSR.
<b>6. FCN internal operations</b> (approx. 9%)	Delivery plan agreed with FCRG and approved by Portfolio board April 2023. <b>Complete</b>
	FCN Annual report published. <b>Complete</b>
	Home Office Assurance process now in place and reporting monthly. <b>Complete</b>
	Commissioning process in place and initial work received via BlueLight Commercial, PDS and Home Office FINDS. <b>Complete</b>
	Enquiry process and other internal processes refreshed. <b>Complete</b>



## Assessing risk

FCN published UK policing's first annual FORSTRA on behalf of the NPCC, which will be followed with a national control strategy for forensics.

[Download it here.](#)

2023/24 FCN Budget groupings	Funding	Budget	Q1 position (actual + committed spend)
HO Grant	3,200,000		
Staff Costs			
Forensic Science Development Directorate		1,300,000	297,000
Quality & Performance Directorate		940,000	221,500
Support Team, MD, Dorset Finance role		460,000	86,500
Sub total		2,700,000	605,000
Ancillary costs (staff training, travel, expenses, legal, licenses, website, events etc)		270,000	40,000
SARC Accreditation project		215,000	107,000
Fire Investigation project		265,000	0
Total	3,200,000	3,450,000	752,000
Overspend (offset by 2022/23 underspend carry forward)	250,000		

## Q2 upcoming highlights

- Publication of a forensic Workforce Strategic Plan on behalf of NPCC.
- Publication of a forensic Research and Innovation Strategy for NPCC.
- Completion of a national control strategy for forensics linked to the FORSTRA.
- Report on risks of artificial intelligence (AI) to digital forensics and wider policing.
- Finalise requirements and resourcing for a performance framework for forensics.