



Forensic Capability Network

Quarterly report
July-Sept 2023

Welcome to FCN's latest quarterly report, here to keep our stakeholders updated on progress against our annual delivery plan. You'll find all the key activities we've progressed in the previous quarter. Please share, and send questions to fcn@dorset.pnn.police.uk—and thank you for reading.

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

FSR Code declaration mitigation guidance produced and shared with forces. Complete
FSR declaration webinar hosted 26th Sept with speakers from FSR's office and MOJ, and 600+ police attendees registered (see featured item below). Complete
x3 onsite CSI accreditation support visits completed, totalling 16 year to date. Complete
<i>Quality Matters</i> being published fortnightly. Ongoing
SARC activity complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First ever pre-assessment completed by UKAS at South Wales Police • FAQs updated and published • End-to-end checklists and pre/post-examination SOPs updated and circulated
Fire Investigation technical forum set up to further understand requirements and develop materials. Compliance survey conducted with fire and rescue. Complete
Established national working group for NPCC to validate alternative cleaning solutions to Chemgene. Also scoping a strategy with FSR to minimise impact of verification on individual forces, similar scoping underway for HFE7100 validation with DSTL. Ongoing.
Performance framework for forensics underway, with data collection in Q3. Ongoing.
Swab Out Crime project continued in Q2 with 500+ samples collected and first in-force sampling days held at Herts, the Met and Merseyside. Ongoing.



Declarations guide

With the new regulatory Code in effect from 2nd October, FCN produced declarations guidance for non-accredited forces and hosted a webinar with speakers from the FSR and MOJ.

Pictured: Mario Gibezi (MOJ) at declarations webinar

2. Digital forensics (approx. 16%)	DF validation working groups for phones and computers ongoing quarterly. Complete
	Validation documentation templates for computers has been downloaded 500+ times and shared with 76 organisations on request. Complete
	Scoping conducted for radio frequency interlab comparison (ILC) exercise, with test planned to take place in Q4 2023/24. Complete
	KPIs documented and DF risks assessed with Home Office and NPCC Digital Forensic Programme on DF operating model. Complete
	Notts and the Met recruitment underway for Level 4 DF apprenticeship. Complete
	Level 7 DF apprenticeship presented at panel and developing documentation. Complete
	Memo of Understanding agreed with Digital Forensic Programme. Complete
AI risk assessment produced, and engagements with CAID on AI-generated CSE material, and College of Policing and NCA on AI risks. Ongoing	



Swab Out Crime

Herts, Merseyside and the Met were the first forces to help Swab Out Crime.

Pictured: Merseyside DCC Chris Green.

Visit www.fcnpolice.uk/swaboutcrime

3. Whole supply chain and marketplace reform (approx. 26%)	National forensic marketplace contingency plan reissued in July. Complete
	Forensic Marketplace Strategic Plan restarted in Sept with 2-day workshop. Ongoing
	Pay benchmarking scoping paper developed and in discussion. Partially complete
	Wellbeing wearables project continues with Leicestershire, completing Q3. Ongoing
	Ongoing support for Op Kettledrum and Tox Silver.
	Workforce strategic plan published August 2023 alongside mentoring guide. Complete
	Research strategy published and available on FCN website. Complete

4. NPCC support (approx. 16%)	National Control Strategy delayed. Planning underway to develop a framework, engaging community to understand activity, monitoring and mitigation, in Q3. Overdue.
	Ongoing support to NPCC Forensic Portfolio Board and strategic boards.

5. Criminal justice partnerships (approx. 4%)	Streamlined Forensic Reporting new MG22 templates published and extension to scope agreed for forensic collision investigation analysis via CCTV. Complete
	Supporting CPS and MoJ on FSR Code Risk Categorisation model and statutory Codes
	Criminal justice partnership workshop scheduled for Q3.
	Ongoing support to Op Kettledrum on behalf of NPCC.

Q3 upcoming highlights

- Performance framework data collection and baselining initial report.
- Training and awareness materials to help understand validation requirements.
- Criminal justice partnership workshop in October.
- AI legal and ethical review for law enforcement and research purposes.