



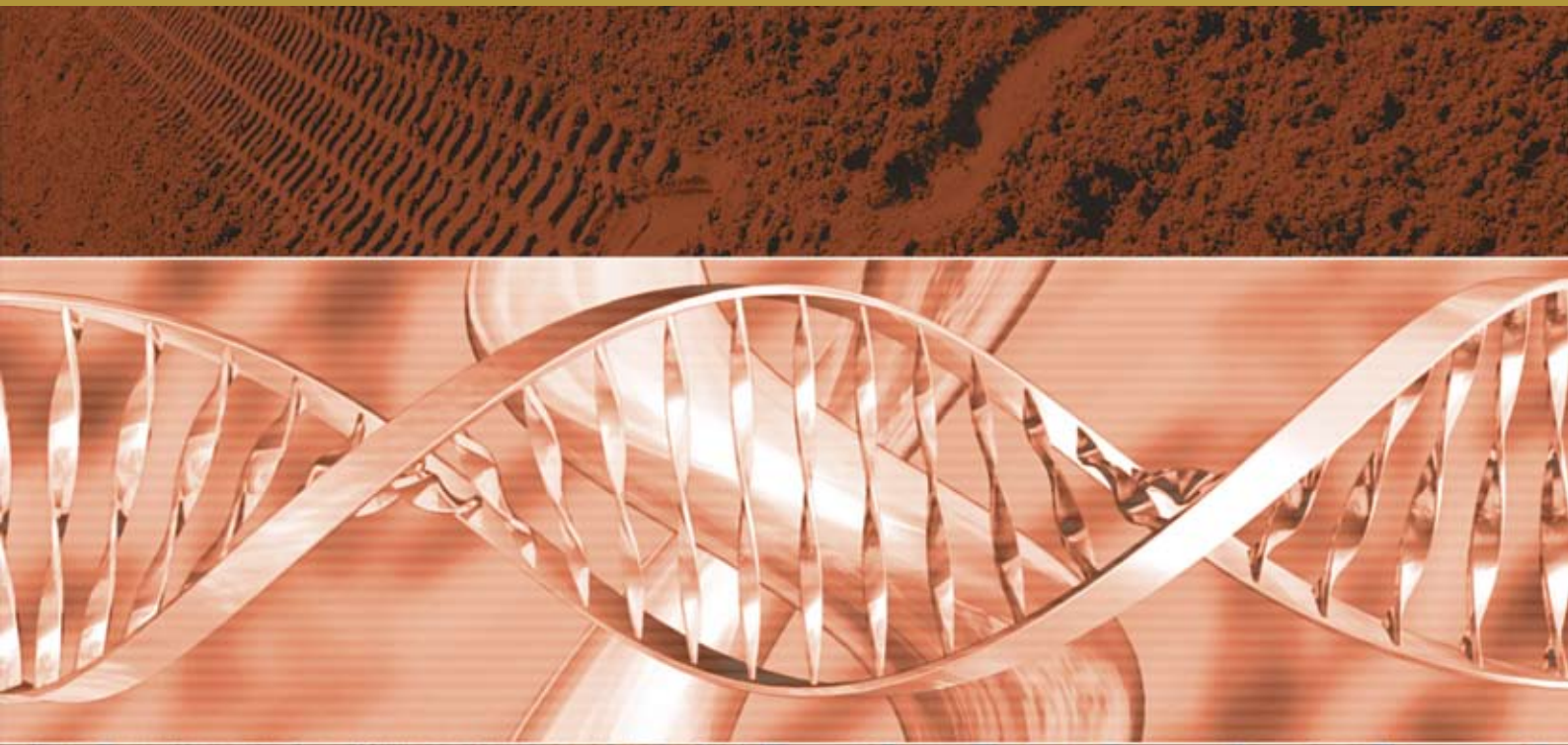
NPIA

National Policing
Improvement Agency

POLICE SCIENCE
AND FORENSICS

Forensics21 Update

March 2010



Welcome to the February/March edition of the Forensics21 update. In this issue:

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Detainee at Police Station Sampling National Launch



Following successful trials with early adopter forces, the Detainee at Police Station Sampling (DAPSS) national launch took place at the National Motorcycle Museum in Solihull on 10 March.

120 delegates attended the event, led by ACC John Fletcher from Bedfordshire Police, the project executive for the Process Management and Improvement Project, of which DAPSS is a part. Colleagues from early adopter forces gave presentations on their experiences of implementing DAPSS and delegates were able to network to find out more about the positive benefits and lessons learned on DAPSS. The HMIC provided a presentation on recent custody inspection findings, followed by Dr Kath Mashiter from Lancashire Constabulary who outlined the benefits of DAPSS from the perspective of a Scientific Support Manager.

The majority of forces plus the British Transport Police (BTP), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and other partner agencies sent representatives and feedback from the day was very positive. At the end of the event, forces were given a suite of DAPSS products to help them prepare for implementation. The DAPSS project team are supporting national roll out by providing an implementation plan and a series of regional workshops to train staff on how to use DAPSS methodology.

27 April 2010 – Harperley Hall
 28 April 2010 – Gloucestershire Police Site
 29 April 2010 – Ryton
 10 May 2010 – NKBH in London
 11 May 2010 – Wyboston
 12 May 2010 – Bramshill

To book a place on any of the workshops please email:
forensics21@npia.pnn.police.uk

Background to DAPSS

DAPSS was developed to build on the work already undertaken by the LiveScan reviews of 2007 and 2008 and to further improve the quality of fingerprint and DNA samples taken at custody suites across the country. DAPSS aims to ensure that:

- fingerprint and DNA samples taken are of the best possible quality and comply with national best practice where applicable
- every detainee arrested is accurately identified and appropriately (PACE) sampled
- investigative samples are taken when necessary

- all pertinent data in relation to each detainee and their samples is properly obtained and recorded.

By ensuring that DAPSS aims are achieved, the possibilities of fingerprint identification and DNA matches are maximised, with improved opportunities to bring offenders to justice. DAPSS will also potentially reduce investigative costs, the time spent by forces resolving incorrect nominal records on the PNC and the costs associated with taking DNA samples which not required.

Fingerprint bureau staff have always been aware of the importance of taking good quality finger and palm prints to assure and improve the national collection on IDENT1. Up to now there has been no nationally developed training for custody staff providing the knowledge and techniques to help obtain good quality samples. A DAPSS learning programme has been designed that is suitable both for individuals new to taking samples and those who currently undertake sampling who would benefit from some update training. It is designed in three specific modules: process management; fingerprints and DNA and these can be run as a single day's training or as individual modules.

The extent and type of sample quality assessment has differed across forces and the DAPSS project team has worked closely with selected forces to develop standardised fingerprint and DNA quality codes against which samples should be assessed. These have been endorsed by the Forensics Business Change Group, made up of scientific support managers (SSMs) who represent their ACPO region.

Tools to assist with the recording of quality assessment data have been developed which include a reporting mechanism that enables feedback to individuals on the quality of the samples they are taking. Promotional and support materials such as posters and an aide memoire have also been developed to promote the quality and good practice process.

Early Adopter Forces

Early adopter forces from Lancashire, Staffordshire, Wiltshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, have worked in collaboration with the DAPSS project team to pilot the DAPSS products and process. The DAPSS project team visited each force to provide an overview of the process and materials and explain how DAPSS should be implemented. Forensic case management systems were configured to support the recording of sample quality and the assessment of fingerprint and DNA samples started shortly afterwards. The project provided a separate excel spreadsheet for recording fingerprint quality if the forensics case management system did not have a fingerprint module.

After a recording period to provide a benchmark against which future improvements could be measured, the early adopter forces began training programmes for staff. Each force adopted its own view on who should be trained with some providing training for all staff and others choosing a more targeted approach. All forces made use of a LiveScan Lite unit, provided by the project to assist with fingerprint training carried out by experts.

Quotes from other early adopter force staff involved in DAPSS:

“It is remarkable the improvement in palm quality. DAPSS – what a great system”

“DAPSS is a simple, cost effective methods of both quality control and importantly constructive feedback to the officer processing the detainee”

The DAPSS methodology allows a more comprehensive breakdown in areas of quality and following DAPSS implementation, palmprints in particular have improved with quality issues reducing on average by half. In one force, improvements in tenprint quality have resulted in an almost doubling of print to marks hits from IDENT1 searches since DAPSS was implemented. In addition, the number of duplicate samples being taken is clearly identified, providing direct cost saving opportunities already to early adopter forces.

If you require further information please contact the Forensics21 team at Forensics21@npia.pnn.police.uk

National Footwear Reference Collection (NFRC) progress

The roll-out of the NFRC is on schedule with Kent Police and States of Jersey Police now live.

The project team held a series of regional meetings to discuss the success and lessons learnt from the introduction of the NFRC within forces. Feedback received from forces using the reference collection has been positive and Phase 2 of the project starts in April with focus on increasing intelligence capability.



Forensics21 Phase 2

The programme continues to prepare for the introduction of Phase 2 projects and programme Phase 2 Project Executives are confirmed as:

ACC John Parkinson – Citizen Focus
ACC John Fletcher – Forensic Quality Standards, Process Management and Improvement
ACC Chris Eyre – Digital, kit and consumables, National Forensics Framework Agreement (NFFA)
DCC Peter Goodman – Accelerated DNA Technology (ADAPT), National Footwear Reference Collection (NFRC)

An Office of Government Commerce (OGC) assessment meeting was held on 22 March, where approval was given for the programme to undertake a Gate 0 assessment. The OGC review will take place on 17-19 May.

EDIT

Evidential Drug Identification Testing Workshop

The EDIT project team held a workshop at NPIA Ryton on 16 March when practitioners were able to review current guidance and share experience and knowledge on Evidential Drugs Identification Testing (EDIT).

Presentations were given by the Metropolitan Police Service, Gloucestershire, Suffolk and Warwickshire Police and The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The topics covered included force learning during implementation, the benefits of EDIT, the importance of monitoring the use of EDIT, the legal side of EDIT and the use of EDIT at operations away from the police station, for example, music festivals.



During the afternoon session delegates reviewed the current Metropolitan Police Service EDIT guidance and agreed that this provides a good starting point for national good practice. Each group put forward a number of recommendations which will be pulled together by the project team and circulated to delegates for comment. A final draft will be presented to the CPS and ACPO lead from the project, Commander Allan Gibson for approval. The final national guidance is expected to be published in June 2010.

If you would like to join in any discussions or share your ideas and experiences on EDIT visit the new EDIT on-line sub-community on POLKA.

Science and Innovation Strategy 2010-2013 published

'Science and Innovation in the Police Service 2010-2013' sets out how the police service aims to bring offenders to justice more quickly, creating massive savings that will be diverted into priority issues like frontline policing. It also commits the service to building strong partnerships with the scientific community to focus research in areas that will have greatest impact on public safety.

Chief Constable Peter Neyroud, Chief Executive of the NPIA, said:

"The police service in England and Wales is one of the most innovative of its kind in the world. By applying modern science on the front line, police officers are detecting criminals faster, staying on the beat for longer and making decisions based on better evidence about what works.

"The strategy published today sets out a strong commitment to partnership with the scientific community to help focus resources on areas that have the biggest impact for officers."

The Strategy sets out the road map for the future use of science by the police service with:

- a stronger focus on directing investment to areas that will deliver the strongest benefits to public safety and confidence
- greater emphasis on the transfer of innovation across force borders and different aspects of policing
- stronger relationships between the research community, private sector and policing.

Policing Minister David Hanson MP said:

"Science and technology are at the very heart of the job of the modern police officer, which is why it is so important we continue to work with experts in the



scientific community to reap the full benefits of the technology on offer.

"This strategy sets out some exciting plans for how we can make the most of cutting-edge technology in policing and I look forward to seeing the results."

Forensics Quality Standards

Following the quality standards launch event held at NPIA Ryton in late February, forces have been working to complete self-assessment questionnaires to illustrate where they are in relation to implementing a quality culture for forensics based on ISO 9001 for their fingerprint bureaux, CSI, photography and imaging units and fingerprint enhancement laboratories, as well as ISO 17025 for laboratories. So far, 34 forces have returned completed questionnaires and remaining forces are expected to complete theirs in the next few weeks. The project would like to thank all forces for taking part in this survey.

The project team is now starting to analyse the information for a report which will go to ACPO. Key findings and recommendations will be available to forces in May or June this year. The project team will be contacting force leads working on the self-assessment to keep them updated on progress.

For more information email:
forensics21@npia.pnn.police.uk

Stakeholder Benefits Report

The second edition of the report has been published and provides an overview of the benefits achieved by forces through the Forensics21 programme to date. This issue focuses on the policing impact of the National Footwear Reference Collection (NFRC) and Evidential Drug Identification Testing (EDIT) projects.

To request copies of the report email:
forensics21@npia.pnn.police.uk



Forensics21 end-to-end process diagram

The Forensics21 programme has created a diagram which uses a fictional crime investigation to illustrate the development improvements the programme brings to policing. By developing progress in a visual way it is hoped that forces will gain a greater understanding of how individual projects within

the programme impact on the end- to-end forensic process.

To request an electronic copy of the illustration please email: forensics21@npia.pnn.police.uk



POLKA

Register Now!



POLKA (Police Online Knowledge Area) roll out continues

NPIA staff and colleagues in the wider policing community (on the PNN network) can browse and join POLKA communities that are of interest to them. POLKA is a secure website dedicated to promoting online communication, collaborative working and the sharing of knowledge and good practice.

Forensics Community

The Forensics21 Programme is one of the early adopters of POLKA and the forensics community knowledge bank provides a single place where forces can access, discuss and develop good practice in the field of forensics.

POLKA is being gradually rolled out to all of our stakeholders including police forces, ACPO and government agencies. It will in time provide restricted access to other third parties including commercial partners with whom we do business.

The programme has established static content, blogs and discussion forums. The forensics community is growing, with over 185 members using the site. The programme is keen to ensure the site contains information and news relevant to users and becomes a lively hub of discussion, ideas

generation and collaborative working. Community members can upload documents, start and contribute to discussions, put comments on the wall and create events.

The majority of the forensics national good practice guidance held on Genesis has now been migrated onto POLKA. Community members can access the latest end-to-end forensic process maps and all new DAPSS materials. Over the coming months the forensics knowledge bank will grow to contain:

- results and updates from projects such as NFRC and EDIT
- quality Standards and national SOPs relating to forensic disciplines
- forensics Performance Data
- data analysis tools.

The programme is also making use of private communities, acting as forensics 'sub-communities' as a platform to undertake specific pieces of project work that involve collaborative working with several forces. The EDIT sub-community has recently been set up to bring practitioners together in one forum.

To register on POLKA now, go to:
<https://polka.pnn.police.uk>

If you have any ideas to share, discussions to start or events to promote please email:
forensics21@npia.pnn.police.uk

DNA Sampling Kits

The contract for the supply of DNA sampling kits has been awarded to the Forensic Science Service Ltd (FSS). Orders for DNA sampling kits can be placed with FSS through the DNA Sampling Kits framework agreement. By simply referencing the framework on any orders placed forces will benefit from the new reduced price of £1.95 - a price that will offer a considerable cost saving to all.

The final allocation of 9-series barcodes for PACE DNA sampling kits was made at the end of January 2010. From now on 3-series barcodes will be issued for PACE DNA sampling kits. In addition to the change in barcode series, the forms inside all DNA sampling kits used for the collection of demographic data now ask for less information. The Volunteer DNA sampling kit is being phased out and replaced by the Elimination DNA sampling kit. Information about a new method of taking a DNA sample from a volunteer and its subsequent use, will follow shortly.



To assist forces in advising and training their staff on these changes, the NPIA's Forensics21 Programme has produced an advisory poster and training presentation and these have been distributed to forces in England and Wales. Stock on posters is limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you require further copies of the DNA sampling kits poster please contact the Forensics21 Team, by email: forensics21@npia.pnn.police.uk

ADAPT

Accelerated DNA Profiling Technology



The NPIA's Forensics21 Programme is facilitating the development of technology solutions that have the ability to generate a DNA profile from a sample in a matter of hours, outside of the current traditional laboratory environment.

Four suppliers were invited to attend exploratory meetings in late February with further meetings

planned in the next few weeks with forces who have expressed an interest in piloting the new technology.

For further information please email: ADAPT@npia.pnn.police.uk or visit the ADAPT webpage: <http://www.npia.police.uk/en/14553.htm>

Meet the Team



Forensics21 Senior Project Manager, Janine Oliver

Career history

I moved from New Zealand to the UK 19 years ago and have spent most of my career working in the finance and banking industry until joining the NPIA six years ago. My last position was at the Barclays Group where I managed major change management, business process re-engineering and IT projects with many of their businesses. I completed an MBA at South Bank University and my thesis was on 'Why IT projects fail'.

Your role within the Programme

I recently joined the programme and am a project manager responsible for the National Footwear Reference Collection (NFRC) Phase 2, and for Citizen Focus. I am looking forward to working on these

projects as both offer challenges and will be very interesting and motivating.

Favourite place in the world

Got to be New Zealand!

Pastimes/interests?

Interests include travelling extensively - I have been made redundant twice, so this gave me the opportunity to take a year off work each time to travel the world. I am also an avid spectator of rugby union (supporting the All Blacks of course!), sea fishing, and wine tasting - I was a member of the Dulwich Wine Society for seven years, but also keep up my skills when in NZ as I come from a large wine growing region.

Leavers and Joiners

We say thank you and farewell to Ian Gledhill and Steve Sugden who return to force as their respective secondments come to an end.

Congratulations to business change officer Lucy Johnson who recently married Ross Hill.

Dr Clare Saddler and Matt Barrett also leave the programme and we wish them well in their future ventures.

Any News?

If you have any case studies or news stories you would like to share with other forces please email these to: forensics21@npia.pnn.police.uk or call **Rani Singh** on **020 7021 7044**.

Events diary

Information Management Project Board Meeting
Derbyshire HQ – 15 April 2010

Forensics21 Team Seminar
Ryton – 20-21 April 2010

ACPO Forensics Portfolio Board
Ryton – 30 April 2010

DAPSS Regional Workshops:
Tuesday 27 April 2010 – Harperley Hall,
Wednesday 28 April 2010 – Gloucestershire
Thursday 29 April 2010 – Ryton
Monday 10 May 2010 – NKBH in London
Tuesday 11 May 2010 – Wyboston
Wednesday 12 May – Bramshill

If you have any questions about the Forensics21 programme or any of its component projects, please contact the team at:

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