ACTION PLAN ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CJI REPORT

An inspection of Forensic Services in Northern Ireland 'It's with Forensics'!

<u>Key Recommendations</u> - **<u>S</u>**trategic and **<u>O</u>**perational

| No. | Report Ref | Recommendation | Lead Agency | Accepted Y/N | Proposed Action | Milestone/ Target Date | Update |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| No. | paragraph 2.14 | Recommendation The Forensic Services Programme Board should develop an agreed strategic plan for implementation of the service delivery model (SDM) which should be presented to the Criminal Justice Board within one year of publication of this report. It should include business appraisal of options. | Lead Agency DoJ | | Fingerprint enhancement & Firearms Projects to complete Option appraisal to be completed to set out analysis & preferred option for approval at | | Update |
| | | | | | FSPB FSPB to agree on next steps for SDM and plan to be developed and approved by FSPB Updated plan to be presented to CJB | 31 Dec 2024 28 Feb 2025 | |

| SR2 | paragraph 2.23 | The Department of Justice in conjunction with the Forensic Services Programme Board should develop a new forensic services funding model (FSFM) to enable, and fit with, service delivery model with first changes in place for 2025-26 financial year | DoJ | Y | Forensic Services Funding Model that aligns to approved SDM to be developed and approved by FSPB Actions completed to ensure FSFM in place for April 2025 | 30 Sep 2024 31 Dec 2024 | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--|
| SR3 | paragraph 2.28 | The Forensic Services Programme Board should develop further options to promote mutually beneficial operational co-operation with forensic services in Scotland and the Republic of Ireland | FSNI | Y | FSNI to continue to work with FSI through the IGA – Forensic PAG FSNI to agree an Operating Protocol with SPA and develop a work plan for 2024/25 | Update Reports September 2024 and March 2025 | |
| | | | | | FSNI to continue to collaborate with ¹FEL | On-going | |

¹ Forensics Explosives Laboratory – Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory, Kent.

| | Twice yearly reports on Update Reports September 2024 and March 2025 |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | PSNI SSB services to engage with SPA and Garda forensic support services and carry out a comparative analysis of service provision and report on findings. 30 Sep 2024 |

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|-----|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| SR4 | paragraph 3.40 | Forensic Science Northern Ireland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in consultation with the Public Prosecution Service, should develop a Plan on extending the application of proportionality from crime scene to Court. The Plan should be presented to the Forensic Services Programme Board within six months of the publication. Implementation of the Plan should be completed within one year of agreement. It should include an action plan to implement the Attorney General's Guidance on early consultation between the Public Prosecution Service and Reporting Officers | PSNI | Y | Working group set up to suggest policy in relation to proportionality of recovered evidence at the crime scene. This should be based on Gateway policy and impact evidence for best value. This should be a collaboration between PPS, Reporting Officers, Gateway Staff and take into account the Attorney General's Guidance on Early Engagement. | 30 Apr 2024 | |

| SR5 paragraph | The Forensic Services Programme | | | Report with recommendations for improvement to FSPB | 30 Oct 2024 | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 3.60 | Board should commission a joint Workforce Plan with agreed actions in place within six months of publication of this report. Working Groups in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Forensic Science Northern Ireland should present actions to their respective senior management | FSNI/ PSNI | Y | 3 year Demand Modelling for Forensic Services to completed Resource plans to include 3 year recruitment plans to | 30 Sep 2024 30 Sep 2024 | |
| | decision making bodies | | | meet capacity requirements to be developed • 5 Year Succession Planning requirements to be developed and costed | 30 Sep 2024 | |

| OR1 | paragraph | The Police Service of Northern Ireland | | | |
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| OKT | paragraph 3.23 | should consult with Forensic Science Northern Ireland and the Public Prosecution Service, as part of the Working Together project, to maximise the benefits of forensic case conferences. Enhanced training and development should be available to Senior Investigating Officers | PSNI | Y | FSNI to be included as appropriate in the PSNI/PPS Working Together Project Best practice guidance draft for Case Conferences to be created in conjunction with SIOs FSNI Customer & Stakeholder training & awareness plans for 2024/25 to include SIO Training As required As required As required As required 31 Mar 2025 |
| OR2 | paragraph 3.50 | The Forensic Services Programme Board should develop a joint approach to quality assurance including a plan for retaining and extending quality accreditation by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service | FSNI | Y | Expand the role/remit of the current cross organisation quality working group — develop an agreed Standard Sta |

| | | | | | TOR and rename e.g Quality Improvement Project Twice yearly updates to be provided to FSPB | Update Reports September 2024 and March 2025 | |
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| OR3 | paragraph 4.17 | The Forensic Services Programme Board should complete the implementation of the Value Project | DoJ/ PSNI | Y | To review current Value Project for scope and outcomes FSPB to agree scope of Value Project to be delivered in 2024/25 | 31 May 2024 30 Sep 2024 | |
| OR4 | paragraph 4.24 | The Department of Justice, Forensic Science Northern Ireland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland should develop a plan for joint | FSNI | Y | Review ² JIDG TOR and agree innovation and | 30 Sep 2024 | |

² Joint Innovation Delivery Group - has PPS, PSNI (SSB & CC) and FSNI representation.

| agreement on research and | | development | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|--------|--|
| development within six month | of | programme | | |
| publication of this report. The | | | | |
| Forensic Services Programme | Board | Innovation & | 31 Mar | |
| should have oversight of | | Development Pillar | 2025 | |
| implementation | | within FSS subject | | |
| | | to annual reporting | | |