

## SUPPORTING POLICING, SERVING SCOTLAND

OCTOBER 2008

Welcome to the second edition of Emerge—our regular quarterly update for policing and the wider criminal justice system on the work of the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA).

SPSA is an organisation that is independent of the police but understands policing. Our staff are committed to supporting

police officers to make the best of their time and talent in the protection and service of the public.

From the training they receive to make it onto our streets, to the technology they use when they are out there. From the intelligence needed to progress an investigation, to the evidence gathering needed to secure a

conviction. From the expertise needed to take out a local cannabis farm, to the international partnerships needed to disrupt a money laundering scheme.

Emerge will keep you up to date on developments every step of the way. To sign up for future electronic editions contact [media@spsa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:media@spsa.pnn.police.uk).

## SITE SECURED FOR PURPOSE-BUILT FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY



SPSA has confirmed that its new purpose-built forensic laboratory is to be built on the banks of the River Tay at Dundee's City Quay.

The site, named Dundee One by Developers Unicorn Property Group, covers almost 50,000 square feet and will be part of a programme of regeneration for the riverside area.

The £16 million development marks a major vote of confidence in the future of forensic services in Scotland and will create a bespoke working environment which will facilitate the deployment of new forensic techniques and advances in technology across the country.

Set for completion in early 2010, the new modern forensic facility will provide a number of clear benefits to the provision of forensic services including:

- dedicated space for the examination of large exhibits and a blood pattern analysis laboratory;
- controlled laboratory environments to reduce contamination;
- a more efficient workflow leading to faster processing times;
- streamlining of the administration and forensic analysis process by establishing a common IT and evidence tracking system; and
- flexible space that can be adapted as future needs and demands become clearer.

## GOING TO GARTCOSH

Architects have started work on designing the new crime campus to be built at Gartcosh, near Glasgow.

Early designs are currently being developed by the architects in consultation with staff from all the co-locating agencies.

Employees from Glasgow Forensic Services and the Osprey House staff of the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA) will join colleagues at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) when they begin to relocate to a brand new, state-of-the-art law enforcement facility in 2011.

The £65 million project, which marks one of the most significant criminal justice developments in a generation, will allow agencies to strengthen their partnership approach to tackling serious organised crime.

The purpose-built facility will accommodate over 1,200 officers and employees and will provide the facilities and technology required by modern crime-fighting agencies, including a state-of-the-art forensic science lab.

SPSA is planning further activity to ensure its staff are fully informed and involved in the move, every step of the way.

Interim SPSA Convener George Kay said: "The development will be a major milestone for SPSA, a major vote of confidence in the future direction of forensic services for Scotland and a major asset to the city of Dundee. Above all, I hope that it will be a place that supports our highly-skilled forensic staff to make their best contribution to the fight against crime."



## COCAINE MISUSE EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The SCDEA Interventions Unit continues its partnership approach to reducing the demand for cocaine with various initiatives planned or underway with schools and other education institutions.

Under its Shared Responsibility campaign, the SCDEA is working with Learning and Teaching Scotland, Highland Council and NHS Highland to develop plans for a pilot project in an Inverness secondary school, which would incorporate substance misuse education into relevant parts of the curriculum. If successful, the pilot will be used as a model for influencing the curriculum in schools across Scotland.

In addition, Girvan Academy in Ayrshire has agreed to develop a social networking site as a way of communicating with young people in Colombia, which has its own Shared Responsibility campaign. A partner school in Colombia will be identified so that pupils can share their experiences about how cocaine consumption impacts on their lives.

The SCDEA is keen to also target those in higher and further education with campaign messages and is in discussion with the National Union of Students (NUS) to take this forward.

## DRUG PROFILING TO PROVIDE 'ROAD MAP' TO DISRUPT TRAFFICKING

Recent UN reports about the scale of the opium harvest in Afghanistan and concerns closer to home about the purity of drugs circulating in our communities have focussed attention once again on how drugs reach our streets.

That's why SPSA Forensic Services, after listening to its customers, is now looking closely at developing drug profiling as part of the chemistry service it provides. A project team has been established to improve the intelligence available from the forensic analysis of drugs and also to provide information on linked cases for evidential purposes in court.

We are now providing valuable information on the presence of adulterants and dilutents to the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA). This was recently used to highlight the presence of a cancer causing adulterant in certain batches.

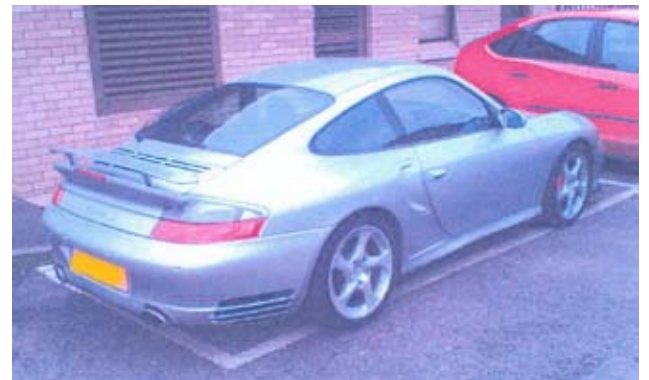
We are also involved in a cutting-edge academic project to compare drugs through their isotopic ratios. This has the potential to provide valuable information on their geographical origin. In addition we are exploring becoming involved in a European-wide project on the by-products of drug manufacturing which we expect to be expanded from amphetamine to cover other drugs including heroin.

Profiling a drug in this way could give us information on its geographical origin, the countries it has travelled through to reach Scotland, and what it has been mixed with before it ends up on the streets.

This 'road map' of the supply chain could give law enforcement the vital intelligence it needs to disrupt supplies and help build a case against the international organised gangs behind this evil criminal enterprise.

For more information contact Derek Bain at [derek.bain@spsa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:derek.bain@spsa.pnn.police.uk).

## DRUGS GANG NETS 80 YEAR JAIL HAUL



The SCDEA continues to record significant successes in the fight against serious and organised crime. In August, two individuals, Donald Birrell and Karen Johnstone, were sentenced to a combined 14 years after admitting serious drug and money laundering offences.

The sentences marked the culmination of a long-running and highly-successful SCDEA operation—codenamed ACUMEN—aimed at dismantling the supply of drugs in the north-east and across Scotland.

Overall since 2005, the operation has resulted in 37 people being charged with

being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs and related charges. In total, almost 80 years of jail sentences have been imposed as a result of the operation.

Johnny Gwynne, Acting Deputy Director-General of the SCDEA, said: "*This detailed investigation targeted an organised crime group which was affecting communities across a significant area of Scotland—with a particular focus in the north-east. Seeing operations like this concluding successfully is why we are here—to bring some respite to people struggling with the affects of drug abuse in their lives, homes or families.*"



## CRIME IS CRIME IN ANY LANGUAGE

Picture the scene. A young Chinese woman has seen drug dealing in the block of flats in Glasgow she and her baby daughter live in. She is concerned for her daughter's wellbeing and she wants to do something about it. She has no English but she steps into a city centre telephone box and makes a call. She speaks a few words in Cantonese. A few seconds later, she is answered in Cantonese, reassured of her anonymity and asked to explain what she knows.

This is not an aspirational future outcome for this scenario. This is possible today.

The Crimestoppers call centre, operated by SPSA Criminal Justice, has unlimited and immediate access to a facility called Language Line—professional, qualified telephone interpreters in over 150 languages. However, this year it has only been used on seven occasions.

Police forces are increasingly interested in making an impact in these minority ethnic communities particularly those persons who speak Cantonese, Mandarin and Vietnamese. However, individuals within these communities are often reluctant to approach the police. That's why an anonymous facility like Crimestoppers may be a much more attractive proposition.

If you are interested in finding out more, and in helping us and Crimestoppers to raise awareness of the facility, please contact Paul Quinn at [paul.quinn@spsa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.quinn@spsa.pnn.police.uk).



## ENHANCED DISCLOSURE DATABASE SPARKS NATIONAL INTEREST

A database developed by SPSA Information Services-ICT in Fife to manage Enhanced Disclosure applications has been so effective that forces from across Scotland and the UK, as well as the States of Jersey Police, have expressed interest in adopting the system.

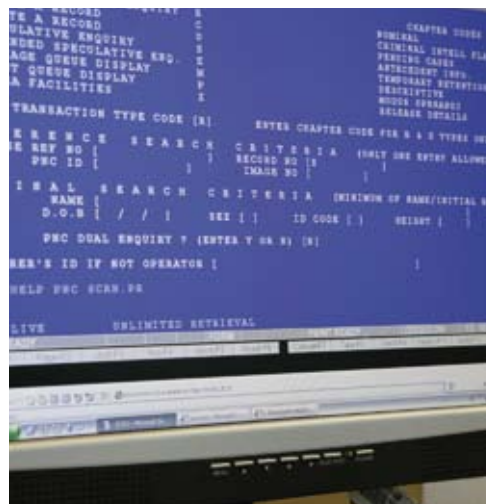
The Enhanced Disclosure Database was created in response to changes brought about by the Bichard report, which included the creation of a Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) to set the standards for police forces in carrying out vetting checks.

The QAF demands more robust processes in terms of information searches, decision making and audit trail. To address these needs, ICT experts re-developed an existing database using new technologies to improve its functionality.

Launched by Fife Constabulary in January 2007, the database contains records of all disclosures from 2002, as well as Public Interest Disclosures, appeals, solicitor's letters and the Notifiable Occupation Scheme. Since it went live, the force has noted a 90 per cent reduction in paper storage.

SPSA ICT is planning to create the database as a national system.

For further information contact Mark Christie at [mark.christie@spsa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mark.christie@spsa.pnn.police.uk).



## DNA DELIVERING LEADS TO POLICING

Figures from SPSA Forensic Services reveal that DNA evidence recovered and added to the national database is providing police with a suspect in more than 7 out of 10 occasions.

In August, there were 328 crime scene profiles submitted with 240 of these matching a record on the DNA database—an exceptionally high 'hit rate' of 73 per cent.

The figures come as the Scottish Government published the long-awaited review on DNA retention by Professor Jim Fraser and launched a wide-ranging consultation on its findings and recommendations.

Director of Forensic Services Tom Nelson said: "These results demonstrate once again the contribution that forensic science plays in supporting the efforts of the police to detect and prevent crime. Advances in technology, like DNA analysis, have unlocked some of the most chilling and high-profile crimes of our times—but they are also used very effectively in solving less high profile cases, such as housebreaking.

"Cracking these volume crimes, often fuelled by the menace of drugs, is rightly becoming an increasing priority for Forensic Services and our partners across the criminal justice system. The fact that we are now identifying a suspect from more than 7 out of the 10 profiles we are able to add to the database is a sign of what is possible—and simply unthinkable just a decade ago."

## POLICE COLLEGE RECOGNISED IN NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

The Scottish Police College's work to develop the Police Information Net for Scotland (PINS) has been recognised by a major industry awards panel.



The Police Information Net for Scotland (PINS)

The College was a finalist in the Public Sector Technology of the Year category within the CNET Networks UK Business Technology Awards 2008.

PINS is an electronic legal database system for use by police officers and support staff throughout Scotland.

Initially available in CD format, PINS has been enhanced as a live online information service and is continually monitored and updated to meet the changing demands of the Scottish Police Service.

This is one of the most prestigious events in the IT calendar, with the finalists honoured in September at an elite networking dinner held in London's famous Park Lane Hilton.



## PROBATIONER TRAINING FIGURES SOAR

The Scottish Police College has just reached the half-way mark this year in supporting police forces and the Scottish Government's drive to put more police officers onto the street.

Each intake of officers is bringing on average over 190 new faces to the College.

The College anticipates that by the end of March 2009 over 1,600 officers will have completed their probationer training—the largest number ever to pass through the Tulliallan facility in a single year.

It's an initiative which has, quite literally, changed the face of the College—with new temporary classrooms and office space springing up across the grounds to help meet demand.

Behind the scenes the changes put in place to accommodate this unprecedented demand are even more far-reaching.

Accommodation has been reconfigured to provide more beds for probationers. Bed capacity is regularly being utilised at 100 per cent—a level that few, if any, commercial hotels could maintain.

College Director John Geates said: *"The College has always responded flexibly to the demands made of it and the response of our dedicated staff to this unprecedented shift in demand has been momentous. Many of our staff live on site, and most have sacrificed the little extra comforts of a larger room to allow us to turn singles into double rooms. Everyone is doing their bit—from the kitchens to the classroom."*

*"It's a real test—one of the largest delivery projects anywhere in the public sector in Scotland at present. But it's one that we are determined to deliver on and to do so with the minimum of additional resource."*

Probationer Training Initial Training Courses

