

## SUPPORTING POLICING, SERVING SCOTLAND

FEBRUARY 2009

**W**elcome to the third edition of *Emerge*, the regular bulletin that keeps you up to date with how the business areas of the SPSA and the SCDEA are working with Scottish policing and other criminal justice partners.

Vic Emery joined SPSA as its new Convener in January 2009. Prior to his appointment, Vic was Managing Director of BAE Systems Surface Fleet Solutions which manages the shipyards on the Clyde.

In his first message to SPSA's stakeholders and customers, Vic sets out what customers can expect in 2009.

*"I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to chair SPSA into this next phase of its development.*

*"Like most organisations, SPSA is neither perfect nor broken. It's a work of progress, but still a work in progress.*

*"In four decades of experience within the private sector, I have been a strong advocate of the need for true partnership working between customers and suppliers.*

*"As a customer, it is right to seek more for less, to expect more innovation and increased efficiency from suppliers. I am certain that within our highly-professional workforce we have the desire, skills and expertise to deliver practical evidence of that in 2009.*

*"Of course, there is also a balance to be struck. We also need to recognise that there are always practical limitations to meeting demands. One of the key tasks ahead in 2009 is to agree with our customers exactly what those limitations are.*

*"I believe that working together with forces and others we can deliver significant benefits to Scottish policing. We will need to listen to each other more and understand each other's issues better but I am very optimistic and enthusiastic about the challenge ahead."*

### NEW SPSA CONVENER PROMISES PARTNERSHIP WITH POLICING



## RESTRUCTURE PLANS FOR SPSA ICT

**SPSA Information Services – ICT has announced to staff details of a proposed restructure, marking the start of a period of consultation for the 450-strong workforce.**

The restructure is the foundation of an ambitious, but necessary, strategy to deliver 'best in class' information systems to Scottish policing on behalf of ACPOS.

Scottish policing is embracing modern technology to help it meet the rising demands and expectations of Scotland's communities. ACPOS and Scotland's eight police forces are committed to meeting this challenge by developing new ways to reduce bureaucracy, improve efficiency and continually improve professional standards.

This will involve adopting new process and systems, and SPSA ICT is at the

forefront of leading and managing those changes. To do that effectively, SPSA ICT also needs to be ready to adapt working practices, enhance capability and bring innovative solutions.

Robert Kirkwood, Chief Information Officer, SPSA ICT explained: *"We need to organise ourselves in a way that will allow us to deploy the right skills in the right areas, to strike the best deals with suppliers, establish common systems across force boundaries, and keep us at the cutting edge of what technology can deliver.*

*"I believe that our new structure will allow us to deliver a service-focussed approach to developing and managing common reliable and robust ICT solutions for our customers that will provide maximum value to Scottish policing."*



## NEW AUTOMATION TO SPEED UP DNA TESTS

**A new DNA automation process, capable of carrying out DNA tests up to three times quicker than conventional testing, was put into operation at the SPSA forensic science laboratories in Dundee and Glasgow in December.**

The two £100,000 robots, the first such technology operating in Scotland, are each capable of testing up to 78 DNA samples in just over 24 hours in comparison with a manual approach which can take two people up to three days.

These new machines will speed up turnaround times of DNA evidence to the police in volume crimes such as housebreakings – allowing staff to concentrate sophisticated forensic expertise in the most serious and complex criminal investigations.

SPSA received independent accreditation for the new equipment from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) in December – the final green light for the system to go live.

Already the new system is producing notable results.

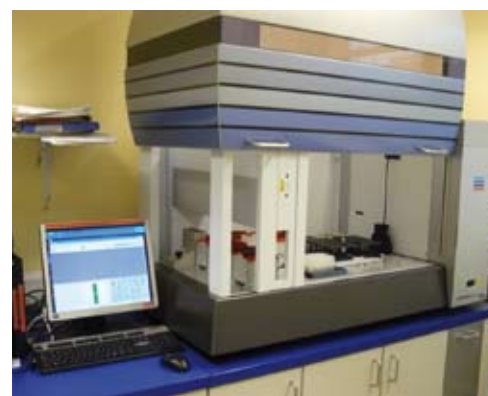
In the run up to Christmas, a significant amount of cigarettes and alcohol were stolen from a Scotmid store. This was one of a spate of such thefts in the Strathclyde area.

Two cigarette butts recovered from the crime scene were received at the Glasgow laboratory and put through the new DNA automation process.

As a direct result of the quick turnaround in the DNA evidence in this case, the police were able to search the accused's house,

where they subsequently recovered a large quantity of cigarettes and the cigarette display from the shop.

Strathclyde Police have praised the work of the Forensic Services team which enabled them to catch the thief red handed.



## FORENSIC SERVICES – PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



**The partnership between Scotland's police and the 'crime scene to court' service provided by SPSA Forensic Services has been demonstrated through two high profile cases in recent months - namely the Glasgow Airport terror trial and the Vicky Hamilton murder.**

SPSA Forensic Services provided Strathclyde Police and the Metropolitan Police Counter-Terrorism Command with round the clock cover for Operation Seagram, deploying 44 members of staff to work across six sites for over one thousand hours.

Forensic staff working on the Vicky Hamilton case played a significant role in supporting the police investigation. Throughout, Peter Tobin repeatedly tried to conceal his evil actions from the authorities but vital evidence was gathered from a number of disciplines within Forensic Services, including scene examination, DNA analysis and fingerprints.

*Tom Nelson, Director SPSA Forensic Services said: "The painstaking dedication and expertise of our forensic experts, allied to the skills and determination of the investigating officers, helped to build a true picture of events. This demonstrates the partnership working that has been*

*cemented over the past year as Forensic Services supports the police not just in high profile investigations, but also in the day to day work of tackling crime in our communities."*



## UK'S MOST WANTED

**The Crimestoppers Scotland call centre, based at the SPSA in Glasgow, is now the main point of contact for all Scottish forces wishing to put information on the Crimestoppers Most Wanted pages on its website.**

The charity's Most Wanted pages bring together appeals from across the UK, allowing police officers to post photos, CCTV footage and descriptions of people they are currently looking for. Information on all crime types can be featured on the site including crimes of murder, rape, robbery, drug smuggling and assault.

Launched in 2005, different procedures in the Scottish legal system meant that Scottish police forces were initially unable to contribute to Most Wanted in the same way as their English and Welsh counterparts. However, new streamlined procedures mean that following Crown Office approval the information can be posted on the site immediately

giving officers access to a huge online community with both national and international exposure.

Adam Findlay, Crimestoppers Scotland Chair said: *"Most Wanted helps to identify suspects of particular incidents and criminals who are unknown to the police or are known and, despite extensive enquiries, the police have been unable to trace them. With more than 71,000 users visiting the site per month, Most Wanted is an invaluable tool for Scottish police forces to raise awareness of specific appeals and related individuals that they wish to find."*

*"As the new main point of contact for Scottish forces, the Crimestoppers Scotland call centre team can have images and information on the site within an hour of receiving the details and will continue to manage and monitor any outcomes on behalf of the senior investigating officer to ensure that information is removed from the site when appropriate."*

*"Members of the public are able to provide information on any of the appeals anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via an anonymous online information form and with arrests on over 400 of the appeals posted to the site, Most Wanted is a vital communication channel that Scottish officers cannot afford to miss out on."*

To find out more about how you can add information on a particular appeal to the site please contact the Crimestoppers Scotland call centre team on 0141 585 8465/8464 or email [ronnie.glendinning@spsa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ronnie.glendinning@spsa.pnn.police.uk) or [william.leslie@spsa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:william.leslie@spsa.pnn.police.uk)



## OVER 1,000 POLICE RECRUITS PASS THROUGH SPC

So far this financial year over 1,000 new police recruits have successfully completed their probationer training at the Scottish Police College. And with three more intakes arriving at the college in the first three months of this year we will have welcomed another 600 recruits before March 2009.

Whilst supporting the Scottish Government to meet their manifesto commitment to recruit 1,000 additional officers, the college has continued to support the Scottish Police Service by delivering leadership and management training and specialist training for police officers in Scotland. This too has provided a challenge which the college has risen to and has resulted in some detailed planning and scheduling and a few innovative ideas to ensure that all commitments are met.

The Strategic Command Course for 2009 was one such event that the College was delighted to host. Run only once a year the college provided the perfect backdrop for 67 senior police officers and police staff from across the UK, France, the Irish Republic and Malta to attend this two week leadership module. This year the participants engaged in a new Scottish negotiating and influencing exercise set around the violence agenda using the Single Outcome Agreement structure. Ten participants from five Scottish forces attended this course which, on successful completion, qualifies them to apply for roles at ACPO/ACPOS level.

Training requirements for 2009/10 for both new recruits and police officers means that the Scottish Police College will continue to work at maximum capacity throughout this year.



## PROTECTING BUSINESS FROM ORGANISED CRIME

The SCDEA hosted a national conference in January 2009 to reduce the impact of serious organised crime on Scotland's business community.

The 'Risky Business' event, which was attended by senior business professionals, was aimed at raising awareness of the risk posed by organised crime groups and identifying ways of protecting legitimate organisations.

Delivered in partnership with the Scottish Business Crime Centre (SBCC), the event brought together experts from law enforcement and senior business leaders to examine a range of issues, including how serious organised crime impacts on Scotland, the role of professionals as facilitators of crime and how business can

avoid falling victim to approaches from organised criminals.

Organised crime groups target legitimate businesses and people with specialist skills, such as lawyers, accountants and financial advisers, to hide and expand their illegal activity.

Developing and implementing new ways to reduce the risk to legitimate business is a priority area for the SCDEA and it is hoped the success of this event will lead to a series of similar engagements in future with the business community.

If you are interested in finding out more about helping to raise awareness within the business community of the threat from serious organised crime, please contact [Interventions@scdea.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Interventions@scdea.pnn.police.uk).

## UNITED FRONT IN FIGHT AGAINST CANNABIS CULTIVATION

Over 100 people, including Scotland's Justice Secretary, have taken part in a major national summit to provide the business community with an insight into how the police and other partner agencies are working together to tackle large scale cannabis cultivations – Operation League II.

The SCDEA and Crimestoppers Scotland are both playing an active role with police partners in detecting and dismantling these commercial cannabis factories.

Since the introduction of Operation League, 164 cannabis cultivation sites have been identified and dismantled throughout Scotland. Nearly 80,000 plants, with an approximate street value of £24.7m, have been seized.

Many sites have been discovered as a result of information from members of the public, highlighting the potential contribution that can be made through the Crimestoppers call centre.

Assistant Chief Constable, Stephen Whitelock, SCDEA said:

"Since the implementation of Operation League by Strathclyde Police two years ago we have been successful in identifying and disrupting many of these drug sites. The continued growth of these sites is a concern but I'm sure that with the help of business and the public, we can ensure that it is extremely difficult for the criminals and the cultivations to thrive in Scotland."

SPSA's Paul Quinn, National Crimestoppers Co-ordinator, said: "Local communities have a huge contribution to make towards reducing the threat of this type of criminality by being aware of the signs to look for. Crimestoppers offers people a way of reporting suspicious activity in confidence, meaning they can help make their communities safer without the fear of retribution. Even the smallest detail can help tackle drug dealing in our communities."

## SCDEA PILOTS NEW DRUG TECHNOLOGY

**Drug detection machines have been piloted in four Scottish police forces over the past few months under an SCDEA-led initiative to target drug dealers and raise awareness of the dangers of taking drugs.**

Police officers in Strathclyde, Central Scotland, Grampian and Tayside worked in partnership with local Alcohol and Drug Action Teams, local authority licensing boards and licensees to pilot the machines in pubs and clubs.

The equipment, known as the 'Itemiser', allows police officers to swab a person's hands and instantly check if illegal drugs are present. It can detect a range of illegal substances including cocaine, cannabis, heroin and ecstasy.

Police officers worked closely with door staff at participating licensed premises and selected people for checking as a condition of entry.

Detective Superintendent Willie MacColl, National Drugs Co-ordinator, said:

"Members of the public, the licensed trade and local police officers were extremely positive about the use of these machines.

"We recognise how important it is to reduce the demand for drugs, and we will utilise technology and innovation where possible to help.

"Partnership working is central to achieving success in this area and this project provides an opportunity for various partners to come together to change attitudes by raising awareness of the risks associated with drugs use."



Photo supplied by BBC News