



FORENSIC COLLISION  
INVESTIGATION NETWORK

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





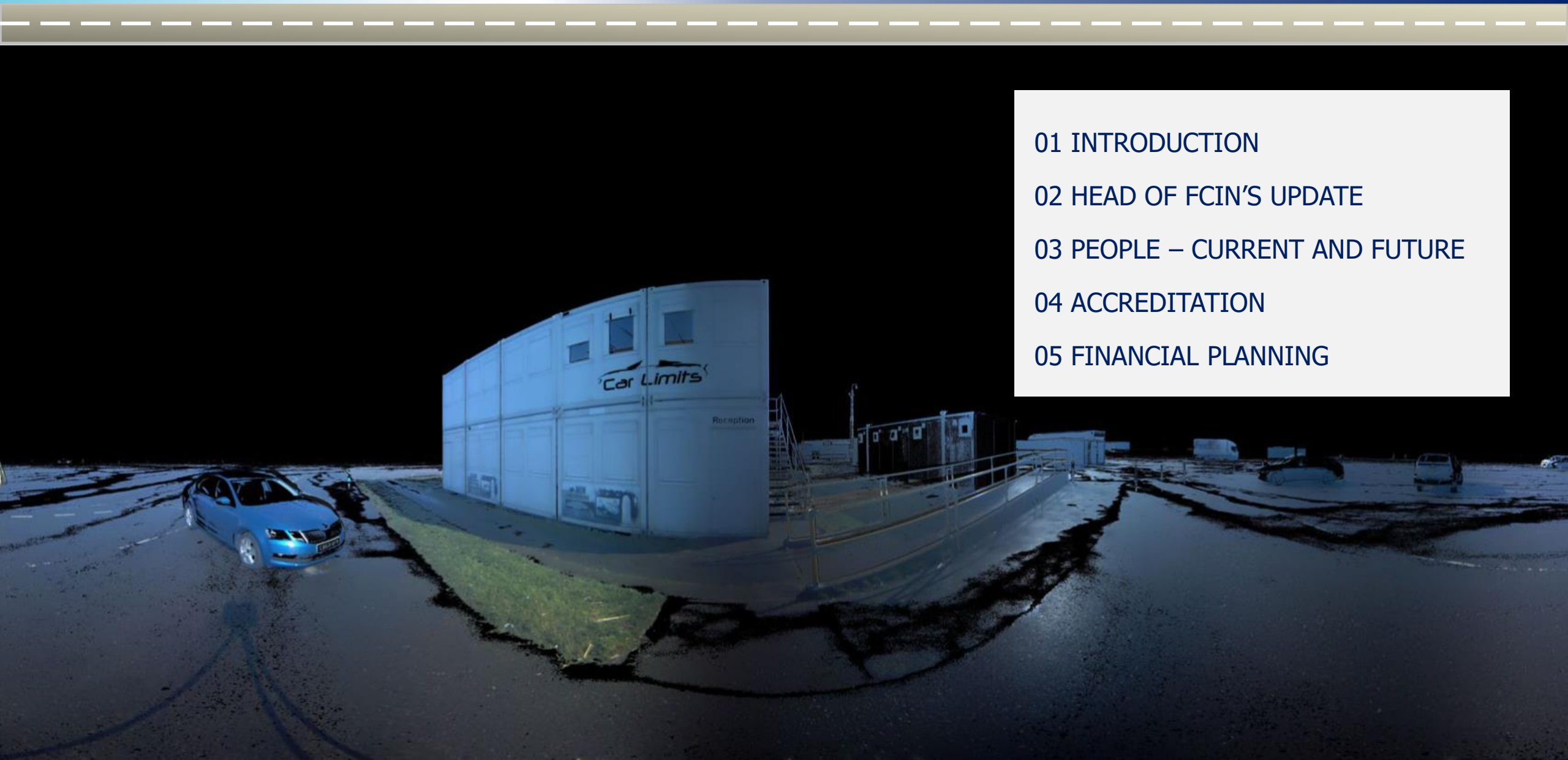
01 INTRODUCTION

02 HEAD OF FCIN'S UPDATE

03 PEOPLE – CURRENT AND FUTURE

04 ACCREDITATION

05 FINANCIAL PLANNING





# 01 INTRODUCTION



**Andrew Dunbobbin**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for North Wales

**Deputy Chief Constable  
Richard Debicki**  
NPCC National Forensic Collision  
Investigation Lead and North  
Wales Police FCIN Host Force  
Lead

**Welcome to the 2021/22 Annual Report, which sets out the key achievements of the Forensic Collision Investigation Network (FCIN) over the last year and our plans for the year to come.**

In February 2020, North Wales Police became the host Force for the FCIN. Since then a challenging and fast paced programme of work has allowed us to establish the FCIN, as we strive to achieve ISO accreditation for the lead base within the October 2022 deadline set by the Forensic Science Regulator.

Since the last report we have been developing rigorous scientific standards for all of our activities, whilst ensuring collision investigators are trained and independently assessed as competent practitioners.

This process is giving both the practitioner, and the wider criminal justice system, validation of their science and enhanced confidence of their expert witnesses status in this highly technical forensic discipline. These enhancements continue to drive our ambition to reduce death and serious injury on our roads by accurately understanding the true causation factors of the collisions we investigate.

Understandably, being one of the first services to undertake accreditation under this networked model we have encountered a number of complex challenges that we are now collectively navigating our way through. Some of these challenges are yet to be resolved, but we have a great deal of commitment, drive and expertise to draw upon within North Wales Police, the FCIN and our partners and stakeholders who are working together to make this network a success.

As you will read in this report, we have experienced some disappointment regarding the first UKAS assessment. However, we remain steadfast in our belief that we can achieve our goal and deliver an accredited forensic capability to all Forces, once the correct foundation is in place.

The year ahead will be focussed on securing that foundation; further developing the key enablers in a new 12 month plan, following which the North Wales Forensic Collision Investigation Base will be re-assessed.

Over the coming months we will be undertaking a rigorous audit regime across every FCI base, implementing the resulting learning across the network in live time whilst working in the background on the additional validation of science, procurement of key IT systems and recruitment of skilled resources.

This annual report sets out the significant achievements to date and identifies the plans we are developing for 2022 and 2023 and the additional resources required in order to deliver that plan.

We now ask Police and Crime Commissioners and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners to approve the plan.

We are delighted to lead North Wales as the Host Force for this important national initiative and will continue to support you all on your accreditation journey and in becoming fully accredited members of the Forensic Collision Investigation Network.



# 02 HEAD OF FCIN'S UPDATE

Welcome to my second annual report update as the Head of the Forensic Collision Investigation Network.

I believe that whilst we are not there yet, we are well on our way to achieving our vision to reduce death and serious injury on our roads, by delivering a network of professional, impartial and accredited forensic collision investigators, whilst keeping pace with advancements in science and technology.

2021 has been a challenging time for everyone. The impacts of COVID-19 have compounded throughout the year, and we have all; inside and outside of Policing found new ways to work effectively to overcome the barriers. The FCIN team have continued to work at great pace on your behalf, having shown fantastic commitment in the light of the many challenges we have faced.

The FCIN Strategic Board now sits regularly and is chaired by our new SRO Deputy Chief Constable Richard Debicki. In 2022 the board will be re-named the FCIN Management Board in keeping with terminology approved by the APCC in the S22A. I am grateful to those who have engaged with this board, providing invaluable support and guidance over the past year and I look forward to our ongoing dialogue over the coming year.

We made excellent progress validating the science behind those forensic collision investigation activities that are within the first scope of accreditation. As highlighted in the 2020/21 report, the most complex and demanding work undertaken to date has been the scientific validation of these activities.

It has been clear to see by all who have been involved in the validation, peer review and subsequent UKAS assessment, that the scale and complexity of Forensic Collision Investigation as an accredited discipline is far greater than initially thought.

In November 2021 the North Wales Forensic Collision Investigation Base underwent its pilot UKAS assessment which was disappointingly unsuccessful. 96 findings were raised by UKAS relating to primarily 3 areas; IT, Science and Quality. These findings have been widely shared across the network as we begin to address them.

The findings have provided us with invaluable intelligence into the areas that require additional work and expertise. It was clear throughout the UKAS visit, that the initial 'bar' we had set for all forces to reach in order to be ready to achieve accreditation, was too low and whilst it was set at that level to enable an achievable starting point for all, additional work is now required by the FCIN and member forces to raise standards in the science, training, technology and working practices.

We are now working on our plan to move forwards for a UKAS re-assessment and the enablers required for the FCIN to function effectively. To this aim, we have appointed two independent consultants with Police Collaboration and Forensic Regulation expertise, to carry out a review of the FCIN and to support the production of a realistic plan for achieving accreditation to ISO 17020 and the Codes. I look forward to sharing their recommendations in early 2022 along with the detailed plans for the next phases of work.

Whilst the result of the November assessment did not reflect all of the hard work and expertise of the FCI network or the FCIN team, we remain focussed on the core objective; to ensure that Forensic Collision Investigation is working to quality standards by providing scientifically accurate and reliable evidence in the investigations of fatal and serious road traffic collisions.

We continue to engage with the Forensic Science Regulator and UKAS on your behalf and are delighted with their engagement and commitment shown by them for the FCIN to succeed. We look forward to developing these relationships and plans together in 2022, which we hope will be a successful and better year for us all.



**Frances Senior**  
Head of the Forensic Collision Investigation  
Network



# 02 HEAD OF FCIN'S UPDATE

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021/22



- ① The launch of the FCIN PDS platform – enabling FCIs from across the network the ability to access documentation and communicate in real time with the FCIN via our MS Teams capability.
- ① Extensive work to publish an IT tender for eQMS and CMS solutions.
- ① The creation of the FCIN testing site at Cranfield University, Bedfordshire.
- ① Creation of an online booking function for FCIs across the network to self allocate competency testing to suit their local needs.
- ① Working with the Chartered Society of Forensic Science to deliver competency testing to over 60 FCIs in tranche 1, with excellent feedback received from participants.
- ① Continuing to deliver at a significant pace in spite of the impact and challenge brought by COVID-19
- ① Completion of initial validation for scope 1 activities.
- ① Contract completion to enable partnership funding to build a specialised test surface facility at Santa Pod Raceway in readiness for scope 2 validation work.
- ① Completing extensive preparations for the UKAS pilot assessment, which did go well in some areas. Utilising this information to build strong foundations to ensure the next assessment is successful.



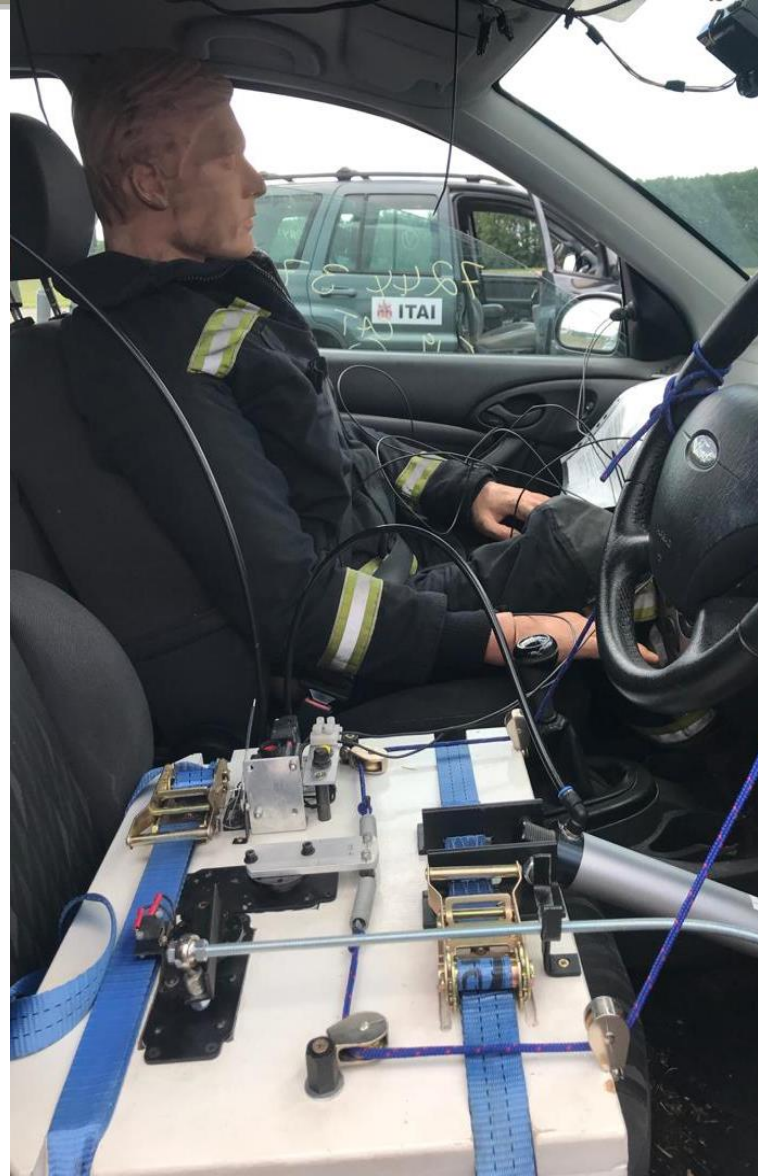
As we look forward at 2022 and a hopeful return to the normality that didn't come in 2021, we will be focusing on the enablers for the FCIN to function effectively.

As an immediate response to the findings following the UKAS assessment in November we implemented an interim structure of the FCIN management team to enable us to focus on the 96 findings and work required to remediate them. This restructure pulled the regional managers and regional technical managers into specific portfolios of work, as well as having a team focussing on the communications strategy and being the point of contact for bases and their Forces.

Ahead of the independent review of the FCIN and the recommendations that will follow, we have identified critical shortages within the existing staffing structure and are seeking approval for filling those posts in section 3.

We are now working through the future strategy and the detailed plans required to achieve it along with a realistic timeline to enable bases to undertake their UKAS assessments.

Competency assessments are continuing to be delivered, this first phase of assessments will provide valuable evidence to UKAS of baseline competency and will continue on a rolling annual cycle.



Extensive work has been undertaken regarding the provision of an electronic quality management system (eQMS) and case management system (CMS) – both requirements of forensic regulation. In December an IT tender was launched and we await the results of that in February 2022. The Forensic Science Regulator and UKAS have been clear – that no further assessment can be undertaken until the FCIN has effective IT systems in use across the network, so this remains our primary focus for 2022.

Whilst we have our eyes firmly on scope 1 of accreditation, we must not lose sight of future scopes, which will themselves require several years of planning, devising, testing and assessment. We want to be able to give forces adequate notice as we anticipate that some of the current working practices utilised by FCIs will have to be 'retired' from operational use as they are unable to be scientifically validated.

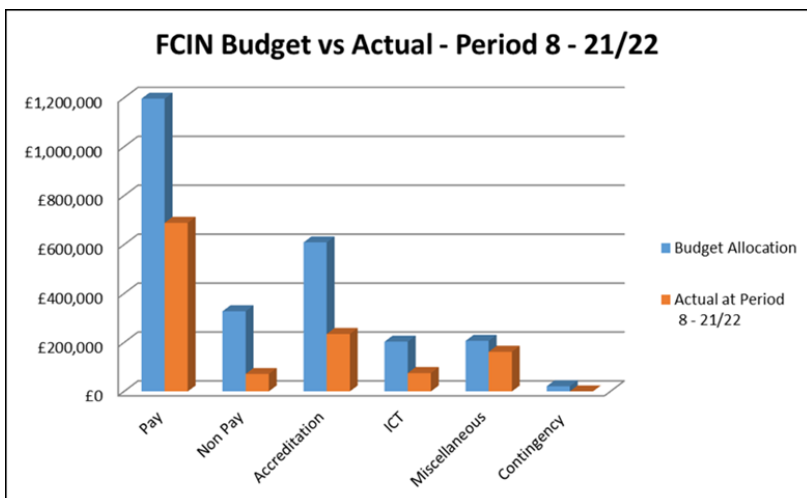
The agreement with National Highways and Kier to build a national testing facility at Cranfield University with £271k of investment from National Highways is progressing, but the facility will now be placed at Santa Pod Raceway due to planning consent issues for the initial site. It is hoped that the build will commence in early 2022.

The partnership with Cranfield University is going from strength to strength and we are hugely grateful to Professor Dame Helen Atkinson DBE, for her support, recently meeting with us to provide the FCIN a warm welcome and extending her support across the whole facility.



## YEAR TO DATE POSITION 2021/2022

**The YTD revenue position for FCIN shows a significant YTD underspend. Actual spend at P8 is £1,231,664 against a budget of £2,563,956 resulting in a £1,332,292 underspend position. An overview of the key reasons for the underspend is to follow**



Category	Budget Allocation	Actual at Period 8 - 21/22	Variance (£)
Pay	£1,196,515	£688,962	£507,554
Non Pay	£327,507	£71,284	£256,223
Accreditation	£608,887	£234,695	£374,192
ICT	£203,419	£74,860	£128,559
Miscellaneous	£206,667	£161,863	£44,804
Contingency	£20,960	£0	£20,960
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£2,563,956</b>	<b>£1,231,664</b>	<b>£1,332,292</b>

- The P8 figures are the latest figures to work through the FCIN governance forums at the time of issuing this report.
- This position represents a 52% underspend against the YTD budget. However, there are estimated outstanding pay commitments for FCIN secondees equating to £322.4k. Once resolved this will reduce the YTD underspend position to approximately £1009k (39%)

In summary the key variances to YTD budget are seen in the following categories:

- **Pay** – Once the issues outlined above in connection to pay are resolved, the YTD underspend will reduce to £185.2k (15%). The key driver of the outstanding underspend is owing to ongoing recruitment/appointment to vacant posts, causing slippage in expenditure. Vacant posts were also profiled at top of scale but in reality, some successful applicants have commenced at the bottom of the pay scale. Further variances are driven by officers initially seconded to the FCIN programme resigning from their home force to become staff members directly employed by NWP in year.
- **Field events** – Expenditure for key high value items is still to be incurred on the finance system as invoicing is still outstanding and better value options have also been progressed compared to the original requirements outlined. The contract with Cranfield University has also generated significant cost savings for venue hire in this category.
- **Non Pay** – Key driver for underspend in the non pay category is travel and subsistence. Expenditure patterns for travel and subsistence costs (including accommodation) are still not increasing as anticipated despite the lifting of some COVID restrictions. A delay in the recruitment of several posts has also had a direct impact on the non staff budget, adding to the YTD underspend position. This is now unlikely to improve by the end of the financial year owing to the outcome of the pilot force UKAS assessment meaning that employee capacity will be repurposed away from visiting bases.
- **ICT costs** - A number of ICT solutions are still in development which is resulting in a delay in expenditure. Robust costs of core national systems remain unclear at this stage with further work ongoing to provide a more informed indication as opposed to placeholder values. Early indications are that, despite the underspend, costs are likely to be significantly higher than those factored into the plan for future years.
- **Validation** – a change in scope for validation testing in-year is likely to result in a full year underspend position for this category and slippage of expenditure into future financial years. However, it is worth noting that owing to the outcome of the pilot force assessment this position could change pending clarification of the accreditation delivery plan and any rework requirements for scope 1.

**In summary, there are a range of factors driving the YTD underspend and the expectation is that a significant underspend will remain at year end. A further analysis of the anticipated year end position is outlined in section 5.**



The resourcing structure within the FCIN has remained consistent since inception in 2018 and then latterly in the s22a Collaboration Agreement to Forces and Commissioners. Since then, there has been an ever-growing requirement to undertake a higher volumes of IT, scientific and quality management activities; as the true extent of the FCIN remit has emerged the resources required to run a national service (both within the FCIN and the Host Force) have been better understood.

Consequently, the FCIN Programme have identified several resourcing risks which required additional support in the 2021/22 period:

- A permanent Deputy Quality Manager: this was approved by PCCs in 2021.
- In 2020/21 we sought permission for the temporary addition of a Vehicle examination specialist. The need for this post was scheduled to be reviewed in March 2022. However, since the posts inception it has become clear that to keep pace with the rapid advancements in vehicle technologies, they will be required constantly within the FCIN. Permission is sought to make this a permanent addition.
- Increased legislation surrounding information and data security, together with significantly increased focus in this area within the FSR Codes, prompted the temporary appointment of a Data and Information Security Supervisor. Permission is sought to make this a permanent addition to the FCIN structure in order to keep both FCIN and member forces data safe, secure and compliant.

To date these posts have been funded using carry forward on the underspend from the 2020-2021 financial year and will continue to do so in 2022/23 however will result in budget growth from 2023/24 FY.

Several additional temporary support posts have been funded from underspend to deliver the critical project work on the IT enablers as follows:

- **1 x ICT Project Manager (non-technical to end of FY 2022/3)**
- **ICT Solutions Architect x 4 days per week (until April 2022)**

Further scoping work carried out has identified additional expertise that is required for the remainder of the 2021/22 financial year (also funded out of underspend) as follows:

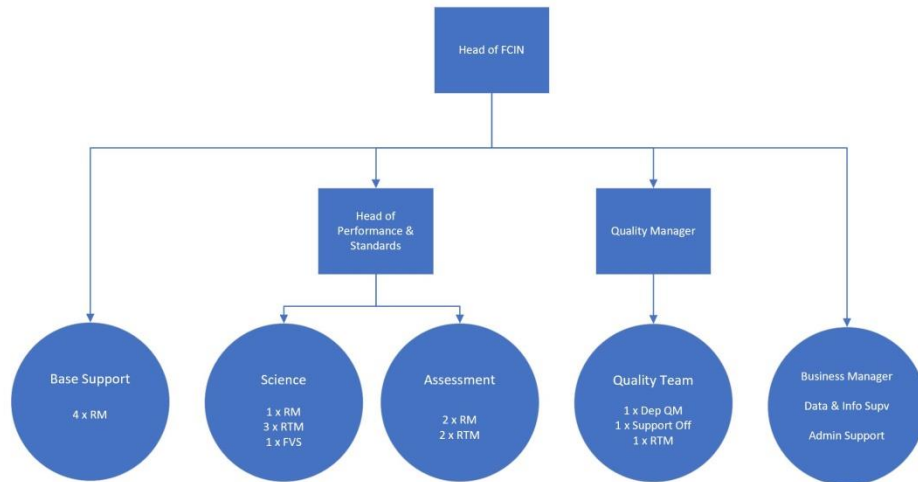
- **1 x ICT Project Manager – technical (budgeted to end of FY 2022/3)**
- **1 x ICT Project Support Officer (budgeted to end of FY 2022/3)**





Following the UKAS pilot assessment of the North Wales FCIB a temporary reorganisation of FCIN staff took place to allow resources to be used in the most efficient way, whilst maintaining support for Forces nationally.

Whilst the findings raised as part of the assessment are addressed Regional Managers and Technical Managers are being used to assist with matters of science, assessment and within the Quality Department.



Although at this time it remains unclear for exactly how long this reorganization will remain in place, this is always expected to be a short-term measure.

As highlighted on the previous slide, as the FCIN has evolved from its position at conception through to now, there has been significant growth identified in its day-to-day future business requirement – alongside this progression there will obviously be a need for consequential growth in the FCIN itself. Two independent reviews have been commissioned into the functioning of the FCIN and any significant long-term change will not be undertaken until such time as these are complete (due to report Q1 2022)

These reviews will provide the necessary guidance to determine the optimum model for the FCIN moving forwards. Ahead of the review there have already been a number of key permanent roles identified as immediate and essential requirements in order to deliver ongoing service:

- **1 x Science Manager**
- **2 x Science Technical Specialist**
- **2 x Quality Systems Manager**
- **1 x Quality Support & Field Event Administration Post**

Additional to these are a number of IT roles:

- **1 x Solutions Architect (permanent NWP employee – temp funded by FCIN in year 1, subject to year 2 review)**
- **1 x Service Delivery Manager (as above)**
- **1 x IT System Admin Support (Start 09/22 onwards)**

Short-term funding for these posts will come from a mix of re-purposing of existing vacant roles and utilising underspend, however in the longer-term some may be growth posts but the exact extent of this will be unclear until the reviews are complete.

Part of the review process will be to understand how functionality transitions from the Programme Office to 'business as usual', and therefore we are currently reviewing the optimum model for the programme management function in readiness for the new Financial year.

The FCIN is, and always will remain, an evolving entity; growth/change will be continuous through the development/implementation phase. There will be further information provided as to any new operating model when the comprehensive reviews have been completed.



Being a member of the FCIN has a great number of benefits, none more so than the work undertaken to attain UKAS accreditation.

The centralised accreditation of Police delivered forensic science has never taken place before and the experience of the FCIN team to date has proven that undertaking this work in individual forces for FCIs would be exceptionally difficult and resource/cost intensive, with high risk to the end user.

**Here are some of the key lessons learnt by the FCIN to date and what the next steps are as we provide an end to end service for accreditation:**

There is a national lack of safe and suitable facilities to undertake validation testing and method witnessing of this 'road' based activity. The FCIN have sourced funding to provide a purpose built facility and will continue to work with partner agencies to develop additional options.

There is a very small pool of UKAS assessors available requiring complex scheduling and negotiation. The FCIN will undertake this on behalf of forces and will manage the entire accreditation process from start to finish. We are implementing learning across the entire network in real time.

Accreditation requires the use of forensically robust measuring equipment which must provide accurate, repeatable, and traceable results to international standards. Some of the equipment commonly used within the FCI profession is unable to meet these requirements. Due to the limited commercial market for FCI equipment suppliers, there are limited options available for resolution. Therefore, fundamental changes to the processes required to forensically examine scenes will have to be adopted. The FCIN are working with experts in academia, manufacturers and Policing to develop these solutions.

It is estimated that nationally there will be test scenes or competency scenarios in use daily for approximately half of the year. We are developing tools and systems to manage the field events and resource booking.

Extensive work is required to write, set up, test and evaluate competency. It is resource and staff intensive and has already identified gaps in FCI capability nationally. The FCIN have dedicated resources and a team of trained assessors to manage this entire process and associated outcomes.

'Scene witnessing' by UKAS is not possible in an operational setting. Initial attempts to utilise a local facility resulted in a H&S near miss reported by UKAS. The FCIN will set up and manage realistic 'scenes' at Cranfield for UKAS to attend in a safe and controlled manner – reducing risk to personnel and cost/resource demands on individual forces.

Some of the current working practices utilised by FCIs are not widely understood and are neither validated or designed for the purpose they are deployed. It has taken a team of 18 technically qualified FCIN staff thousands of hours of planning, execution and post-analysis to date, but now requires additional work identified by UKAS, in particular in relation to the end to end application of individual activities. We have launched 96 non conforming work processes to resolve the findings and will share the outcomes across the entire network.



There are knowledge gaps across the entire community surrounding The FSR's Codes and ISO standard, rules pertaining to expert witnesses and application of collision investigation to formulate reconstructions. We are developing a range of online training packages that will be available for every FCI in England and Wales to cover these gaps.

Due to the 'end to end' application of FCI activities, the management of Quality Management systems, Quality manuals, Validation and Standard Operating Procedures, are particularly challenging as they are all interlinked, and changes cannot be dealt with individually. The training levels in the FCIN have increased to include statistics and awareness of bias, impartiality and quality matters.

The initial model focussed on allowing local variances in practice. UKAS have confirmed that this is not acceptable, and the SOPs need to be adhered to fully and without local deviation. The FCIN will be clearer about areas that are 'non-negotiable' in future publications.

There has been local resistance to accepting outcomes of testing, causing blockages in the workflow. Forces will be supported to understand the rationale behind any changes, through fortnightly drop-in sessions and fortnightly technical bulletins.

Vehicle examination – This will be as complex to accredit as Collision Investigation. The FCIN's Forensic Vehicle Examiner [FVE] will assist with technical input into the CI Method Validation work before commencing the first scope of FVE activities [estimated 2023]

Proficiency Testing – all accredited organisations must participate in Proficiency Testing in all technical areas. The FCIN are exploring the options for commercially supplied PT tests but it is likely that bespoke PT tests or Inter-Laboratory Comparisons will need to be developed and this will be undertaken by the FCIN on your behalf.

In a networked approach, any failure of the accreditation process has significant impact on the timeline for Forces and UKAS. In addition to this, any findings in a given area are highly likely to cause findings in the associated activities causing re-work. We are working with UKAS to establish a process of 'mini / desktop assessments' of each fundamental area prior to the overall assessment to ensure each core element of work will meet the accreditation standards and reduce risk of failure in future full assessments.

These are just some of the ways the FCIN will be supporting your accreditation journey, making the network approach by far the approach that will get the best accreditation outcomes for the service and ultimately improving the science supporting getting answers for the victims and their families of road collisions.



## 2021/2022 PROJECTED OUTTURN POSITION

The final revenue position for FCIN at the end of 21/22 is forecasting to be £2,824,936 against a budget of £3,845,934 resulting in an anticipated £1,020,998 underspend position. These figures will be validated throughout the remainder of the year and confirmed in the year end closing accounts.

Category	21/22 FCIN Original Budget Allocation	Period 8 21/22 projection	Variance to original budget allocation
<b>a. Expenditure</b>			
Pay	£1,794,773	£1,685,399	-£109,374
Non Pay	£491,261	£269,712	-£221,549
Miscellaneous	£310,000	£264,820	-£45,180
Accreditation	£913,331	£437,618	-£475,712
ICT	£305,128	£167,386	-£137,742
Contingency	£31,441	£0	-£31,441
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£3,845,934</b>	<b>£2,824,936</b>	<b>-£1,020,998</b>
Contribution to Earmarked Reserve UKAS/Competency Slippage - 22/23	£459,058	£459,058	£0
<b>Total Expenditure incl Contribution to Reserve</b>	<b>£4,304,992</b>	<b>£3,283,993</b>	<b>-£1,020,998</b>
<b>b. Funding</b>			
Force Contributions 21/22	-£3,288,195	-£3,190,993	£97,201
Early Adopter Validation Work Reserve to offset MVT expenditure	-£271,208	-£93,000	£178,208
20/21 Earmarked Reserves Underspend	-£745,589	£0	£745,589
<b>Total Funded</b>	<b>-£4,304,992</b>	<b>-£3,283,993</b>	<b>£1,020,998</b>

### Summary of update:

- Due to the outcome of the pilot UKAS assessment, some planned activities for the remainder of FY 21/22 have been paused pending the findings of the independent review (funded from the underspend) due to be completed by February 2022. This has added further uncertainty to the financial projections for the coming months into the close of the FY 21/22. The figures provided here are as robust as practicably possible and based on the position reported to the FCIN governance at the end of Period 8.
- The net position indicating a projected underspend of £1.020m underspend results in an anticipated total reserve position at year end of £1.543m.
- Although the most recent position forecasts that the full allocation of 2021/22 force contributions, to the value of £3.288m, will not be spent in the FY, the programme anticipates that the underspend will be required to meet a number of financial challenges and demands. Permission is sought at the end of this report, to retain and repurpose this underspend in order to offset some significant (but also still uncertain costs) as outlined below;
- ICT Costs relating to the ongoing Procurement of an EQMS and CMS system** – Initial indications suggest that the nominal placeholders in the current budget will be insufficient to meet the likely future costs. Early indications are that the costs could be upwards of £0.5 - £1.0m annually once fully implemented. The underspend could be repurposed to fund this vital area of the programme.
- Additional Staffing** - The People section of this report identifies a number of temporary and permanent growth posts. Pending the outcome of the independent review, there is an expectation that additional staffing resources may be required by the programme. Any permanent growth posts (aside from those outlined in this report) will be articulated to the APCC for necessary approvals in due course.
- Training** – As part of the outcome of the pilot UKAS assessment, a number of ISO certified training courses for FCIN staff have already been identified as being essential in the coming months – these courses will impact the 21/22 FY.
- Accreditation Activities** – The priority of reviewing the findings of the pilot assessment have limited the level of accreditation activity ongoing in the short term. However, these activities are expected to increase extensively upon the completion of the review and the outcome / recommendations and may result in the need for additional and concentrated levels of funding in the coming FY.
- In summary, the recommendation is to retain the anticipated year end underspend within the programme to meet the financial challenges ahead**



## 2021/2022 PLANNED vs FORECAST RESERVE POSITION

### Planned

	Actual Reserves as at 01.04.21	Planned 2021/22	Budgeted reserves position 31.03.22
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>			
Early Adopter Validation Work Reserve	£271,208	-£271,208	£0
20/21 Earmarked	£745,589	-£745,589	£0
UKAS/Competency Slippage	£0	£459,058	£459,058
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>£1,016,797</b>	<b>-£557,739</b>	<b>£459,058</b>
General Reserve	£62,929	£0	£62,929
<b>Total General Reserves</b>	<b>£62,929</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£62,929</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>£1,079,726</b>	<b>-£557,739</b>	<b>£521,987</b>

### Forecast - at period 8

	Actual Reserves as at 01.04.21	Period 8 projection	Forecast reserve position period 8 projection at 31.03.22
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>			
Early Adopter Validation Work Reserve	£271,208	-£93,000	£178,208
20/21 Earmarked	£745,589	£0	£745,589
UKAS/Competency Slippage	£0	£459,058	£459,058
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>£1,016,797</b>	<b>£366,058</b>	<b>£1,382,855</b>
General Reserve	£62,929	£97,201	£160,130
<b>Total General Reserves</b>	<b>£62,929</b>	<b>£97,201</b>	<b>£160,130</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>£1,079,726</b>	<b>£463,259</b>	<b>£1,542,985</b>

### Planned reserve position:

- For the reasons outlined in this financial update, this table outlines that the projected year-end reserve position has increased by £1.021m from £522k to £1.543m.
- As forecasted total expenditure (£3.191m) is less than 2021/22 force contributions (£3.288m), the variance of £97k has been added to general reserves.
- Due to changes in scope relating to validation testing, at this moment in time (subject to the completion of work to understand rework required following UKAS assessment) it is anticipated that only £93k from the "Early Adopter Validation Work Reserve" will be required to offset validation costs in 2021/22. This leaves a projected outstanding balance of £178k for reallocation for validation activities to be undertaken in future financial years.
- As per current agreement with APCC, this income can only repurposed for validation related activity. There is option to offset this expenditure (in the main based on the current projected position) with 2021/22 force contributions instead.
- Owing to the anticipated underspend position for 2021/22, it is now anticipated that £0 against the 20/21 earmarked reserve of £745.6k will be utilised. This leaves a projected remaining balance of £745.6k. This is genuine underspend as these requirements can now be funded from in-year underspend. As part of the 2022/23 budget build this balance will be considered for either potential reallocation for emerging requirements (such as some of the core ICT solutions including a CMS or EQMS) and additional resources or to reduce force contributions.
- At this stage, it is still intended that the £459,058 will be allocated as per initial plans in financial year 22/23 owing to slippage in UKAS/competency testing fees. However, this is pending clarity on the UKAS accreditation timetable following completion of the independent review of the programme in February 2022.



## FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23

The context of uncertainty:

- The detailed financial plan for the 2022/23 financial year is still under development as we await the findings of the ongoing independent review.
- It is clear that at this time is the FCIN is undoubtedly working at a significant level of underspend, with the causes fully understood.
- Whilst the detail remains outstanding it is also clear that there are a number of current and future financial headwinds that will erode the financial underspend and – in due course – likely result in additional growth being required by the programme.
- It is against this context that approval has been sought (detailed in next slide) to retain and repurpose the 2021/22 underspend to facilitate the crucial next steps for the FCIN in 2022/23 as it seeks to implement the review recommendations that will inform its long term programme plan. This is vital to ensure that the temporary and permanent growth posts outlined in the people section of this report can be funded in FY2022-23.
- Given the current position the most reliable forecasted budget for 2022/23 remains as per the original position articulated to commissioners in the previous annual report (20/21). This budget of £2.695million has been robustly built and reflected the needs of the programme where prepared. It is the change to these needs that must be factored into the plans in more detail with the retention of the 2021/22 underspend providing the basis for funding the growth posts of the programme in the short term.
- An alternative spending plan is likely to arise as a result of the ongoing independent review findings and an increased understanding of the ICT related financials. Work is still required to establish a more robust revised budget for 2022/23, to be articulated to commissioners in line with the S.22 agreement. The expectation is that there will be a growth requirement for FY2023-24 and future years.
- Hence, approval of the 2022-23 budget is sought on the understanding that a future iteration of the plan along with future years will be submitted for subsequent approval in due course.

	2022/23 Force Contributions Budget
Force contributions as per original plan	£ 2,659,294

- As part of the terms of the s22a collaboration agreement, Commissioners are requested to approve the following items:
- **Permission to work to the agreed budget articulated to commissioners in the 2021 Annual Plan of £2.69 million in 2022/23, with agreement that after the results of the independent review are known and the financial implications fully understood, a more robust budget for 2022/23 will be published for approval.**



# 06 SUMMARY OF APPROVALS

It is requested the following decisions/actions be approved:

- Implementation of the temporary restructure of resources to deal with the UKAS findings in the most effective manner.
- Approve the conversion of Forensic Vehicle Specialist post from temporary to permanent (slide 8)
- Approve the creation of a permanent Data and Information Security Supervisor post (slide 8)
- Approve the creation of the 2 additional temporary IT posts in the current financial year (slide 8)
- Approve the creation of the permanent additional posts in the Science and Quality teams (slide 9)
- Approve the creation of the 3 temporary IT posts from the 22/23 financial year (slide 9)
- Approve the retention of the underspend to deal with forthcoming future demands on IT and resourcing
- Permission to work to the agreed budget articulated to commissioners in the 2021 Annual Plan of £2.69 million in 2022/23, with agreement that after the results of the independent review are known and the financial implications fully understood, a more robust budget for 2022/23 will be published for approval. (slide 14)



**FORENSIC COLLISION  
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