

**Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Performance Management Committee  
26 September 2006**

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Joint Report of Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) and the Chief Constable

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**Update of Recommendations emanating from the Force Forensic Project**

**Recommendation(s):**

- (i) That the Committee notes the content of this report.

**Introduction**

1. In 2005 the recommendations of the Carrier and Lanner reports into forensic provision within the constabulary were, adopted by the force management board.
2. Of those recommendations over 50 have been completed but the issue of the supervision and management of the Crime Scene Technicians (CSTs) and Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) on BCUs has not been resolved.

**Background Information**

3. The recommendation of the Carrier report was that four Police Staff forensic supervisor posts should be created - one on each BCU. This was agreed by the Force, graded by the HR department and the funding was allocated.
4. Throughout late 2005 and all of this year a series of selections processes (internal and external) took place with either no suitable applicants or no applicants at all. Despite significant salary enhancements it became clear that few of our operational forensic staff wanted to move into a management or supervisory role. (The cause of this would appear to be cultural as well as financial - the shift allowances and overtime enhancements that a CSI earned are significant).
5. By August of this year it was clear that the original recommendation could not be completed unless the grading of the post was raised to an entirely inappropriate level.
6. As a result a proposal is going to the Force Management Board to put a Detective Inspector post in to BCUs to take over the supervision of the Forensic staff together with the supervision of volume crime performance.
7. The Job Description of this post has been drafted and will now go to the level one performance Board as soon as practicable.
8. During this process the Forensic Performance of the Force has been managed by ACC Operations through the Force Forensic Performance Improvement Group. Significant improvements in Force performance have already been made.

**Contact: for further information**

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