Purple denotes that forensic examination, analysis and interpretation will have an impact at this point

Note: Use Ctrl + Click on each impact point (in purple) to see its definition.

## • Establish crime committed

**Definition:** Confirming or refuting that the reported crime has occurred. **"Can we determine if a crime has been committed?".**

**Further information:** Most forensic disciplines can contribute to answering the question. For the purposes of these metrics it is of equal value to determine if a crime has been committed as to determine if it hasn't, with the negative impact being unable to determine either way. Disciplines used are somewhat dependant on the crime type but include Crime Scene Analysis, Pathology, Fire Investigation, Toxicology, Drug Analysis, Biology and Chemistry trace evidence, Firearms classification, CCTV, mobile phone and computer analysis.

## • Identify victim

**Definition:** The process of Identifying who a victim is. **"Can we determine who is the victim of this crime?"**

**Further information:** The need to Identify a victim can be associated with Homicide cases or Organised Crime (predominantly Cybercrime, Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and human trafficking cases). Forensic disciplines that impact on Homicide Investigations are predominantly biometric fields such as DNA profiling (including the use of NDNAD, MPDD and VPDD) and Fingerprints. In Organised Crime, disciplines are predominantly digital forensics including Mobile device analysis and Imaging.

## • Victim assurance (pre-charge)

**Definition:** The provision of reassurance and confidence to a victim of a crime that an investigation is proceeding. **"Can we positively contribute to victim assurance?"**

## • Safeguarding

**Definition:** The protection of vulnerable individuals, especially victims, from additional negative impacts of crime. **"Can we positively contribute to safeguarding individuals"**

## • Establish cause of death

**Definition:** To determine how an individual died. **"Can information be provided that establishes the cause of death?"**

**Further information:** The principle mechanism for establishing the cause of death is pathology but also toxicology.

## • Generate intelligence

**Definition:** A broad category to cover the developing of information and material that will progress an investigation. **"Can we develop information that will assist the progression of the investigation of this or other crimes?"**

## • Link scenes

**Definition:** Provision of evidence that links separate locations that may be involved in the same crime. **"Is there any evidence to link different scenes in this crime"**

## • Link crimes

**Definition:** Provision of evidence that links separate crimes that may be involved in a series of crimes. **"Is there any evidence to link other crimes to this crime"**

**Further information:** Many forensic disciplines can impact on this point, but it is one of the key purposes of forensic databases, so the use of fingerprints, DNA profiling (NDNAD), footwear and firearms are particularly utilised. Drug profiling and physical fit (including press patterns) are other examples.

## • Generate line of enquiry

**Definition:** Provide a thread of reasonable and relevant questions to be asked in the investigation of a crime including provision of hypotheses. **"Is there information that could generate a line of enquiry?"**

**Further information:** Many of the other impact points identified – linking scenes and crimes; identifying persons of interest will fall into this catch all category so it will be used for examples not covered elsewhere. All forensic disciplines can contribute to the point including many of the contact trace disciplines.

## • Identify person of interest

**Definition:** To provide information about an individual that may have an involvement in a crime, either as a perpetrator or as a witness. **"Can information be provided about who was involved, either as a perpetrator of, or a witness to, this crime?"**

**Further information:** Many forensic disciplines can contribute to determining a person of interest with varying levels of precision. Biometrics such as DNA and fingerprints and their respective databases and CCTV and other digital forensic disciplines are predominantly used.

## • Inform interview strategies

**Definition:** Providing information that can be used to formulate an approach to questioning suspects and witnesses. **"Can we determine information that will inform our interview strategy?"**

- ## Eliminate suspect (pre-charge)

**Definition:** The provision of evidence that excludes an individual as a suspect of perpetrating a crime prior to proceeding to any formal charges. **"Can information be provided about whether an individual was definitely not involved as a perpetrator of this crime?"**

**Further information:** Many forensic disciplines can contribute to eliminate a suspect. Biometrics such as DNA and fingerprints and their respective databases and CCTV and other digital forensic disciplines are predominantly used.

- ## Classify a firearm as illegal

**Definition:** To determine the classification of a firearm and whether is illegal under the Firearms Act. **"Can evidence be provided about whether this firearm is an illegal weapon?"**

- ## Classify a drug as illegal

**Definition:** To determine the identity of a drug and whether it is proscribed under the Misuse of Drugs Act. **"Can evidence be provided about whether this substance is an illegal drug?"**

**Further information:** Use of presumptive testing/screen (e.g EDIT) can be used, but forensic drug analysis is the sole mechanism to classify a drug as illegal.

- ## Determine if drink/drug is over the limit

**Definition:** Measuring the level of alcohol and/or drugs in an individual's breath, saliva, blood or urine to determine if they are over the proscribed limit for driving. **"Can we determine if the individual is over the proscribed limit for drink and/or drugs"**

**Further information:** Presumptive roadside screening for alcohol (in breath) or drugs (in saliva) is then confirmed by evidential breath testing in custody (for alcohol) or by the submission of a blood or urine test (for alcohol and drugs) for toxicology analysis. These are the sole mechanisms for determining if this type of crime has been committed.

- ## Validate or refute accounts/sequence of events (pre-charge)

**Definition:** Provide information that may support (or otherwise) the witness or suspect's version of events including the order that events occurred in prior to any formal charges being put for consideration. **"Can we validate or refute this account of events?"**

**Further information:** This would include suggesting alternative scenarios to those already described.

- ## Disruption of criminal activity (pre-charge)

**Definition:** An attempt to prevent criminal activity by stopping the facilitation or availability of the criminal's opportunity to act. **"Can we prevent or delay criminal action?"** *Note – now out of scope for this phase of project. Consider again when review crime prevention.*

- ## Admission of guilt (pre-charge)

**Definition:** Provide information to investigators that leads to a suspect admitting that they have committed an offence prior to any formal charges being put for consideration. **"Was evidence provided that led to a suspect admitting their guilt prior to them being charged with the offence?"**

- ## Referral for charging

**Definition:** Provide evidence that leads to referral of a case to the CPS for charging advice. **"Can evidence be provided that will directly lead to the referral of case for charging?"**

- ## Charge

**Definition:** Sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction a decision to charge is made. Depending on the type and seriousness of the offence committed, this decision is made by the police or the CPS. **"Can evidence be provided that will directly lead to a charge?"**

- ## Disclosure

**Definition:** To ensure that all parties are aware of the information that has been collected (either used or unused) as part of the investigation and prosecution of a crime

**Further information:** Particular consideration is needed to the timeliness of the disclosure.

- ## Validate or refute accounts/sequence of events/address issues (post-charge)

**Definition:** Provide information that will support (or otherwise) defendant's version of events including the order that events occurred in after charging. **"Can we validate or refute this account or challenge to the evidence?"**

**Further information:** After charging evidence is served to the defendant (sometimes in the form of an SFR1 they will respond with what is accepted and what is disputed and why they dispute it. This will include the provision of expert witness evidence.

## • Eliminate suspect (post-charge)

**Definition:** The provision of evidence that excludes an individual as a suspect of perpetrating a crime after they are charged, and they have responded to the evidence served on the defence. **"Can information be provided about whether an individual was definitely not involved as a perpetrator of this crime?"**

**Further information:** This may differ from the impact pre-charge and will be the result of considering additional information provided by the defence.

## • Guilty plea

**Definition:** Provision of evidence that leads to a suspect admitting that they have committed an offence once they have been formal charged with that offence. **"Was evidence provided that contributed to a suspect admitting their guilt after they were charged with the offence?"**

## • Guilty

**Definition:** When a defendant is found Guilty of a crime by the Magistrates or Jury. **"Did the evidence impact on the Guilty finding?"** *Note – there is little prospect of being able to measure this impact as jurors cannot be interviewed. Consider capturing as a factual finding and look for associations with forensic science*

## • Sentence

**Definition:** The impact made to the length or type of sentence imposed on an offender by a Judge or Magistrates. **"Did the evidence provided influence the sentence?"**

## • Not guilty

**Definition:** When a defendant is exonerated of crime by the Magistrates or Jury. **"Did the evidence impact on the Not Guilty finding?"** *Note – there is little prospect of being able to measure this impact as jurors cannot be interviewed. Consider capturing as a factual finding and look for associations with forensic science*

## • Victim assurance (post-charge)

**Definition:** The provision of reassurance and confidence to a victim of a crime that in the justice process. **"Can we positively contribute to victim assurance?"**

## • Disruption of criminal activity (post-charge)

**Definition:** An attempt to prevent criminal activity by stopping the facilitation or availability of the criminal's opportunity to act. **"Can we prevent or delay criminal action?"** *Note – now out of scope for this phase of project. Consider again when review crime prevention.*