

Annual Report 2025



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Forensic Science Ireland (FSI) is an Executive Agency of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. We work together to deliver a scientific service that supports the Irish criminal justice system by analysing samples that are gathered at crime scenes (e.g. DNA, Fingerprints, Chemistry, and Drugs). Moreover, we present independent expert evidence in court, provide training, and carry out research. In order to do this effectively, scientists and analysts within FSI draw on best international standards.



Our Purpose, Vision and Values

Our Purpose and Vision

Underpinning everything we do in Forensic Science Ireland (FSI), is a strong sense of purpose that is clearly articulated by three powerful words:

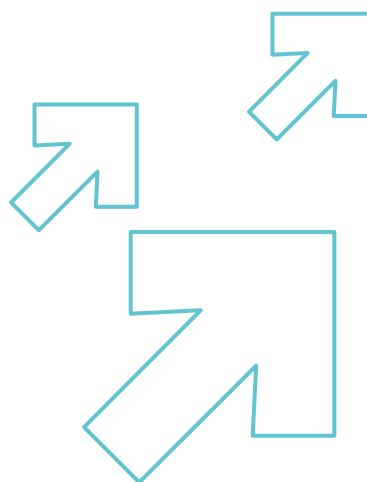
Science Supporting Justice

This has been the mantra for FSI for years and it continues to serve the organisation well. Going forward, it is more accurate to describe this as FSI's Purpose Statement as it is our enduring and deeply felt, *raison d'être*. It is what motivates our staff every day and what has inspired people to dedicate their careers to FSI.

A Vision Statement outlines where we are headed and the organisation we envision for the future. In our new Strategy we have added a forward-looking Vision to our Purpose:

To be one of the most innovative forensics agencies at the leading edge of forensic science

Forensic science is continually evolving, and it is incumbent on FSI to stay abreast of developments and play an active role in advancing forensic science and technology for the benefit of the Irish criminal justice system. Our Vision captures our ambition to be an innovative, effective and efficient organisation as well as one that collaborates nationally and internationally to remain at the frontiers of forensic science.



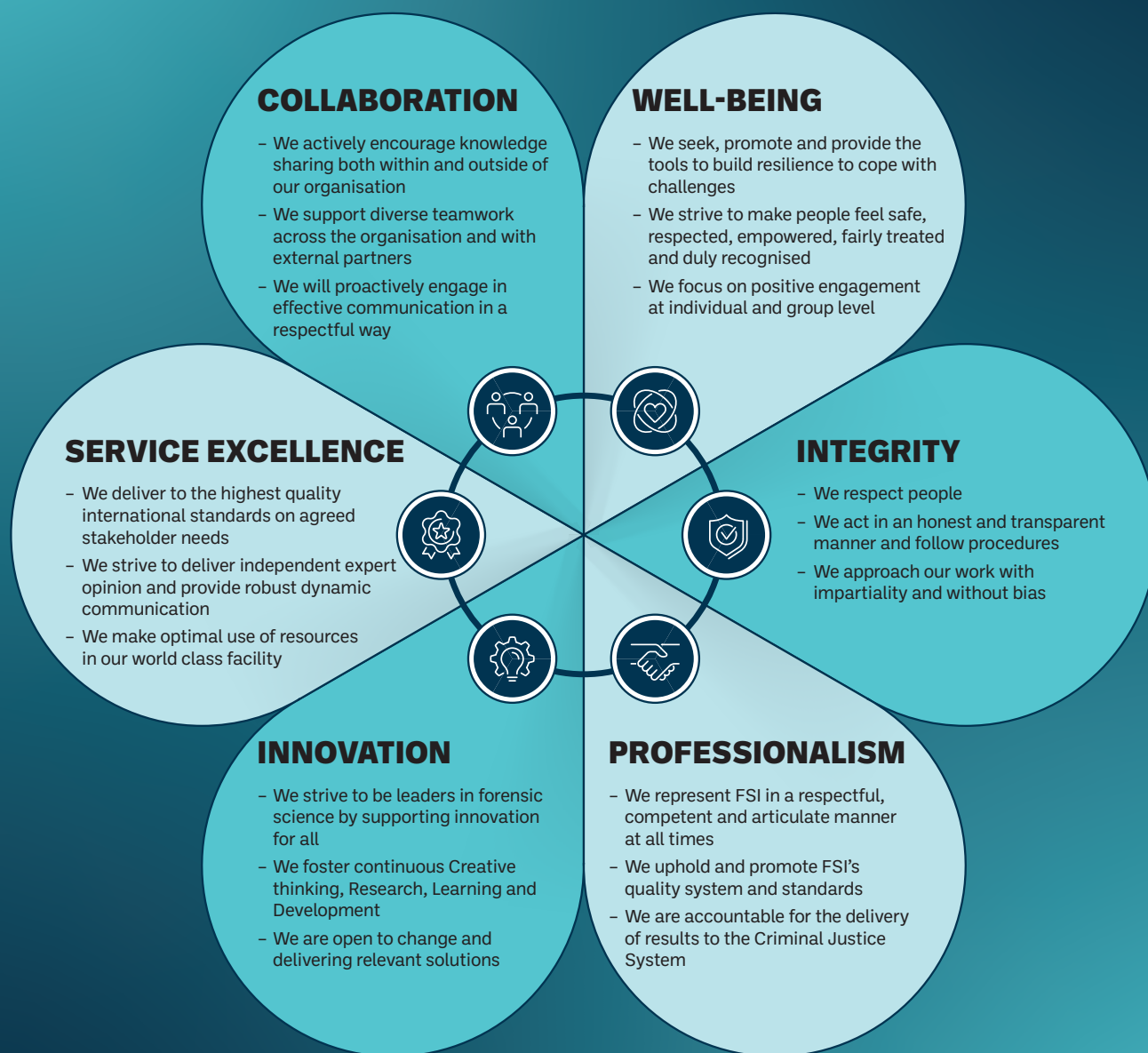
Our core values

FSI staff shaped our values in 2024 to reflect the principles that are important to us. With “respect” as an underpinning theme our values are:

- Active collaboration to share knowledge and support diverse teamwork
- A focus on staff well-being
- Integrity in our work and in how we engage
- High levels of professionalism in the way we interact with stakeholders
- Through innovation we are open to change as we strive to be leaders in forensic science
- We deliver service excellence through a relentless focus on quality at our world-class facility



OUR VALUES



Foreword

2025 was the first full year for Forensic Science Ireland (FSI) in the new laboratory in Backweston. It was a year of strong performance as the organisation bedded into the new facility. Across all areas of science and administration, staff demonstrated their professionalism, resilience and their unwavering commitment to FSI's purpose of Science Supporting Justice. This report reflects the depth of expertise across FSI and the sustained focus to continue delivering an outstanding service in an increasingly complex criminal justice ecosystem.

I joined the agency as Director General in October 2025 and have spent my first months in the role engaging with staff and stakeholders. This has given me a deep understanding of both our strengths and the opportunities ahead. It has been immediately clear to me that FSI is an organisation with capable people, an exceptional sense of purpose and a solid foundation on which to build for the future. While the achievements outlined in this report belong to the collective efforts of the agency over the course of 2025, they also position us well for the next phase of our development.

2025 also marked the 50th anniversary of FSI. From the early foundations by the visionary Dr. Jim Donovan to an organisation of 200 people in a state-of-the-art

laboratory, it has been a remarkable 50-year journey which we celebrated in Kilmainham in November.

Operationally, there is continued high demand for our services. The nature of drugs submissions continues to change, with increased complexity in case types and variation in presentations and concealments, to which FSI is responding. There also continues to be an upward trend in the submission of large, high-value importation drug cases which are very demanding on resources both in FSI and across the Criminal Justice Sector. In 2025 FSI detected and notified the Irish and European authorities of ten instances of new substances or unusual presentations of drugs in the Irish market.

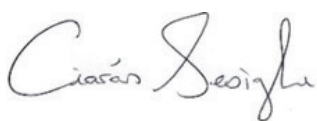
The National DNA database continues to be an invaluable intelligence tool in both national and European criminal investigations. Its success is evidenced by the reality that each time a crime stain is added to the database, there is a one in two chance that it will match with a person's profile on the database, relative to the number of crime stains on the database. In 2025 alone, 7,587 profiles from persons were added to the DNA database. Ongoing investments in DNA sequencing technologies are also having a growing impact. This has allowed us to assist in the identification of 5 missing persons over the course of the year and bring much-needed closure to their family and friends.

FSI continues to support An Garda Síochána in the exchange of information and fingerprint data across international borders under the Schengen Information System (SIS) for security and border management in Europe, under the Prüm Treaty and through Interpol. The SIS scheme is summarised under six active Alerts concerned with European Arrest Warrants, Missing Persons, Identifications and persons and objects for judicial procedure/criminal proceedings. In total for 2025, FSI supported 46,428 Sirene Transactions in Fingerprints consisting of 24,792 automated searches against the Irish Fingerprint Database and 21,636 requests for international searches.

With the support of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and the Public Appointments Service, FSI ran a number of recruitment campaigns in 2025. 15 new staff joined FSI over the course of the year. This helps address some of the gaps between casework capacity and demand and positions FSI better for some of the challenges ahead. FSI was assessed by the National Standards Authority of Ireland as part of the Excellence Through People initiative, and in 2025 we maintained the Gold Certificate. We will be building further on this theme in 2026 to make FSI an attractive place to work for scientific, technical and administrative professionals.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on recruiting talented individuals, strengthening capability, the quality of our services and ensuring we remain responsive to the changing needs of our stakeholders and the rapidly evolving technologies in our field. We will continue to build on the strong work already done by so many and introduce enhanced efficiencies and process optimisation so we can make the most of our new laboratory.

I would like to thank all the staff of FSI, wherever they may work, for their daily commitment to our purpose. I would also like to thank everyone for their guidance and support during my transition into the role; my Director colleagues and the senior leaders in FSI have been a constant source of specialist knowledge, mentoring and insights – as have many people across the organisation. Similarly, I'm grateful to Minister O'Callaghan for his supportive engagement and to colleagues in the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and in An Garda Síochána for their help and patience. I am confident that FSI is well placed to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead and I look forward to working together as we continue that work into 2026 and beyond.



Dr. Ciarán Seoighe
Director General
Forensic Science Ireland

A Year in Numbers

23,126

Forensic Reports

11,453

Drugs & Toxicology cases reported

94,092

DNA Profiles on the
National DNA Database

1,162

Cases assisted by matches on the
National DNA Database

Under the Prüm treaty FSI
exchanging DNA data with
20 countries

46,428

(SIS) Transactions for Fingerprints
consisting of 24, 792 automated
and 21, 636 manual searches

1,642,471

Sets of fingerprints for
known persons on the
Fingerprint Database

620,229

Unsolved Latent Marks from
crime scenes

Witnesses in court on
99 occasions

Contributors to 28 international
expert working groups

2

publications in international
forensic science journals

100%

of urgent Drug A cases
reported within 24hrs

Introduction

Originally known as the Forensic Science Laboratory, FSI, an Executive Agency of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration was established in 1975 to provide a scientific service to the Criminal Justice System by analysing samples submitted from crime scenes and providing expert evidence in criminal trials. In June 2014, President Higgins extended our scope when he signed into law the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014. Under this Act, FSI is named as the custodian of that database and our name was changed from Forensic Science Laboratory to Forensic Science Ireland to recognise this broader remit.

In December 2019, responsibility for the Fingerprints and Documents and Handwriting services transferred from the Garda National Technical Bureau to Forensic Science Ireland. This consolidates most laboratory-based forensic work in the state under Forensic Science Ireland. FSI staff includes scientists, analysts, seconded Garda members trained in forensic testing and reporting techniques, supported by administration professionals.

FSI is based in a new, state-of-the-art building on the Backweston Laboratory Campus, Celbridge. The transition to this new facility commenced in 2023 and was completed by the end of 2024. FSI is proud to work in one of the most advanced forensic science facilities in Europe.

FSI is a founding member of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), as well as the Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP). These organisations are focused on developing and sharing best international forensic practices and research within its members. Our staff are active on all the relevant ENFSI and AFSP working groups. This international engagement is important in ensuring that expert evidence presented is grounded in the most recent scientific research and best international practices.

FSI is accredited according to ISO17025 (2017) and holds a Gold Excellence through People Certification.

Who Are We and What We Do

Our Staff

Forensic Science Ireland is a knowledge-based organisation and the expertise of our staff is its most valuable attribute. As at the end of 2025, FSI had 200 staff working across scientific and administrative areas

We recruited a new Director General in 2025 and reshaped the Management Team, with a campaign launched to recruit a new Director of Corporate Services at the end of 2025. Throughout the year we recruited new scientific, analytical, and administrative staff to meet the demands of current and new services in Chemical, DNA & Biological Analysis and Physical Analysis. Forensic science analysis and interpretation are always evolving and consequently FSI places a significant emphasis on ongoing education and technical development. This is vital in ensuring that the Justice System has the benefit of international best practice.

Our Management Team



Director General
**Dr Ciarán
Seoighe**



Director of
Physical Analysis
**Dr Dyan
Daly**



Director of Corporate
Services; Director (Acting)
of DNA & Biological Sciences
**Dr Dorothy
Ramsbottom**



Director of Science
& Development
**Dr Edward
Connolly**



Director of
Chemical Analysis
**Dr Yvonne
Kavanagh**

Our Services

FSI contributes to both the investigation of crime and the judiciary process within the Irish Justice System. In broad terms, forensic investigations involve the examination of items recovered from crime scenes and the use of various techniques to investigate links between suspects and victims, and between suspects and scenes. This is underpinned by an objective evaluation of context and scientific facts, frequently leading to the elimination of suspects from investigations.

In the DNA & Biological Analysis area, DNA profiles are generated from submitted items and compared with DNA profiles obtained from suspects to assist the investigation of crimes ranging from burglaries to sexual assaults and murder. Blood Pattern Analysis (BPA), Body Fluid Analysis (BFA) and the examination of damage to clothing are also carried out by scientific experts in these disciplines. Since the establishment of the National DNA Database, the DNA & Biological Analysis Department plays a key role in managing the Database in accordance with the legislation as well as quality and security best practices. This department reports on matches between individual crime stains and suspects as well as cluster matches. This offers on-going intelligence to An Garda Síochána in the investigation of crime. In accordance with the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014, FSI's policies and practices relating to the DNA Database are overseen by an independent DNA Database Oversight Committee. Since 2019, FSI has been exchanging DNA profiles with other European countries through the Prüm Treaty. This treaty allows for the automated anonymous comparison of profiles among participating countries and enables fast information exchange for intelligence purposes.

The analysis of materials thought to contravene the Misuse of Drugs Acts constitute the highest number of submissions to FSI and are supported by the Chemical Analysis Department. Case submissions vary widely in size, drug mix and complexity. These cases can involve new psychoactive substances as well as new presentations (such as jellies) that pose particular analytical challenges. The Drugs team have influenced legislation through the identification and characterisation of drugs in the marketplace. This team also quantifies drug purity levels in the market and provides trend information to stakeholders in An Garda Síochána as well as the Department of Health. In addition to drugs submissions, toxicology samples associated with sexual assault cases are analysed and evaluated.

The Physical Analysis department is the most recently formed within FSI with disciplines from the Garda National Technical Bureau (GNTB) integrating with disciplines that existed previously within FSI.

This department includes Fingerprints and Documents, Handwriting and Physical Methods along with a diverse range of examinations in the Chemistry team where trace evidence recovered from scenes or suspects (e.g. glass, paint, fibres, and firearm residue) is compared to reference samples. Chemical substances of unknown origin are analysed in this department. These are often used to attack individuals (such as bleach) or left at scenes as suspicious packages or potential explosives. In addition, petrol bombs and debris samples from suspected fires are analysed for accelerants (e.g. petrol). The use of offensive sprays (such as pepper spray) is also determined, and digital tachographs, now the main download in route tracing and traffic offences are examined. Lastly, physical marks and impressions such as footwear or tyre impressions and manufacturing marks on plastic bags assist in determining the materials recovered at crime scenes.

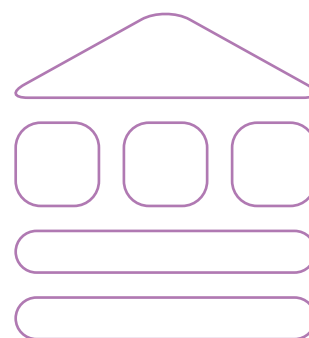
Staff in the Document team continue to provide expert advice to the Passport Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the security features for the Irish passport. In addition, they train staff from the Border Management Unit of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and the Garda National Immigration Bureau who are frontline at the airports on documents used for proof of identity. Indeed, FSI is the National Access Point for the False and Authentic Documents Online system (FADO) maintaining the system for frontline staff to quickly verify an ID, driving or vehicle licences.

The majority of cases for analysis at FSI are submitted by An Garda Síochána, but material is also received from Fiosrú, Office of the Police Ombudsman, Immigration Service Delivery (ISD), Customs & Excise, and Military Police. Cases are accepted by FSI reception/case intake staff who ensure that items are safely and securely stored or passed directly to a scientist depending on the situation. In either situation, the chain of custody is carefully recorded.

In addition to analysing samples in the laboratory, staff from FSI provide professional advice and training on the appropriate samples to be taken from crime scenes and individuals and, in some circumstances, attend crime scenes. We also operate an out-of-hours service for situations where investigating Gardaí need access to time-critical analysis or when it is necessary to visit crime scenes or suspected clandestine drug laboratories.

Staff provide expert testimony in criminal trials. There is the potential for this to occur in all cases, but some areas of work are more likely to result in court cases than others. Attendance at court can involve robust defence of scientific findings and/or an outline of routine processes related to continuity or laboratory procedures. Staff also attend and contribute to numerous ENFSI and AFSP working groups. This ensures that FSI are contributing to and shaping the international context.

Strategic Pillars



This annual report is organised under six main headings, corresponding to the strategic themes identified in FSI's Strategic Plan 2019-2024. An updated plan was developed in 2025 and launched in 2026.

1

Service Development and Growth

This section focuses on how we are improving the capacity of services we are delivering today and how we are increasing the breadth of services in support of the justice system in Ireland. This section also includes a report on the DNA Database and Prüm DNA exchange.

2

Science Technology and Innovation

This section focuses on how the organisation is progressing our application of science and technology, innovating to maximise the impact of forensic science and maintaining our contribution to the international forensic community.

3

Partnership and Integration

This section focuses on how we are strengthening relationships within the criminal justice system and beyond, to maximise FSI's contribution to society.

4

Quality Systems

This section focuses on how we maintain a robust quality-focused forensic science service and operate to the very best international practices.

5

Fit-for-purpose Environment

This section outlines how FSI has operationalised its new state-of-the-art facility in Backweston and mitigated the impact of the transition period.

6

Excellence through People

This section focuses on how we build an inclusive and integrated team within FSI that helps us collectively achieve our mission. It outlines key recruitments in 2025 and the beginning of our campaigns to raise awareness of FSI so we continue to attract high calibre candidates.

01

Service Development and Growth



Service Development and Growth

Service Delivery

Case submissions into FSI are remaining in line with those for the last three years. Of note is that the range and complexity of the submissions has continued to increase across FSI's services. An Garda Síochána are the main client of FSI and the service between FSI and AGS is based on a service level agreement signed by the Commissioner of AGS and the Director General of FSI.

Table 1 below represents the submissions from all clients, including An Garda Síochána, Customs, GSOC, The Road Safety Authority, Passport Office, Immigration Services Delivery, the International Protection Office and The Department of Social Protection throughout 2025. The figures below represent the total submissions received by our Case Intake Service. A case prioritisation system is in operation - the cases of high public interest and where the contribution of the scientific resources is clear, receive highest priority. Figure 1 shows a comparison of submission trends for the last 6 years (2020-2025).

Table 2 below represents the number of forensic science reports provided by FSI in 2025. It shows a total increase of 29% compared to 2024 reflective of the fact that all FSI services have now fully transitioned into the new Backweston laboratory with capacity now returned to pre-transition levels. FSI issued 23,126 forensic reports in 2025 – a marked increase on the 17,980 reports issued in 2024. Figure 2 shows a comparison of reporting trends for the last 6 years (2020-2025).

While all investigation types are included in the table, the numbers alone do not reflect the range and complexity of investigations reported. For example, the number and scale of drug seizures reported has changed; the range of new psychoactive substances has expanded and how those drugs are presented continues to evolve. The drug marketplace is a volatile and rapidly changing environment posing significant analytical challenges to drug forensic scientists. Submissions of large, high-value importation drug cases also remains high – these cases are particularly demanding on resources both in FSI and across the Criminal Justice Sector.

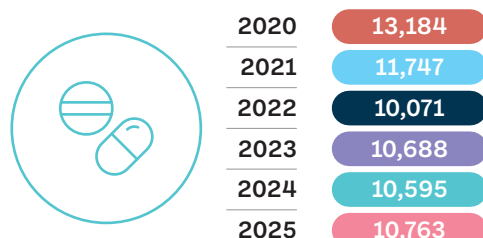
FSI has reported on 45 suspicious death investigations in 2025. These investigations are often complex and demanding in nature, with many lines of enquiry, suspects, exhibits and investigation types. A multidisciplinary approach was required, producing evidence from DNA, bloodstain pattern analysis, familial testing, fingerprint identification, and gunshot residue examination.

The number of fire analyses and liquid petrol in cases of suspected bombs continues to be the largest service demand in the Chemistry team. In addition, 2025 saw a decrease in the number of Fire Arm Residue cases reported, down from 10% in 2024 to 6.5%. As part of the emerging trends in crime, the number of Burglary cases are down year on year from 38% in 2020 to 28% in 2025 but Fraud cases are increasing, albeit the numbers of these cases remain low at 1% of the total fingerprint service.

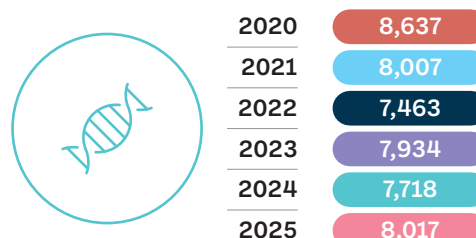
Service	2025
Drugs and Toxicology Cases	10,763
DNA (including Sexual Assault Cases)	8,017
Fingerprint Cases	5,094
Chemistry, Documents & Physical Methods Cases	1,194
Biometrics – DNA	13,919
Biometrics – Fingerprints	9,904
Total Investigations Reported (excludes biometric samples)	25,068

Table 1: 2025 Investigation submissions into FSI (Demand)

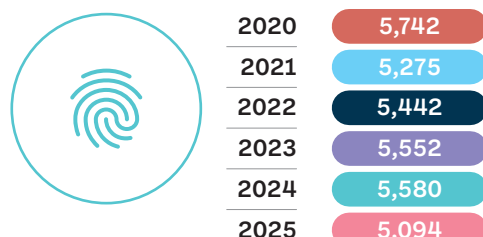
Drugs and Toxicology Cases



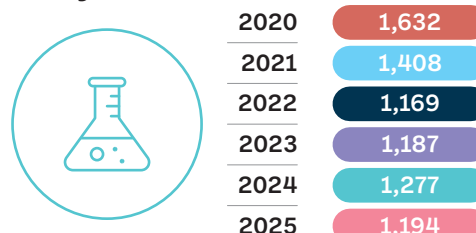
DNA (including Sexual Assault Cases)



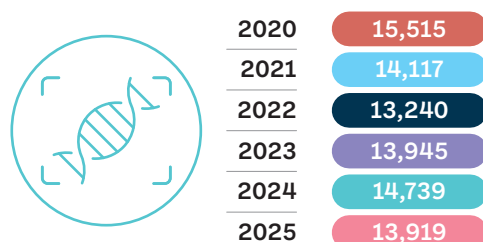
Fingerprint Cases



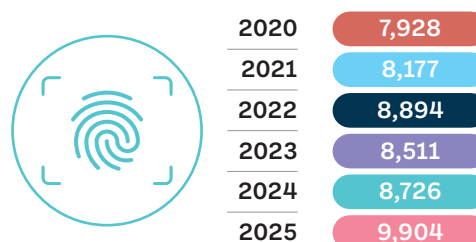
Chemistry, Documents & Physical Methods Cases



Biometrics – DNA



Biometrics – Fingerprints



Total Cases Submitted (excludes biometric samples)

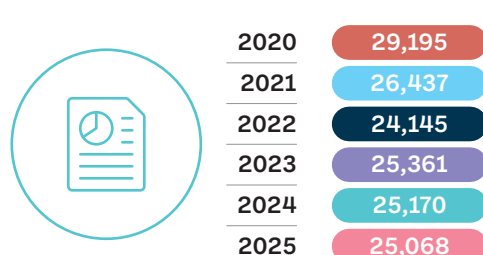
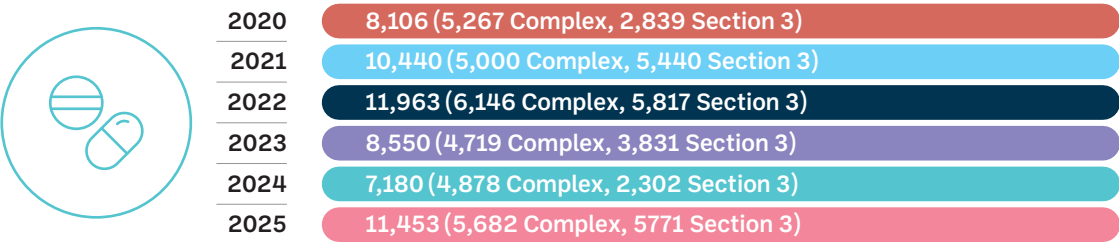


Figure 1: Investigation submissions into FSI 2020-2025 (Demand)
Biometric Samples are DNA or Fingerprint samples of individuals submitted to FSI

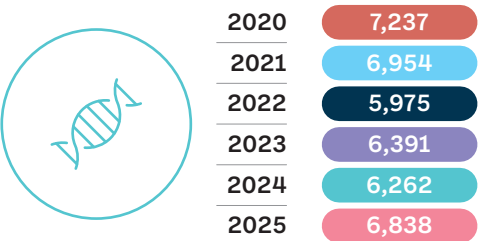
Service	2025
Drugs and Toxicology Cases	11,453 (5,682 complex & 5,771 Section 3)
DNA (including Sexual Assault Cases)	6,838
Fingerprint Cases	4,013
Chemistry, Documents & Physical Methods Cases	822
Total Investigations Reported (excludes biometric samples)	23,126

Table 2: Investigations reported by FSI in 2025

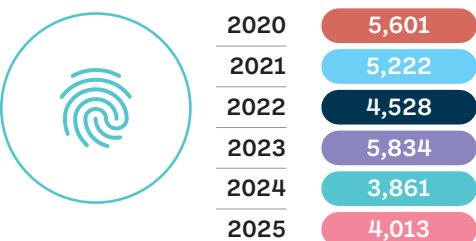
Drugs and Toxicology Cases



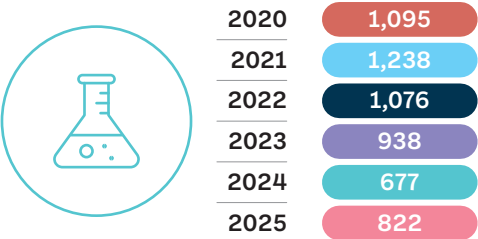
DNA (including Sexual Assault Cases)



Fingerprint Cases



Chemistry, Documents & Physical Methods Cases



Total Cases Reported

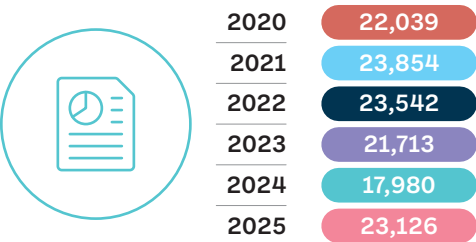


Figure 2: Investigations reported by FSI 2020-2025

Types of Drugs Analysed in 2025



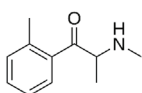
Figure 3: Types of Drug Analysed in 2025

First Irish Drug Detections by FSI in 2025

FSI has a role in monitoring for any significant changes in the volume and type of drugs that are available in the drugs market. As a member of Ireland's Early Warning and Emerging Trends Working Group, FSI notifies the Irish authorities and the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) of any new substances or unusual presentations of drugs detected in Ireland. The mission of the EUDA is to strengthen EU preparedness on drugs through four key interconnected service categories: anticipate, alert, respond and learn.

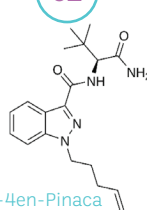
In 2025 FSI detected and notified the Irish and European authorities of **ten** instances of new substances or unusual presentations of drugs on the Irish market. Of the 10 reports in 2025, 1 was a **First in Europe** detection (**FIE**) and 9 were **First in Country** (**FIC**) detections. One **FIC** detection was also noted as an unusual presentation (**UP**) of a synthetic cannabinoid mixture.

01



2-methylmethcathinone (2-MMC) was detected in a white powder. 2-MMC is a substituted cathinone derivative that is reported to have a stimulant effect. (**FIC**)

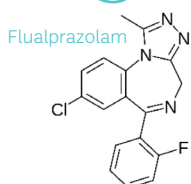
02



ADB-4en-Pinaca

Five synthetic cannabinoids were detected in a single sample of plant material. MDMB-4en-Pinaca, ADB-Butinaca, ADB-4en-Pinaca, MDMB-Butinaca and ADB-Inaca were each detected on the plant material. This was a first-time notification by FSI of the presence of ADB-4en-Pinaca. (**FIC, UP**)

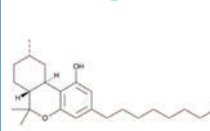
03



Flualprazolam

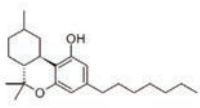
Five round white tablets that were imprinted 'ZOC 7.5' and half scored were analysed and instead of containing Zopiclone as expected, they instead contained Flualprazolam. (**FIC**)

04



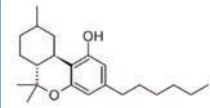
Hexahydrocannabinol-C8 (HHC-C8) is a semi-synthetic cannabinoid which was detected in a brown resinous substance. This was the first report of this substance in Europe. (**FIE**)

05



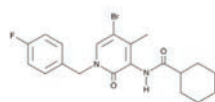
Gummy sweets were found to contain Hexahydrocannabiphorol (HHC-P). HHC-P is a semi-synthetic cannabinoid. (**FIC**)

06



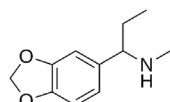
Hexahydrocannabihexol (HHCH) was detected on green plant material. HHC-H is a semi-synthetic cannabinoid. (**FIC**)

07



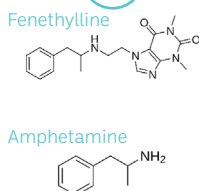
Green plant material was found to contain CH-FUBBMPDORA. CH-FUBBMPDORA is a synthetic cannabinoid. (**FIC**)

08



M-Alpha was detected in grey tablets seized in July 2025. (**FIC**)

09

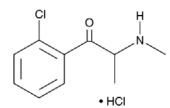


Fenethylamine

Amphetamine

A seizure of 8 round beige tablets with the "Captagon" logo were discovered in 2025. Captagon tablets typically have fenethylamine but in this case they were found to contain amphetamine while no fenethylamine was present. (**FIC**)

10



• HCl

A beige crystalline substance was found to contain 2-CMC (2-chloromethcathinone). 2-CMC is a substituted cathinone derivative that is reported to have a stimulant effect. (**FIC**)

Drug Quantification Trends 2016-2024

Note: quantification trends carried out in 2025 relate to 2024 submissions

Quantification data are produced for intelligence purposes for cocaine and diamorphine (heroin). Cocaine and diamorphine were the second and fourth most commonly submitted drugs, respectively, in 2024. Commonly encountered adulterants are also identified. Two distinct levels of seizure are analysed for quantification of cocaine: street level and importation level. Street level samples are defined as those submitted from seizures less than 100 grams, primarily between 25-30 grams, while importation level samples are defined as those submitted from seizures over 500 grams.

Cocaine

Cocaine was the most commonly identified stimulant in Ireland across the period examined and the second most commonly identified compound after cannabis. Figure 4 illustrates the annual average cocaine content with importation content remaining broadly consistent over the 9-year period examined. An increase in street level content was noted for 2024 samples. The importation level content is consistently higher than the average at street level. Of all analytes examined, cocaine demonstrates the widest variety of adulterants. Benzocaine was the most commonly detected adulterant in 2024 followed by phenacetin, levamisole, caffeine and procaine. One unusual case received in 2024 was that of 24 containers of a black viscous substance containing concealed cocaine.



Cocaine importation values have remained broadly consistent over the last 9 years with an increase in street level sample purity noted in 2024

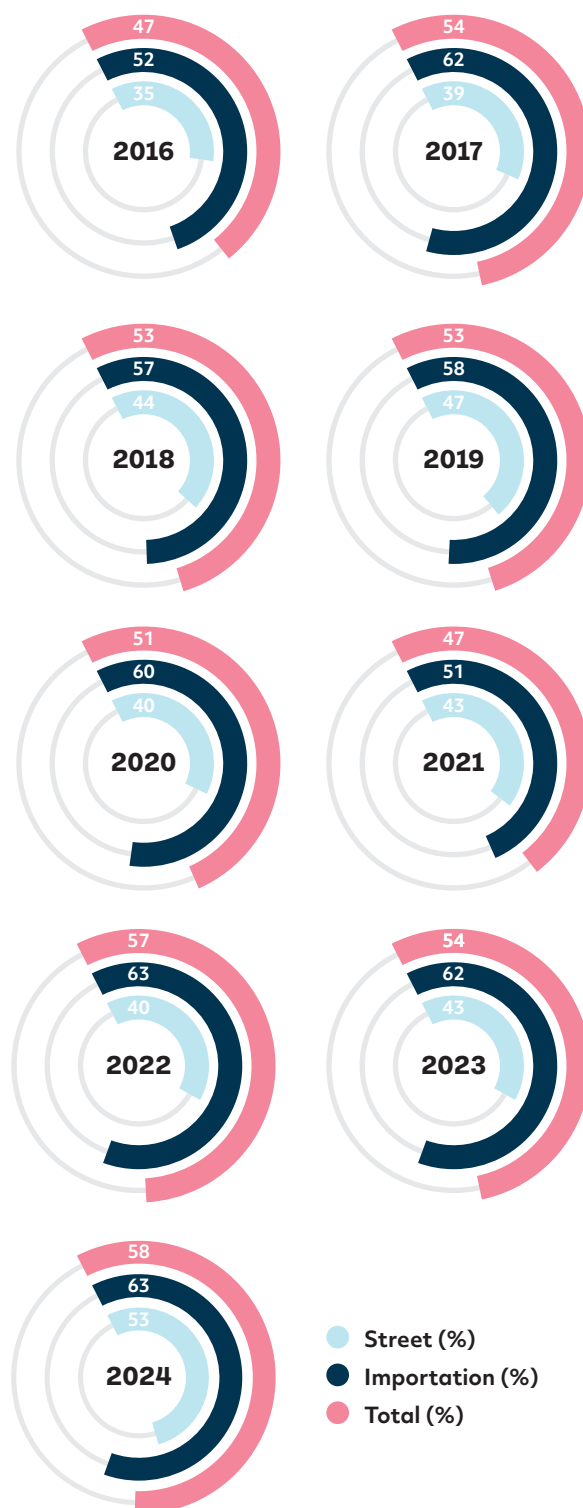


Figure 4: Average Cocaine content at street and importation level

Diamorphine (heroin)

Diamorphine is a semi-synthetic product produced by the acetylation of morphine, which occurs as a natural product in opium. Diamorphine is the most commonly encountered opioid in Ireland and was the fourth most commonly identified case type in FSI in 2024. 2024 saw an average diamorphine level of 26% relative to 40%, 43%, 41% and 35% in 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020 respectively. Caffeine was the most commonly detected adulterant in 2024 followed by paracetamol.



A significant decrease in Diamorphine purity noted in 2024

Toxicology

The Toxicology Section at FSI tests blood and urine samples for the presence of alcohol and a panel of targeted drugs, and non-biological liquids for the presence of alcohol. The majority of case samples originate in Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs) from complainants of alleged sexual assault. Toxicology analysis may be relevant in sexual assault cases if there is an allegation that 'Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault' (DFSA) occurred. DFSA can be classified in two ways:

- Proactive: an assault occurs following covert or forcible administration of alcohol or drugs
- Opportunistic: an assault occurs after the injured party is profoundly intoxicated through voluntary consumption of alcohol or drugs

The targeted drug panel consists of a combination of prescription drugs, common drugs of abuse and drugs traditionally associated with drug facilitated crime. Toxicology results cannot distinguish between spiking or voluntary consumption, however the findings can be beneficial when considered in the context of other evidence in the case. Scientists from the toxicology team gave evidence in 12 sexual assault trials in 2025.

Average Diamorphine Levels %

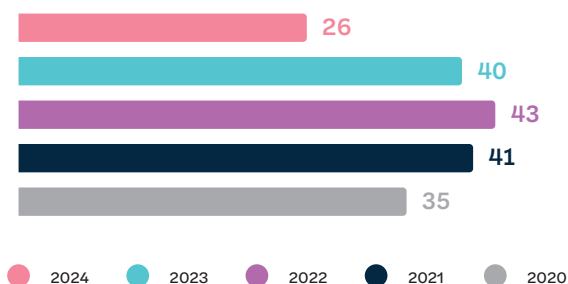
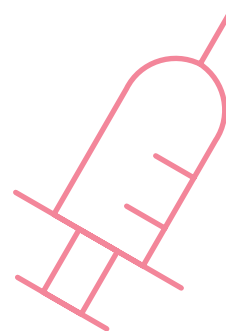


Figure 5: Average Diamorphine Levels %



In 2025, the most commonly detected drugs in toxicology cases were:

Alcohol

Cocaine (and metabolites)

Cannabis/cannabis products (and metabolites)

Diazepam (and metabolites)

Opiates (morphine and/or codeine)

Alprazolam

Zopiclone

Methadone

Amphetamine

MDMA

Ketamine

Chemistry, Documents and Physical Methods Cases

The broad variety of investigations analysed in the Chemistry and Documents and Physical Methods teams, is represented in Figures 6 and 7. Each discipline represents a unique speciality and field of expertise.


45%

Fires


18%

Sprays


13%

Glass


5%

Paint


6.5%

Fire Arm Residue


5.5%

Chemical Unknowns


6%

Explosives


1%

 Other, including
Tachographs

74%

 Currency, Travel
and Identity

18%

 Handwriting/signatures
indented impressions

3%

Fibres


4%

Footwear/tyre marks


1%

 Plastic bags/Tapes +
Adhesives

Figure 7: Types of Documents and Physical Methods cases reported in 2025

Figure 6: Types of chemistry investigations reported in 2025

Fingerprints

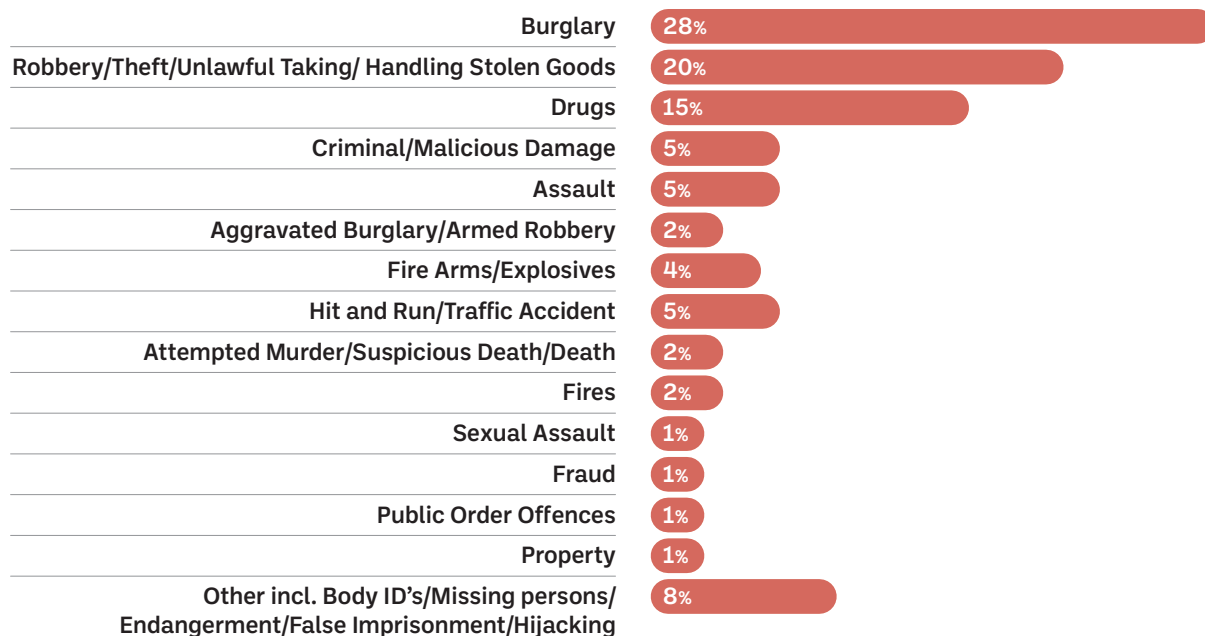


Figure 8: Represents the broad range of investigations reported by the Fingerprint section over the course of 2025

The upgraded automated fingerprint Identification System (MBIS) deployed in July 2024 continues to present new matching capabilities helping FSI work closely with An Garda Síochána's Serious Crime Review team for the first time in 5 cases. In 2025, the fingerprint database grew to contain over 1,642,471 sets of fingerprints for known persons and 620,229 Unsolved Latent Marks from crime stains. In 2025, 10,322 fingerprint sets of known persons were taken in relation to criminal offences and added to the database.

The fingerprint team has also been processing Sirene (European Supplementary Information Requests) requests since the system went live in 2021, with 46,428 Sirene Transactions consisting of 24,792 automated searches and 21,636 manual searches recorded in 2025. The daily transactions have increased year on year from 50 per day in 2021 to 127 per day in 2025.

In addition, there were 8,578 Prum searches and requests carried out in 2025 with the three exchange countries, Austria, Romania and Czechia.

DNA & Biological Analysis Cases

In 2025, 6,838 cases were reported by DNA & Biological analysis, an increase of 9% on the cases reported in 2024. 61% (4,163) of cases were classified as volume crime associated but not limited to burglary, criminal damage, unlawful taking of a vehicle and robbery. 30% (2,028) were classified as serious crime cases predominately associated with suspicious deaths, assault causing harm, drug seizures and aggravated burglaries. 6% (430) of our reported cases were classified as sexual assault investigation and 217 (3%) as identifications, aiding in missing person and unidentified human remains investigations.

DNA Cases Reported in 2025

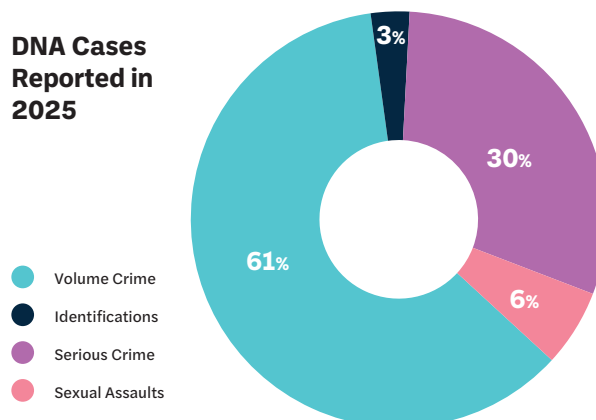


Figure 9: Represents the types of DNA cases reported from FSI over the course of 2025

In 2025, FSI assisted in the investigation of 45 suspicious deaths.

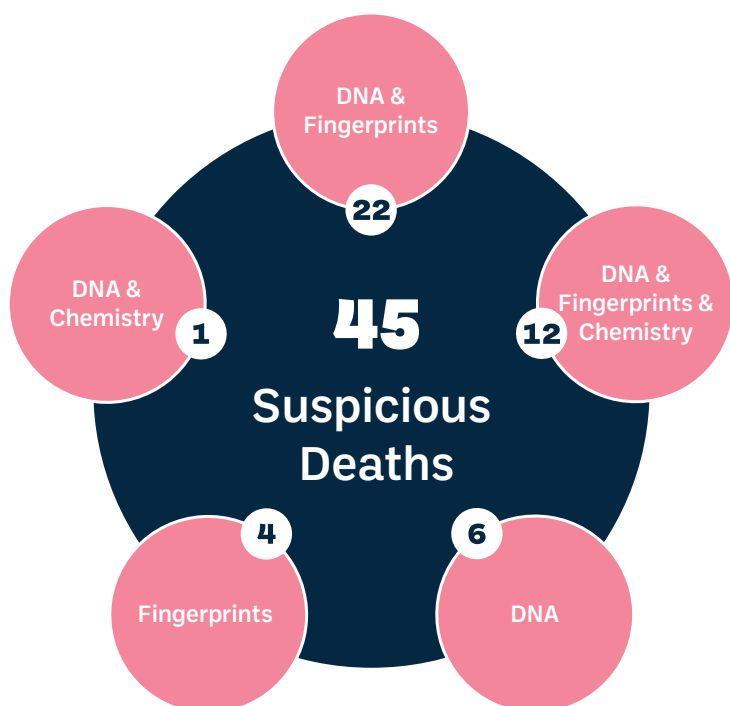


Figure 10: Represents the Nature of suspicious deaths in 2025

Investigating fatal assaults and suspicious deaths demands significant resources and a highly collaborative, multidisciplinary approach. Within the laboratory, this requires integrating diverse expertise including DNA profiling, blood pattern analysis, fingerprint identification, and chemical analysis. An analysis of suspicious deaths investigated by FSI (Figure 11) reveals that Stabbings accounted for the largest portion at 40% while Blunt force strikes comprised 24% of cases. The remaining 36% consisted of various other categories, such as asphyxiation or gunshot wounds.

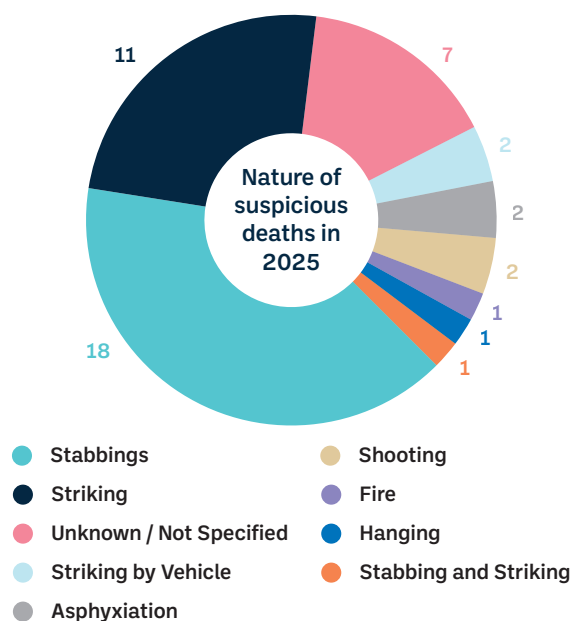
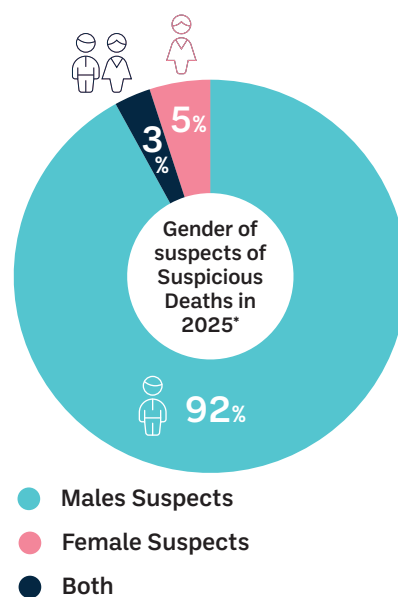


Figure 11: Multidisciplinary investigations of Suspicious deaths in 2025



*Includes data only from cases with known suspects

Figure 12: Gender breakdown of Suspects of Suspicious Deaths

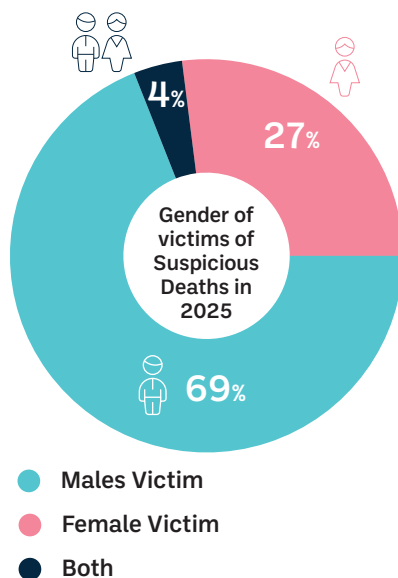


Figure 13: Gender breakdown of Victims of Suspicious Deaths

The statistics alone cannot represent the full contribution and impact that FSI staff are having on the justice system in Ireland. DNA evidence from FSI was used extensively in Garda investigations and court cases in many murders, serious assaults, sexual assaults, drug seizures and other offences associated with gangland and organised crime throughout 2025.

Contribution to Body Identifications and Missing Persons

DNA analysis is often requested to aid in cases where the identification of a deceased individual is not known, or indeed if the identification of the deceased cannot be established by visual means. The laboratory also supports missing persons cases by generating DNA profiles from personal effects or family members. These profiles are stored in the National Missing and Unknown Persons Database and can be shared globally through Interpol to assist in international searches.

In 2025, DNA profiling by this laboratory was utilised in 148 Body Identification cases involving 154 deceased individuals. The laboratory also contributed to 29 Missing Persons cases. Examples provided below are some representative cases which were supported by the DNA section of FSI.

In January 2025, a crewman on a boat discovered the remains of an unknown male, floating in the water off the east coast of Ireland. No documentation was found on him and his identity remained unknown. Post-mortem samples taken from the deceased were submitted to FSI for DNA analysis. A male DNA profile was generated from the post-mortem samples. This profile was searched on the DNA Database System and a match was obtained.

DNA reference samples were submitted to the laboratory from two relatives of a woman who had been missing since February 2025. Approximately one month later, the decomposed remains of a female were found at a nearby river. DNA analysis was carried out on the remains by FSI. The DNA findings provided very strong evidence to support the deceased being a biological sibling of the two relatives who had originally volunteered their DNA samples.

In April 2024, the vehicle of a missing man was located, however he himself could not be found despite extensive searches in the area. A personal item belonging to the missing man was submitted to the laboratory for the purpose of generating a “surrogate” DNA profile for the missing man, which could then be stored on the DNA Database. Subsequently, skeletal remains were found in June 2025. A DNA profile was obtained from a bone of the deceased, which matched the DNA profile generated from the personal item of the missing male.

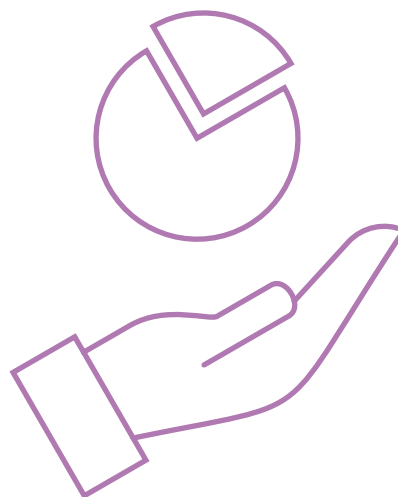
Contribution to Cold Cases

While the examination of some cold cases may reveal no new evidence, others may facilitate the discovery of new leads. In 2025, FSI carried out 14 cold case reviews in collaboration with the Serious Crime Review Team of An Garda Síochána. The Cold Case team also attended 12 case conferences with Senior Investigating Officers during 2025.

Service Flexibility

Exhibits are delivered to FSI through the Case Intake Section (CIS) and are handed over directly to laboratory personnel. There is an appointments system in place which is managed by our CIS team taking in cases across the day. Urgent submissions which include body identifications, murders and sexual assault cases involving minors or vulnerable persons were prioritised by appointment. A total of 37,810 exhibits and 23,823 biometric samples were submitted in 2025. These submissions are on par with 2024 when 37,591 exhibits and 23,465 biometric samples were submitted.

The system to facilitate an Out of Hours service continued in 2025. Each scientist carries an on-call phone for a week at a time and a smaller group are available to attend scenes or to carry out necessary urgent laboratory work. This service is provided by a core panel of scientists, with two scientists being called in to the laboratory per event for out of hours services, for capacity and health and safety reasons. 42 weekend / out of hours calls were received in 2025 and the call in service was availed of 22 times, covering the full range of case types. FSI attended 3 crime scenes to provide Blood Pattern Analysis (BPA) in murder investigations. Scientists from the Drugs section were called out to 9 drug seizures in 2025 to provide specialist knowledge.





Court Cases

Each year many of the cases examined by FSI may require the attendance of staff to give evidence in the District Court, Circuit Court, Criminal Court or the Special Criminal Court. Often, these cases relate to reports issued in earlier years. Staff from FSI attended court as expert witnesses on 99 occasions in 2025, a decrease from 2024 when there were 110 attendances. For comparison, there were 133 court attendances in 2023, 119 court attendances in 2022, 104 in 2021, and 50 in 2020 (Covid-19 restrictions in place). The number of court appearances in 2025 for each discipline is tabulated in Table 3.

20 court appearances in 2025 were virtual, an increase from 14 in 2024. This is a facility that was established during Covid-19 restrictions, and we hope to see continued opportunities to provide remote court evidence in the future.

Visits from Defence Scientists

The number of Defence visits in 2025 was 36, which is similar to 2024 (37 visits). Defence Scientists attended FSI on 30 occasions in 2023, 34 occasions in 2022, 24 in 2021, and 14 in 2020 (Covid-19 restrictions in place). Of these, 15 related to Drugs cases, 16 related to DNA & Biological Analysis cases and 5 related to Physical Analysis cases.



Table 3: Evidence in Court (2025)

Knowledge Sharing

Throughout 2025, FSI engaged in knowledge sharing on several aspects of service delivery with members of the Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP). These are laboratories, public and private, providing forensic services around the UK and Ireland. This collaboration included demand trends and operational matters.



DNA Database

This section is a report on the operation of the DNA Database in 2025, in compliance with the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014.

This year we marked the 10th anniversary of the commencement of the National DNA Database on the 20th November 2015. It has evolved to become one of the most important crime fighting tools within the State.

The DNA Database serves as a critical investigative asset, generating high-value leads by linking individuals to previously unsolved cases. Its scope spans a broad spectrum of offenses, from property crimes like burglary to serious crimes against the person, including sexual assault and suspicious deaths.

By automating the identification process, the database streamlines traditional, time-consuming police methods, allowing investigators to focus resources more effectively. In addition, the system also supports vital missing persons investigations by cross-referencing family DNA samples with unknown remains to provide closure for grieving families.

Overall, 2025 saw an increase in the volume of Database records, as well as an increase in the impact and effectiveness of the system.

Figure 14, displays the overall growth in the National DNA Database since 2015.

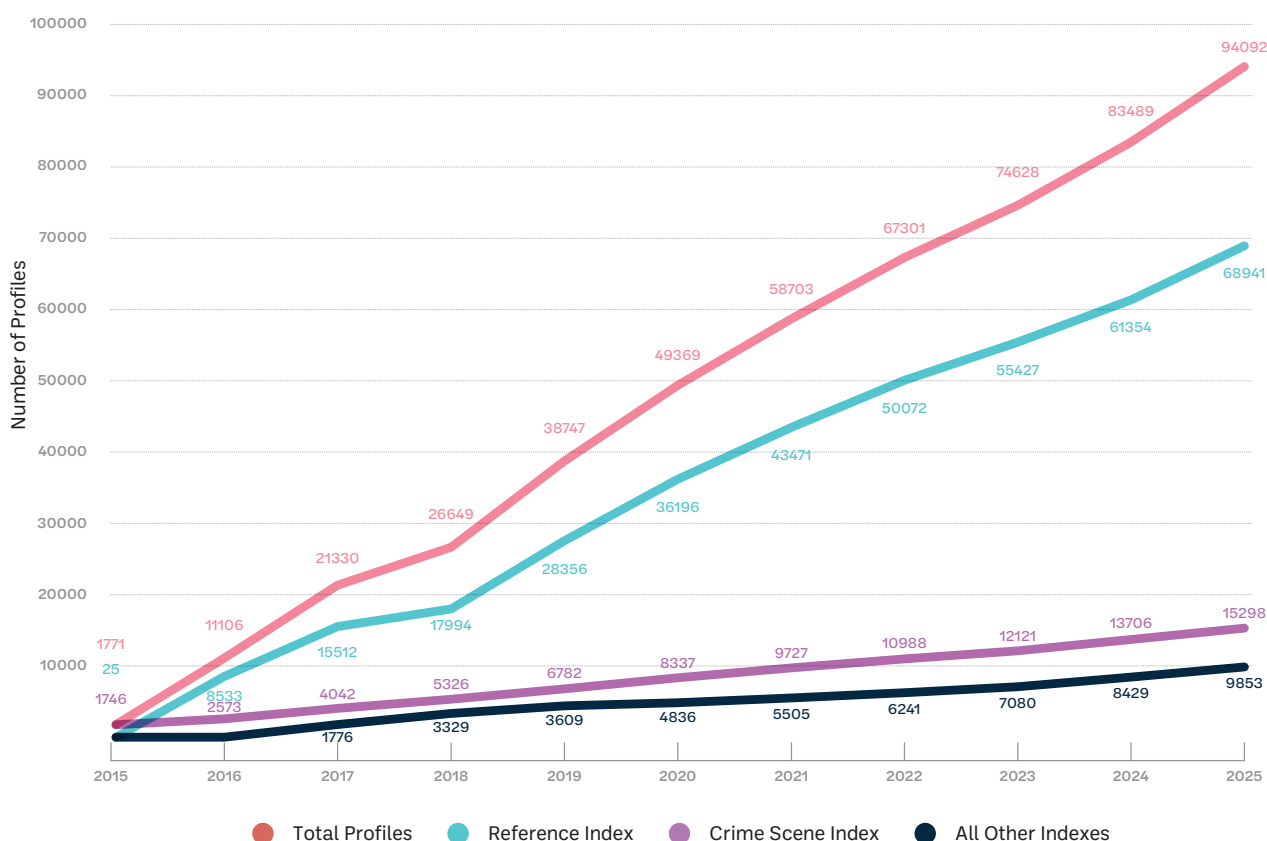


Figure 14: Total numbers of individual profiles (person or crime stain) on the database displaying overall growth since 2015. Increase of profiles in 2025: 10,603

Breakdown of profiles on the DNA database system by Index

Figure 15, shows the numbers of DNA profiles held in the four indices of the National DNA Database at the end of December 2025. Total profiles on database: 94,092

Reference Index

Includes the Suspect Known, Convicted Offender and Section 28 Volunteer specimen categories

Crime stain Index

Includes the Forensic Unknown and Forensic Mixture specimen categories

Elimination Index

Includes FSI, Garda, Garda CSI, GSOC and S44 Prescribed Person specimen categories

Identification Index

Includes profiles from missing persons, unidentified human remains and relatives

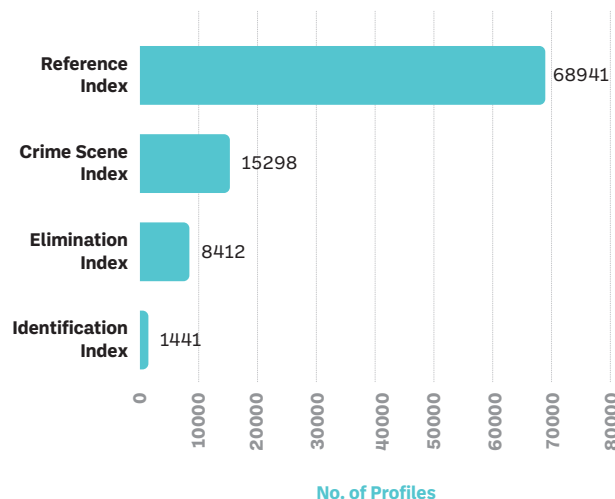


Figure 15: DNA Database System by Index

Number of profiles added to the DNA Database System in 2025

Figure 16, shows the number of profiles added to the DNA Database in 2025. This figure takes account of the significant numbers of DNA profiles from persons destroyed in compliance with part 10 of the Criminal Justice Act 2014 over this period.

At the end of December 2025, there are 68,941 reference profiles on the Reference index with 7,587 added in 2025. There are 15,298 unsolved crime stains in the crime stain index, with 1,592 crime stains added in 2025. A total of 133 profiles from missing persons, UHR and relatives were added in 2025, giving a total of 1441 profiles in the Identification index.

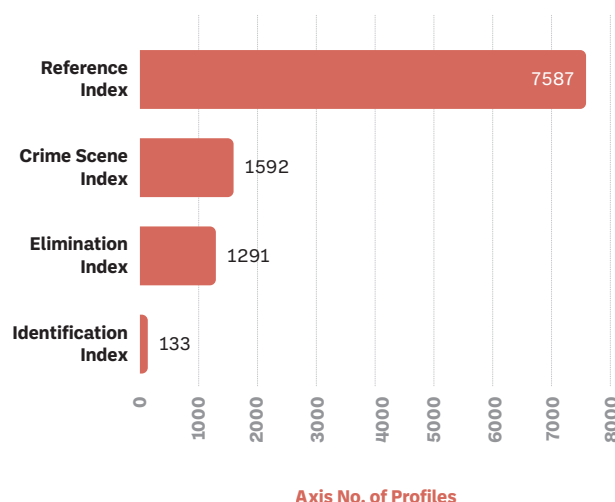


Figure 16: Increase in Profiles added to the Database in 2025 by Index. Increase of profiles in 2025: 10,603

Sample destruction and profile removal from the DNA Database System



Figure 17 shows the number of samples destroyed since commencement of the DNA database (110,139 samples destroyed up to 31st December 2025, 12,126 samples destroyed in 2025), while Figure 18 shows the number of profiles removed since commencement of the DNA database (53,233 profiles removed up to 31st December 2025, 5,322 profiles removed in 2025).

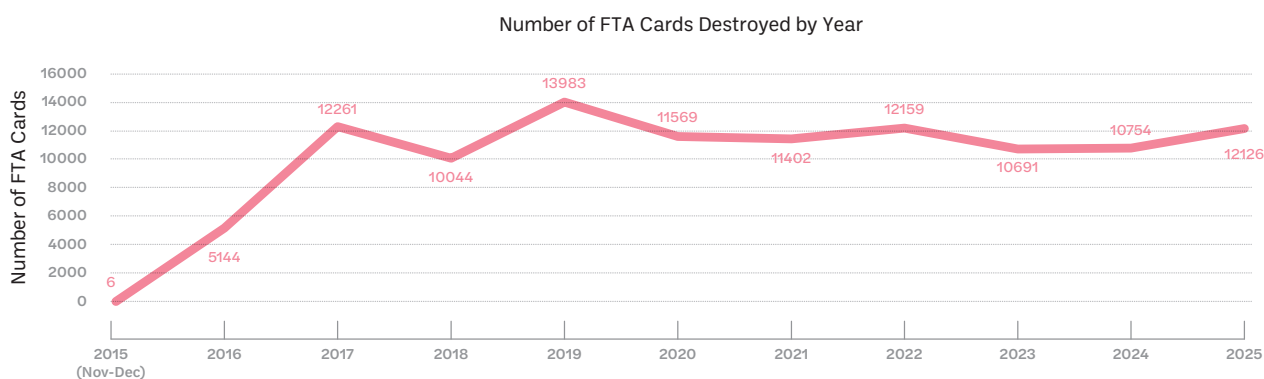


Figure 17: Number of samples destroyed since commencement of the DNA database

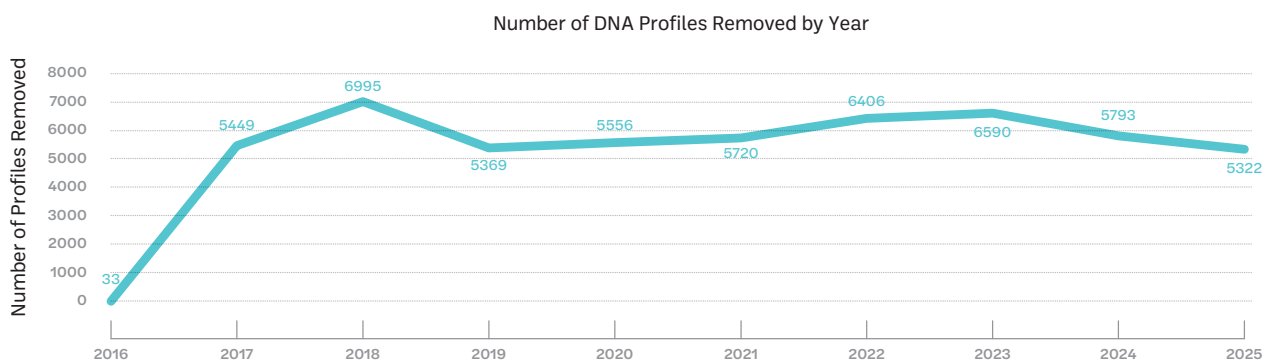


Figure 18: DNA Profile Removal

Investigative links

Two potential matches can occur when an additional profile is added to the Database – a crime stain can match another crime stain suggesting a link between crimes or the crime stain can match to a person suggesting a link between the person and the crime. Overall, the DNA Database identified 812 hits in 2025, which assisted 998 cases. The types of hits are detailed below:



(a) Persons linked to crime stains

There were 812 person-to-stain matches in 2025. 520 of these were person to single case matches aiding 510 investigations while 292 matches were where a person was linked to multiple case matches aiding 488 investigations. In total 998 investigations have been aided - Figure 19.

The details of the cases involving person to stain matches is available in Figure 20.

Figure 1.6

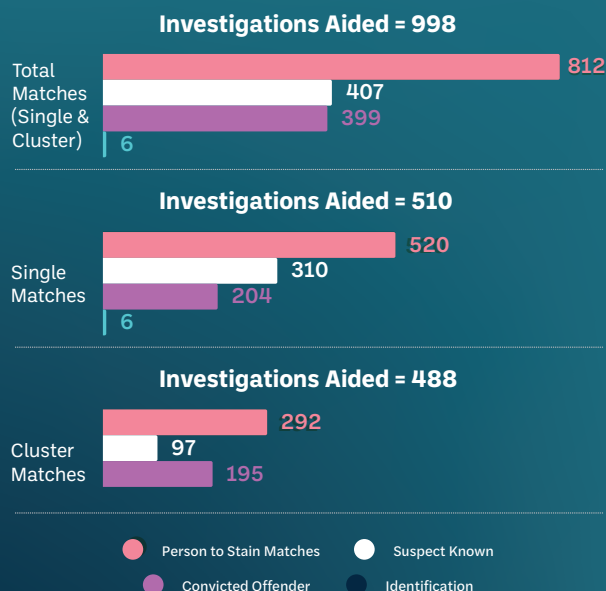


Figure 19: Person to stain matches on Database to the end of 2025

Offence	Investigations Aided
Burglary (inc Agg. Burg)	305
Criminal damage	141
Unlawful Taking (U/T)	133
Robbery/Theft	83
Assaults	32
Drugs	31
Sexual Assault	16
Road Traffic Accident	25
Possession of Firearm	28
Other*	204
Total	998

*Other category includes case types listed as 'other' & less frequent Offences

Figure 20: Person to Stain matches [Types of investigations and the number of each involved in 2025]

(b) Crime scene samples linked to other crime scene samples

This type of match occurred 78 times in 2025. In 51 such cases, a case-to-case match was reported while in the other 27 cases, there were clusters of cases associated with each other. Overall, this resulted in 164 investigative links (‘hits’) between unsolved crime stains - see Figure 21 below.

The details of the cases involving stain to stain matches is available on Figure 22.

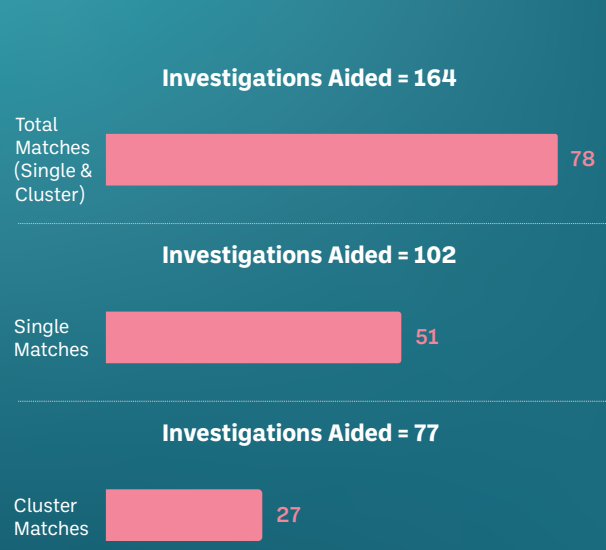


Figure 21: Stain to stain matches on Database to the end of 2025

Offence	Investigations Aided
Burglary	38
Criminal damage	19
Unlawful Taking (U/T)	27
Robbery/Theft	20
Road Traffic Accident	10
Possession of Firearm	6
Other*	44
Total	164

*Other category includes case types listed as ‘other’ plus a few different less frequent case types.

Figure 22: Stain to Stain matches [Types of investigations and the number of each involved in 2025]

Metrics used to assess the effectiveness of databases are available in Figure 23. These figures were as of the end of December 2025.

H/N: The Number of Person to Stain Matches Relative to the Number of Persons Included in the Database

H/C: The Number of Person to Stain Matches Relative to the Number of Stains Included in the Database

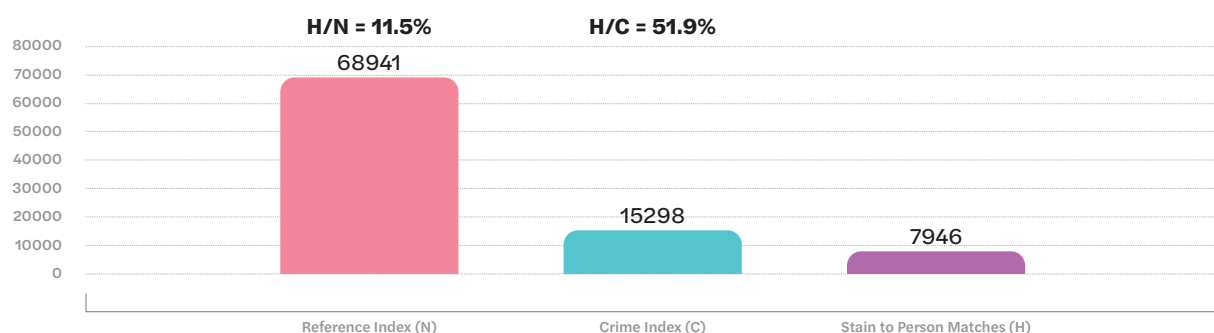


Figure 23: This figure indicates the appropriateness of the sampling policy (i.e. sampling suspected offenders and convicted offenders)

This measures the crime solving capacity and is expected to grow as the database grows (i.e. 51.9% out of every 100 crime scene samples uploaded onto the database will be linked to a person).

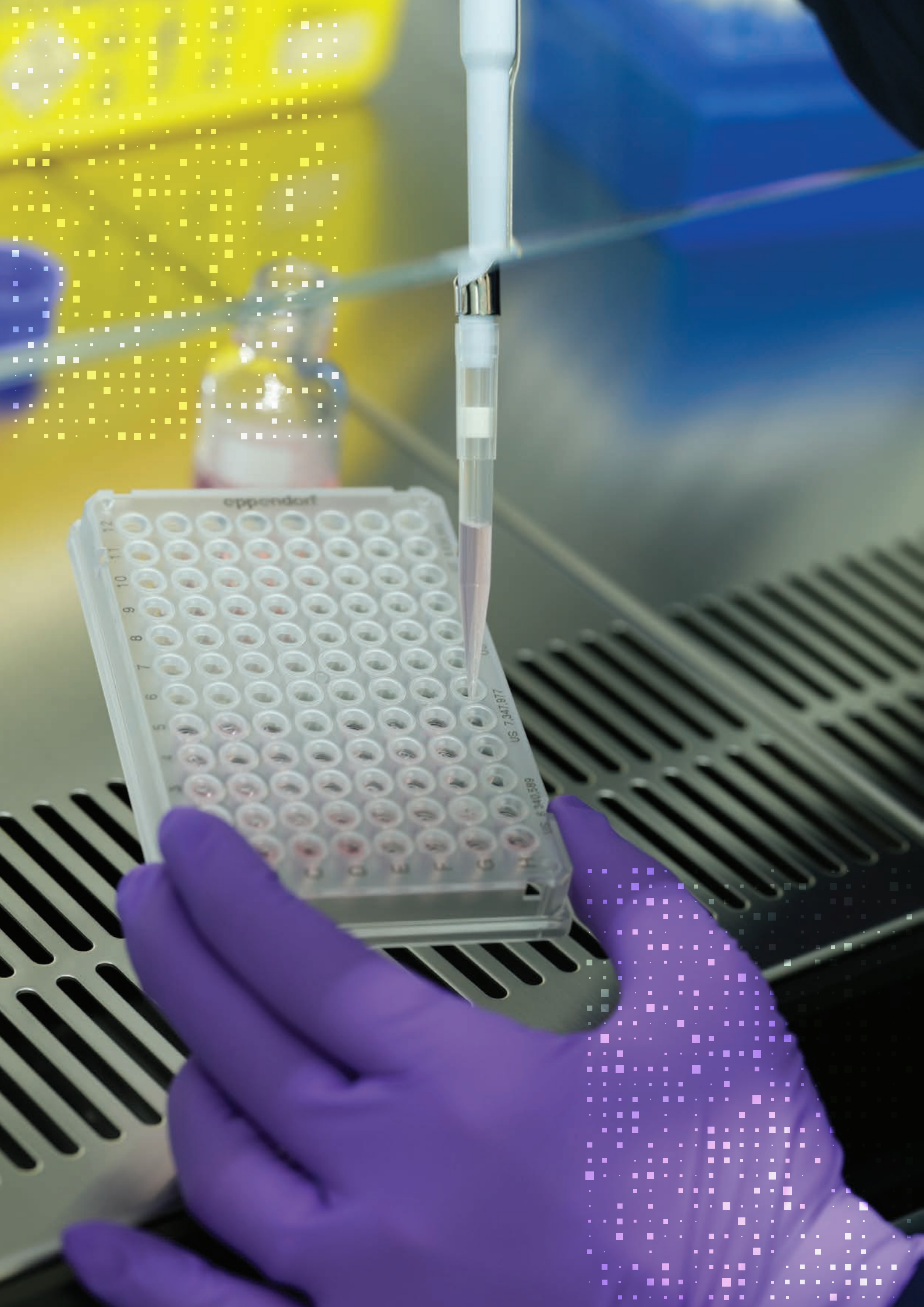
Prüm Treaty

The Prüm treaty includes cross-border cooperation by means of exchanging judicial and police information and by providing mutual assistance. With regards to the exchange of information, each European member state must make its DNA database available to other Member States for automated searches on a hit/no hit basis. After a match, personal data and case information are exchanged between countries by existing mutual legal assistance procedures (police or judicial).

On the 2nd of October 2019, FSI began live exchange of DNA data and at the end of 2025 was exchanging data with twenty Member States. Table 4 shows the match results obtained between the Irish DNA database and the DNA databases of the twenty Member States.

Prüm Match Statistics to 31st December 2025			
	Irish Crime Stain to Prüm person	Prüm Crime Stain to Person on Irish Database	Prüm Crime Stain to Ireland Crime Stain
Austria	26	45	5
Belgium	4	16	2
Croatia	0	1	0
Czechia	11	4	3
Estonia	1	3	0
Finland	1	14	0
France	74	175	33
Germany	34	239	23
Latvia	9	2	0
Lithuania	12	16	0
Malta	0	0	0
Netherlands	25	30	11
Poland	10	19	1
Portugal	2	2	2
Romania	13	1	0
Slovakia	7	3	1
Slovenia	1	6	0
Spain	7	21	2
Sweden	5	27	3
United Kingdom	870	614	56
Total	1112	1238	142

Table 4: Prüm Match Statistics for 2025



02

Science, Technology and Innovation



Science, Technology and Innovation

Following the successful phased transition of staff and scientific services over the previous eighteen months, 2025 marked the first complete year that all services were fully operational in our new laboratory.

In 2025, FSI strengthened its commitment to the area by establishing the new role of Principal Scientist. The creation of this role highlights the organisation's commitment to fostering both innovation and collaboration. To date, the Principal Scientist has engaged with third level institutions and commenced a student internship program in FSI for the academic year 2025/26. Staff in FSI were invited to submit research and development projects for 6-month student placements. Students from third level institutes were interviewed in 2025 and the three successful candidates will begin their internships in early 2026. These students are working on collaborative research projects across Physical Analysis, Chemical Analysis, and DNA.

FSI continued contributing to international knowledge during 2025. Our staff were active contributors to 32 national and international working groups over the year.

FSI had a significant accomplishment in the Forensic Science community by hosting the European Academy of Forensic Science (EAFS) conference in 2025 (see detail on pages 35 & 36).

FSI continued to champion forensic science research and practice through 2025.

The EU-funded programme to advance European knowledge-base and competencies in forensic science disciplines ('UNLOCK') aims to provide an opportunity for Forensic Scientists in all disciplines across Europe to improve their basic forensic knowledge and gain a qualification. The FSI scientist who collaborated on this project from its inception was part of the European team giving a workshop at EAFS in 2025.

We continued as a collaborator in the European funded DNA project ('ReACT') that focusses on research on the transfer and persistence of DNA. This work augments the understanding of key topics in the evaluation of scientific evidence and allows FSI to utilise Expert Evaluative Opinion (EEO) to communicate its findings in the investigative process and in the courts. FSI also collaborated with the Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP) on research on DNA degradation studies.

In Physical analysis, FSI collaborated with the Ballistics Section of the Garda National Technical Bureau, to partake in an ENFSI study on the transfer and persistence of gunshot residue (GSR) on bystanders. The results from this pan-European research will be invaluable when evaluating the significance of casework findings.

In DNA the development of a transformational new software for DNA sample processing, DNA Application for Sample Handling (DASH) continued, with testing and validation phases completed and the system going live in September. This software consolidates data integrity and security and significantly enhances the efficiency of data processing internally within FSI.

The Chemical Analysis Discipline have purchased and are currently assessing the analytical capability of two Near Infrared (NIR) portable spectroscopy instruments for bulk drug detection both in the laboratory and in the field.



Publications:

The following papers were authored / co-authored by staff in FSI and published in 2025

Peter Gill, et al. The ReAct project: Analysis of data from 23 different laboratories to characterise DNA recovery given two sets of activity level propositions. *Forensic Science International: Genetics*, Volume 76, 2025, 103222. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsigen.2025.103222>.

Linda Groombridge, et al. Correspondence by the Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP), Body Fluid Forum (BFF) on an article written by N. Dawney and K. Sheppard: "From crime scene to courtroom: A review of the current bioanalytical evidence workflows used in rape and sexual assault investigations in the United Kingdom, *Science & Justice* 63 (2023) 206–228". *Science & Justice*, Volume 65, Issue 6, 2025, 101317, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2025.101317>.

FSI hosted the European Academy of Forensic Science (EAFS) conference in 2025

The 10th triennial European Academy of Forensic Science Conference (EAFS 2025) was held in Dublin on the 26th – 30th May 2025. It was organised and hosted by FSI and took place in the Convention Centre, Dublin.

Over 1,300 European and International Forensic Science practitioners and researchers, stakeholders of the forensic science community, alongside EU agencies, academia, and industry partners attended. While the greater number of attendees were from Europe, we had participants from 63 worldwide countries, from Australia to Zambia.

The theme of the conference was 'Reflections on Forensic Science: Looking back to look forward'. This marked the 10th EAFS conference as well as the 30th anniversary of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), and FSI was privileged to host EAFS 2025 in the same year that we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our foundation.

The EAFS 2025 Scientific committee comprised of thirty-five prominent European and international scientists, forensic practitioners, and experts invited to review oral and abstract submissions across a broad and diverse field of topics.

The conference programme was organised into tracks including Chemistry, DNA and Body fluids, Digital Evidence including Artificial Intelligence, Drugs, Emerging technologies, Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Education and Training, Forensic Management and Quality Systems, Marks, Impressions and Biometric Traces, Legal and Ethical Aspects, Scenes of Crime, and Case Studies. Under each track there were several topics covered. There was a dedicated European day, which included EU funded workshops, oral and poster presentations. Over the five days, there were a total of 465 oral presentations including 29 Keynote talks, 43 workshops and 241 poster presentations across multiple parallel sessions.

At the opening ceremony there was an address by the then Chair of the ENFSI board Dr Dorijan Keržan (of the National forensic laboratory, Ljubljana, Slovenia), and delegates were officially welcomed to EAFS 2025 with a speech from Dr. Geraldine O'Donnell, Acting Director General of FSI. This was followed by the first Plenary talk.

As well as the opening plenary, there were seven further plenary presentations throughout the week encompassing diverse topics across different scientific fields as well as forensic evidence in criminal trials

There was a significant contribution from FSI staff, with over 40 presentations given as talks, workshops or posters. Several FSI staff also chaired scientific sessions across the week. All FSI staff had the opportunity to attend one of the conference days to see some of the stimulating talks and presentations.

A special issue of Forensic Science International will be published in 2026 with a selection of contributions from the conference.

During the conference, FSI also hosted the Annual ENFSI Meeting on the 27th and 28th May. The ENFSI Annual Dinner was hosted by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration at Farmleigh House on the evening of the 28th May with Minister Jim O'Callaghan attending and addressing the assembled ENSFI membership.

As an adjunct to EAFS 2025 FSI organised a public event in the Convention Centre to discuss the impact of forensic science in the Irish Criminal Justice system over the last 50 years. This event took the form of a panel discussion on stage where some past and present FSI staff spoke on scientific advances over the years and how it helped solve crime. It was chaired by well-known journalist, author and podcaster Nicola Tallant. The event was free to the public and over 700 people attended on the night.

The European programme of the EAFS 2025 Conference was co-funded by the European Union Internal Security Fund (ISF) and coordinated by European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). (Forensic Fundamentals, Technology, Multidisciplinary, Research, Evaluation (FOR-FUTURE) Grant Agreement 101160526).

FSI is grateful for the support from ENFSI, the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, and all the trade sponsors. The hosting of EAFS 2025 in Dublin was a great privilege for FSI and there was very positive feedback from participants on the conference organisation and the content of the scientific programme.

See Appendix for all EAFS presentations (page 70)



Acting Director General Dr Geraldine O'Donnell opening the EAFS 2025 conference.



Current and past FSI staff involved in EAFS 2025.



Main auditorium in the Convention Centre.

03

Partnership and Integration



Partnership and Integration

Partnership and Integration is about strengthening relationships and improving FSI's integration within the criminal justice system and beyond. This was particularly important throughout 2025, given the demands on the criminal justice system and the complex transition process underway by FSI.

The challenges of criminal justice capacity, and FSI capacity more specifically, were recurring themes during 2025. FSI worked closely with An Garda Síochána, and across the justice sector in 2025, to ensure the best use of capacity available in the laboratory and this will remain a strong area of focus for FSI in the months and years ahead. In 2025, 151 Garda members were trained and certified in the use of Presumptive Drugs Testing (PDT). A PDT can be done by a trained Garda member in a Garda station for some drug substances detected under Section 3 of the Misuse of Drugs Act – this can divert the lowest priority cases away from FSI, allowing FSI to focus on the most important drug cases. FSI is also continuing to work closely with the Department of Justice legislation team to develop new legislation that places PDTs on a stronger legislative footing. Direct regular lines of communication between FSI and Court Presenters have been maintained in several court districts with 74 district courts engaging directly with FSI in 2025. This direct line of engagement ensures timely reporting of forensic casework before court hearings.

FSI is a key stakeholder and active participant in both the Irish and European early warning drugs networks including the Irish Early Warning and Emerging Trends Group (EWET), the National Response and Alert Group (NRAG) and the European Early Warning System (EWS) and the recently established Laboratory Networks Group. We continue to work closely with our network colleagues to monitor emerging trends and support integrated national responses to adverse public health events. In 2025 FSI reported 10 'First in Ireland' drug detections & novel drug presentations to the EUDA.

FSI continued to maintain its strong partnerships with the Missing Persons Bureau, Sexual Assaults Treatment Units (SATUs) and the new Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSU) of An Garda Síochána over the course of the year. FSI also continued preparations for the commencement of the DNA Identification Programme associated with the excavation of the grounds of the former Mother and Baby Institution at Tuam, County Galway. This work included validation of new laboratory methods, creation of the two required databases and completion of a pilot study. FSI has continued to work closely with the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) and the Office of the Director of Authorised Intervention, Tuam, to develop robust inter-departmental protocols for the Identification Programme.

FSI were invited in July 2025 to collaborate at a NATO conference on explosives which led to the establishment of a specialised group between FSI, the Defence Forces, The Office of the Government Inspector of Explosives, An Garda Síochána and International Police officers. The aim of this group is to assist in building a framework whereby An Garda Síochána as an organisation can actively engage with the threats posed by the proliferation of Explosives and their precursors within this state.

FSI continued its partnership with Forensic Science Northern Ireland (FSNI) over the course of the year. This continues to be a very supportive and productive partnership, with active knowledge sharing and support.

Solid working partnerships have been established with partner agencies based in the Backweston Laboratory Campus, including the State Laboratory and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). FSI is appreciative of the support given to-date. These relationships will help FSI solve shared problems on campus and support the long-term strategic development of the campus.

FSI responded to 11 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and 57 Parliamentary Questions (PQs) over the course of the year.

04

Quality Systems



Quality Systems

FSI upholds a robust quality system so that all our stakeholders have confidence in our forensic science services. Our Quality System ensures that we are at the forefront of best international practices.

FSI continues to refine its quality system while including additional forensic techniques in our scope of accreditation. Accreditation to international standards, and specifically compliance to the ISO-17025 (2017) standard, provides external validation of FSI's quality system. We are assessed by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB).

In 2025, we added the following to our scope of accreditation:

Our INAB assessment took place across five days in September and November with six different technical assessors as well as the INAB assessor.

Our continuous extensions to the scope of our accreditation in 2025 were underpinned by a robust quality system that is supported by all our staff.

Over the course of 2025, FSI participated in 55 internal audits that assessed all aspects of FSI's management systems, including Quality Management audits, vertical audits, witness audits, extension to scope audits and training audits. 62 external proficiency trials/ collaborative exercises were completed in 2025. These trials are designed by European forensic laboratories and third-party companies with a view to continuously assessing and calibrating proficiency levels in forensic disciplines across Europe.

FSI also set up 22 internal trials for ongoing competency monitoring across the laboratory.

Areas added to scope of accreditation	Date of accreditation visit
DNA (DASH Software)	10th - 11th September 2025
New Maxwell bone extraction process	5th November 2025
Documents and Handwriting (Keyence Microscope)	5th November 2025
Toxicology (LCHRAM system)	13th November 2025
Fires (ATD/MS)	13th - 14th November 2025
Offensive sprays (PAVA and CN added to scope)	13th - 14th November 2025
Explosives (2,4-DNT, 2,6-DNT, 3,4-DNT, ETN and TNT)	13th - 14th November 2025
Drugs (Addition of Clonazepam, Etizolam, Bromazepam)	13th - 14th November 2025
Drugs (GCMS upgrades- 8890 GC-MS)	13th - 14th November 2025

Table 5: Services accredited in our laboratory in 2025





05

Fit-for-purpose Environment



Fit-for-purpose Environment

2025 marked a definitive milestone for Forensic Science Ireland (FSI) as it celebrated its first full year of unified operations at the Backweston Laboratory Campus in Celbridge. With all services fully commissioned and the entire staff successfully transitioned to the new site, the laboratory has effectively entered a new era of forensic excellence.

FSI now operates out of a world-class facility that is widely regarded as one of the most advanced of its kind in Europe.

Designed to align with international best practices, our new facility provides a highly controlled environment for the recovery, processing, and storage of critical evidence. This state-of-the-art laboratory represents a significant strategic investment in the future of the Irish Criminal Justice system, ensuring that forensic investigations are underpinned by cutting-edge technology and optimised workflows for decades to come.

- **Operational Security and Integrity:**
Central to the facility is its configuration into four biometrically controlled wings (Photo A below). These incorporate advanced security protocols designed to safeguard our personnel and maintain the uncompromising integrity of sensitive exhibits.
- **Specialised Analysis Capabilities:**
Within the wings, we have established world-class clean room laboratories built to the most rigorous international standards for DNA and trace analysis. These sterile environments ensure total forensic integrity during the examination of complex evidence.
- **Professional Environment:**
Supporting these technical capabilities is a human-centric working environment housed within a beautiful, modern building designed to enhance staff well-being (Photos B and C below). By blending high-performance infrastructure with an inclusive, adaptable workspace, we have created an environment which supports staff well-being and long-term engagement.
- **Sustainability and Efficiency:**
Our commitment to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles is reflected in the building's construction. We have implemented a suite of energy-efficiency initiatives, including the integration of high-performance heat pumps, solar arrays, and coated glazing, all managed by advanced automated systems to minimise environmental impact.

Our laboratory reinforces our commitment to delivering justice through scientific excellence.

Photo A: Four biometrically controlled wings housing the DNA and Biological Analysis, Chemical Analysis and Physical Analysis Disciplines



Picture B: Canteen and social area

Picture C: Boardroom dedicated to Dr. Jim Donovan





06

Excellence through People



Excellence through People

FSI continues to build a diverse, inclusive, and integrated staff complement continuously improving services and promoting an open, collaborative and respectful climate across the organisation.

A sustained focus for FSI under this strategic theme includes staff wellbeing, ongoing staff recruitment, and training and development opportunities.

Recruitment of scientific, analytical, ICT and support staff remained a challenge for FSI during 2025. FSI hired 15 new staff in total over the course of the year, while there was staff turnover with departures due to retirements, career breaks, resignations, and movement to other roles through the Civil Service mobility programme. Additionally, some seconded Gardaí in the Fingerprint area returned to An Garda Síochána. There were eight promotional opportunities across all scientific and analytical grades in 2025. At the end of 2025, there was a net staff count of 202, compared to 211 at the end of 2024. Recruitment will remain a key focus for FSI in 2026.

Flexible working arrangements including flexitime, study-leave, job-sharing, term-time, shorter working year and parental leave are available to staff, as business needs allow. Some blended working is available in some areas.

FSI continues to have an active and committed Staff Development Group and a social committee focused on developing our staff professionally, creating a healthy work environment and working through changes collectively. FSI emphasises continuous staff development, which ensures that employees have the necessary skills to meet the dynamic needs of the laboratory.

All staff benefit from a structured training plan that addresses both technical and operational needs, including:

- Tailored training programs that align with specific roles within the laboratory, enabling staff to contribute effectively to the achievement of FSI Business plans and strategic objectives
- Continuous learning and skill development through internal and external training opportunities
- Experienced staff members provide coaching and mentoring to more recent staff

The Staff Development Group reviews and evaluates feedback from all organised courses. This ensures that training activities are effective and aligned with both personal development and organisational goals.

FSI staff completed and gave training in a wide range of courses, both in person and through online learning platforms. Some of these include Cyber Security, Data Protection, Phishing awareness, Understanding Self-Harm, Courtroom Skills, Expert Witness training, Customer Service, Manual Handling, Cardiac First response course with Naloxone administration, First Aid Responder, Fire warden training. Several staff completed technical training directly pertaining to their evidence area.

During 2025, over 50 staff members, including administrative and scientific personnel, have attended external national and international conferences. These events are instrumental in meeting the learning and development needs of staff, keeping them updated on changes and advancements in their areas.

In addition to staff directly participating in EAFS 2025 to give a presentation, workshop or chairing some of the parallel sessions at the conference, all staff were given the opportunity to attend the EAFS 2025 conference for one day.

In June 2025, FSI commemorated the late Dr. Jim Donovan, who died in February 2025. Dr. Donovan established Forensic Science Ireland in 1975 and was its first Director General. The boardroom in FSI was named in his honour as the Dr James Donovan Boardroom.

Minister O'Callaghan attended the official opening and paid a warm tribute to Dr. Donovan, and the event was attended by present and retired FSI staff who worked with him throughout his career in the laboratory.



Ms Mary Donovan (wife of the late Dr Jim Donovan), Minister O'Callaghan, and Acting Director General Dr Geraldine O'Donnell at the official opening of the Dr James Donovan Boardroom.

FSI marked the 50th anniversary of its foundation by holding an event for staff at The Royal Hospital Kilmainham in October 2025. The event celebrated the contribution of current and former staff to the development of forensic science services in Ireland. A commemorative booklet outlining the organisation's history and achievements was produced for attendees, and retired staff members were invited to attend the celebrations. There were presentations given by invited guests and former staff, and the event was addressed by Minister O'Callaghan.



Minister O'Callaghan with the FSI Directorate.

In 2025, members of the Staff Development Group further refined and expanded the Outreach Project. This involved representatives from all FSI disciplines collaborating to devise science experiments that can be run as a workshop for students, and in the community or library events. These experiments allow participants to collect evidence and interpret the results in an interactive setting. Time and financial resources were dedicated by FSI management to aid development of the project. To date over 50 FSI staff members have been trained in running the project, and it has been run for over 1,000 primary and secondary level children.

A formal mentoring programme was introduced in 2025 to support staff development and leadership capability within the organisation. The programme was aimed at

staff with less than five years' service and included 20 participants. Staff were paired with experienced mentors to support professional development, knowledge sharing and career guidance. A mentoring toolkit was developed and provided to both mentors and mentees to support the mentoring process. The toolkit included guidance on structuring meetings, goal setting and reflection on development objectives. Feedback from participants was very positive, with mentees reporting increased confidence and a better understanding of organisational processes and development opportunities.

The organisation has many interdepartmental teams which are made up of representatives from across the organisation and different grades. This cross collaboration helps these committees thrive. The Staff Development Group are responsible for driving the values of the organisation including organising the launch of our Values Charter with a different member of senior management sponsoring each value. FSI values charter has six key themes; Collaboration, Wellbeing, Integrity, Professionalism, Innovation, and Service Excellence. Wellbeing was a value championed in 2025, with a coffee morning held for staff, and a talk through of the wellbeing initiatives available to staff.



FSI staff at the 50th Anniversary event at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham.

FSI have a network of Peer supporters and Employee Assistance is available to all staff. A number of staff and peer supporters attended an 'Understanding Self Harm' training course held on campus. A representative from the Civil Service Employee Assistance Service (CSEAS) continued to be available to staff onsite monthly during 2025.

FSI participates in the 'Excellence Through People' programme (managed by the National Standards Authority of Ireland) and we maintained our Gold accreditation to ETP1000:2017 following our assessment in 2024. In 2025, we implemented many of the recommendations suggested by the assessor, and our next ETP assessment is scheduled to take place in early 2026.

Overall, the organisation aims to foster a culture where staff feel a sense of belonging, safe, empowered and encouraged to contribute new ideas that make a meaningful impact.



07

Corporate Governance



Corporate Governance

1

Introduction

The 'Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies' outlines that Corporate Governance comprises the systems and procedures by which organisations are directed, controlled and managed. State bodies should serve the interests of Government as shareholder, the taxpayer, and all other stakeholders, and pursue value for money in their endeavours, including managing risk appropriately. State bodies should act prudently, ethically and with transparency as public entities and should conduct their activities consistent with their statutory responsibilities.

As described in the document 'Corporate Governance Standard for the Civil Service', good governance is central to the effective operation of a State Body. It is vitally important in effectively discharging statutory and policy objectives. It ensures that a framework of structures, policies and processes are in place to deliver on these obligations, and it allows for an objective assessment of management and corporate performance.

2

Oversight Agreement

FSI is an Executive Agency of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (DoJHAM). It has an oversight agreement in place from 2023-2025 inclusive with the Department which is published on the Department's website. The scope of the agreement is as follows:

'This Oversight Agreement sets out the broad governance and accountability framework within which Forensic Science Ireland (FSI) operates, and defines the key roles, responsibilities and commitments that underpin its relationship with the Department of Justice ("the Department"). The Agreement has been drawn up by the Department in consultation with FSI, in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code of Practice"). It succeeds the previous Oversight Agreement 2023-2025 between the two parties, and will, in turn, be subject to a formal review approximately midway through its operation. A separate Performance Delivery Agreement ("PDA") is agreed annually under the governance architecture provided by this Oversight Agreement.'

3

Performance Delivery Agreement

As described above and as part of our governance practice, FSI agreed a Performance Delivery Agreement (PDA) for 2025. This Agreement is also published on the Department of Justice website. A summary of how FSI performed in its PDA for 2025 is outlined below.

FSI's PDA contains quantitative targets relating to forensic services and other targets. These are represented in Figures 24 and 25, respectively.

Figure 24: Quantitative targets: Capacity targets and % of targets achieved in 2025

Output area or initiative	Metric	2025 Target	Performance Yearly target
Chemical analysis	Complex drugs/ toxicology cases reported	6,200	5,682 (95% yearly target)
DNA & Biological Analysis	DNA & Biological Analysis Cases Reported	6,800	6,838 (100% yearly target)
Physical Analysis	Physical Analysis Cases Reported	6,139	4,835 (79% yearly target) ¹
DNA - Identifications	Missing person case investigations and body identifications	140+	168
DNA – Information sharing	Member States with active Prüm connectivity & exchange	17+	20
Turnaround time (TAT) for urgent drugs cases	100% Verbally reported within 24h ('A' Cases)	100%	100% (38 YTD)
TAT for body identifications (DNA)	90% Reported within 10 days (excludes bones)	90%	100% (146)
Case reports under service level agreement between FSI and An Garda Síochána	Total FSI cases reported	23,000	23,126

Figure 25: Qualitative targets

Output area or initiative	Target	Outcome
Decommissioning of GHQ site and return to AGS	Full decommissioning of GHQ site by Q1.	Achieved
Hosting the 2025 European Academy of Forensic Science (EAFS) Meeting in Dublin	Successfully host this prestigious meeting - ~1,300 delegates to attend – Q2 Concurrently, FSI will also host the Annual Meeting of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) – consisting of the Directors of all major forensic institutes across Europe and will also run an event for the public with the aim of raising awareness of Forensic Science in Ireland	Achieved
Enabling robust operational performance in new location	a. New Hamilton App (DASH) – transformative software developed jointly by FSI and DOJ ICT to be integrated into FSI, validated and accredited by the end of Q2 b. Introduce the first Criminal Justice Operational Hub solution into FSI to improve the visibility and prioritisation of cases in the system Q4 Enhanced performance in fingerprint searching because of the deployment of MBIS, the upgraded Fingerprint Searching Software.Q1	Achieved In progress FSI-AGS message exchange project consisting of two message exchanges between the organisations. Project currently at the design stage. Achieved
Accreditation	Accreditation to ISO:2017 17025 Quality Standard for all services in the new building (Q2)	Achieved
Climate, Sustainability and Corporate Responsibilities	My Green Lab' Certification to be attained by some teams within the laboratory by Q4 2025. The process will be incremental in nature	Achieved 'My Green Lab' Certification – awarded to DNA. The highest level "Green" was obtained. PAD and CAD applications are now in progress.

1 The Physical Analysis team was under resourced in 2025. There is an active recruitment programme underway in 2026 to address this.

4

Climate and Sustainability

The 'Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies' outlines that Corporate Governance comprises the systems and procedures by which organisations are directed, controlled and managed. State bodies should serve the interests of Government as shareholder, the taxpayer, and all other stakeholders, and pursue value for money in their endeavours, including managing risk appropriately. State bodies should act prudently, ethically and with transparency as public entities and should conduct their activities consistent with their statutory responsibilities.

As described in the document 'Corporate Governance Standard for the Civil Service', good governance is central to the effective operation of a State Body. It is vitally important in effectively discharging statutory and policy objectives. It ensures that a framework of structures, policies and processes are in place to deliver on these obligations, and it allows for an objective assessment of management and corporate performance.

Context and Background

FSI received the keys to its new state of the art building on the 3rd of July 2023. Due to the highly sensitive nature of the work undertaken by FSI, it took approx. 18 months (i.e. to the end of 2024) for all FSI staff, specialist equipment, criminal exhibits and specialist ancillaries to be transferred to the new FSI building. The transition to the new building was the main focus of the FSI Management Board during those 18 months. On this basis, the work of the FSI Green Team began in earnest in January 2025.

Climate Action Roadmaps

FSI published its 4th Climate Action Roadmap in 2025. FSI has completed many of the requirements of its 4 Roadmaps which is testament to the hard work and dedication of the FSI Green Team and those who have volunteered to assist the Green Team across FSI.

Achievements / Awards

In terms of achievements in 2025, FSI achieved / was awarded the following:

- Smarter Travel Mark by the National Transport Authority.
- Smarter Travel Partner status by the National Transport Authority.
- Green (the highest level) 'My Green Lab' Certification for the DNA Laboratories. Other Laboratories began their 'My Green Lab' journeys in 2025; and
- Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) Water Stewardship Certification.

SEAI M&R requirements

For SEAI M&R system requirements, FSI is required to provide the following in its Annual Report. FSI has not included this information in previous Annual Reports as 2025 was the first year that all staff, specialist equipment and criminal exhibits were in the new FSI building.

Emissions: In terms of 2030 Targets, FSI has consistently outlined that it will not meet its 2030 Energy and Emissions Targets. These Targets were set at a time where FSI had approx. 2.5 times less staff and 3.5 to 4 times less floorspace than it currently has. FSI is continually expanding to meet the increasing demands of the Criminal Justice system. However, FSI is aiming to have 'Net Zero' Emissions by 2050. To reach this important goal, baselines have been set for Emissions in 2025 with a view to reducing Emissions by 4% from the 2025 baselines, each year from 2026 to 2050. On the Energy side, a dedicated Energy Team was created in January 2026 to focus on reducing Energy use across FSI, as and where feasible.

Compliance with Circular 1/2020, offsetting Emissions associated with official Air Travel: FSI is an Agency of the Dept. of Justice. Official Air Travel is booked through the Department. FSI complies with Circular 1/2020 based on the returns made by the Dept. of Justice to the Dept. of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Implementation of the Mandate: FSI remains committed to the Climate Action Mandate, ensuring all operations align with the objectives outlined in our Annual Climate Action Roadmaps. By the end of 2025, FSI successfully addressed the following core requirements:

Governance and Leadership

- Climate and sustainability has been established as a fundamental pillar of the new FSI Strategy.
- All members of the FSI Management Board have completed comprehensive Climate Leadership training to ensure informed decision-making.
- The FSI Director of Corporate Services serves as the Climate and Sustainability Champion and Energy Performance Officer, representing these interests on the FSI Management Board.
- A dedicated Green Team, chaired by the Director of Corporate Services, is supported by staff volunteers who assist in executing Climate Roadmap requirements.
- A specialised Climate and Sustainability workshop was held in December 2025 to align internal stakeholders.

Energy and Performance Monitoring

- FSI maintained a robust Energy Management Programme, earning EcoMerit Environmental Certification for the period from March 2025 to January 2026.
- FSI consistently reports to the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system and has a building stock plan in place.
- FSI has been accepted into the OPW 'Optimising Power at Work' programme and is scheduled to join the SEAI 'Reduce Your Use' campaign in October 2026.

Sustainability Activities and Resource Management:

Waste Reduction and Circularity

- FSI has eliminated the use of disposable cups, plates, and cutlery. A detailed registry of essential single-use items is maintained and reviewed annually.
- Waste services are currently divided into three streams. A dedicated Waste Committee was formed in 2026 to enhance segregation across FSI, supported by a "two-bin" policy (General and Recycling) and the use of translucent bags to monitor compliance.
- Dedicated recycling infrastructure is in place for glass, batteries, printer toners, and the national Deposit Return Scheme.
- A Paper Committee, established in January 2026, is currently reviewing all paper-based processes to transition toward digital alternatives.

Water and Energy Conservation

- FSI monitors water usage and provides staff with water refill points and reusable bottles. Compostable cups have been phased out.
- Energy-saving measures include the installation of timers on boiling water units and strict policies regarding the full-loading of dishwashers and autoclaves.
- To reduce heating demand, staff are provided with fleeces, and kettles have been upgraded to insulated models to retain heat.
- FSI promotes the SEAI 'Reduce Your Use' guidelines, encouraging staff to limit shower times to five minutes.

Biodiversity and Environmental Impact

- FSI is currently implementing its first dedicated Biodiversity Action Plan.
- As a supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, FSI partnered with Wildacres Nature Reserve and Biodiversity Education Centre to sponsor and produce 10 "Bee Hotels" for solitary bees.
- FSI adheres to strict environmental protocols for the disposal of all refrigerated equipment and uses compostable bags for food waste.

5

Other Governance Items

FSI confirms its compliance with the relevant requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. In particular, FSI confirms that:

- **An Oversight Agreement** is in place with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and that, as a non- statutory body without a Board, FSI is compliant with the relevant requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
- There were no **Protected Disclosures** relevant to FSI in 2025.
- **Public Sector Duty Action Plan:** In 2024, FSI published a document in accordance with Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. The document outlines the human rights and equality issues of relevance to the functions and policies of FSI and outlines the actions to address these issues. A pre-existing cross-functional team within FSI, the Staff Development Group, has been tasked with implementing the actions identified for FSI.
- **Risk:** FSI has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the greatest extent possible, to mitigate those risks. A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing FSI and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance.
- **Financial Aspects:** FSI forms part of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration's Vote (Vote 24). As such, FSI is subject to the Public Financial Procedures, the Public Spending Code, and the Appropriation Account process. Every 24 months, FSI is subject to an Audit, including financial aspects, by the Department of Justice's Internal Control Unit. The most recent Audit commenced in January 2026.
- **Freedom of Information:** PART 1 of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 provides details of Partially Included Agencies under the Act. Forensic Science Ireland does not come under the auspices of the Act insofar as it relates to records concerning, or arising from, the forensic criminal investigation functions performed by FSI, including the analysis of specimens or in connection with an investigation being undertaken by the Gardaí or the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission and the approval, supply, testing and maintenance of apparatus and of equipment.
- **Data Protection:** In relation to the vast majority of FSI's work, where personal data is processed, it is processed for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences, or the execution of criminal penalties in the State, including the safeguarding against, and the prevention of threats to public security.

Consequently, the applicable Data Protection regime for the majority of the work of FSI is the Law Enforcement Directive (LED), which was transposed into Irish Law by Part 5 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

In some instances, such as for example, recruitment, internal HR and employment matters, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies to such processing of personal data.

Due to the highly sensitive nature of the Personal Data processed by FSI, FSI procures expert Data Protection advisers to assist FSI to comply with its Statutory Data Protection requirements.

- **Ethics:** Under the Ethics Acts, the FSI Directorate (i.e. the FSI Director General and the 5 FSI Directors) are required to complete Annual Ethics Returns.
- **FSI Quality System:** Due to the nature of the work that FSI engages in on behalf of the State and on behalf of the Criminal Justice system, FSI ensures that it has a Quality Procedures system in place to ensure that its work output is of the highest standard. FSI is accredited under the ISO 17025 (2017) standard. It is the policy of Forensic Science Ireland to achieve and maintain a high standard of quality and to carry out and report the results of its work in an objective manner using good professional practice. These Quality Procedures apply to all cases that FSI receives for analysis.
- **Audits:** FSI is regularly audited to ensure that it maintains the standards required for the Irish Criminal Justice system.

6

Statement of Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of Forensic Science Ireland, I, as Director General, acknowledge responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way. The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has been in place in Forensic Science Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Capacity to Handle Risk

Forensic Science Ireland reports on all audit matters to the Audit Committee in the Department of Justice. Forensic Science Ireland's senior management team acts as the Risk Committee for the body. Senior managers from Forensic Science Ireland completed a risk register in 2025 and shared the findings with the Department of Justice. The Internal Audit Unit of the Department of Justice carry out audits on financial and other controls in Forensic Science Ireland. Forensic Science Ireland's senior management team has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within Forensic Science Ireland's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

Risk and Control Framework

Forensic Science Ireland has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks. A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing Forensic Science Ireland and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the senior management team on a regular basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented;
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability;
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management;
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems, The ICT division of the Department of Justice provide Forensic Science Ireland with some ICT services. They have provided an assurance statement outlining the control processes in place;
- there are systems in place to safeguard Forensic Science Ireland's assets.
- The National Shared Services Office provide Human Resource and Payroll Shared services. The National Shared Services Office provide an annual assurance over the services provided. They are audited under the ISAE 3402 certification processes.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- Key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies;
- An audit of financial and other controls is carried out by the Department of Justice Internal Audit Unit every 2 years;
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned; and
- There are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts.

Procurement

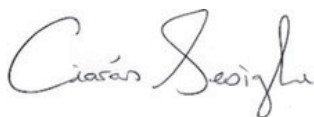
I confirm that Forensic Science Ireland has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2025 Forensic Science Ireland complied with those procedures.

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that Forensic Science Ireland has procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. Forensic Science Ireland's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit Committee, and the senior management team. The senior management within Forensic Science Ireland is responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal financial control framework. I confirm that Forensic Science Ireland conducts an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls every two years as part of FSI's management review processes. It should be noted that this extended beyond financial controls and examined ICT controls, management practices and other governance processes.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2025 that require disclosure.



Dr. Ciarán Seoighe
Director General
Forensic Science Ireland

08

Case Studies



Case Studies

1

Seizure of Cocaine from the MV Matthew

On 27th September 2023, the laboratory received a request for urgent analysis from An Garda Síochána. The previous day the Army Rangers had boarded a large cargo ship called the MV Matthew off the southeast coast of Ireland which had failed to stop. The ship was found to have a 'significant' number of packs of powder on board. Initially, several packs each containing white powder were submitted to the laboratory for analysis and in each case the powder was found to be cocaine.

In November 2023, two Drug Forensic Scientists attended a secure location where they were met by members of An Garda Síochána and Revenue's Custom Service to allow examination of the packs seized from the ship. On the advice of the Forensic Scientists, further packs each containing white powder were submitted to the laboratory. On analysis, the powder was found to contain cocaine. Overall, the laboratory reported a total of 2258 packs of powder which held a total estimated weight of 2264 kilograms.

In July 2025, eight men were jailed for between 13 and a half and 20 years for their involvement with the seizure found on the MV Matthew which is to date the largest seizure of cocaine the laboratory has reported.



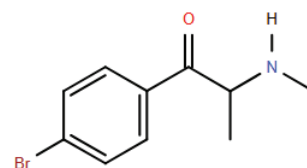
Photograph: An Garda Síochána/PA Wire

2

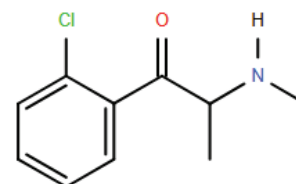
2025: A bumper year for new Cathinone detections in FSI

Cathinones are a class of stimulant drug, with cathinone itself being a naturally occurring compound found in the plant Khat. A wide range of lab-made synthetic cathinones exist, the majority of which are controlled under generic legislation in the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act 2015. In the previous decade, a number of 'Head Shops' would sell synthetic cathinones under the guise of 'bath salts' or 'plant food'. However, since the introduction of the legislation there has been a crackdown on the sale of these substances, resulting in the closure of Head Shops. Despite this, novel synthetic cathinones emerge every year; this report lists the synthetic cathinones first seen in FSI in 2025.

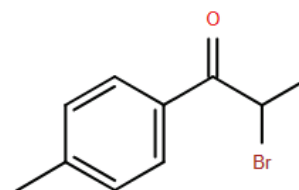
A white crystalline substance was seized and 4-Bromomethcathinone (4-BMC) was detected.



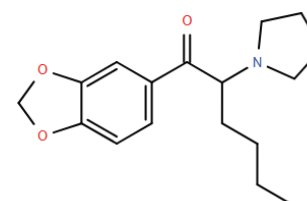
2-Chloromethcathinone (2-CMC) was detected in a beige crystalline substance.



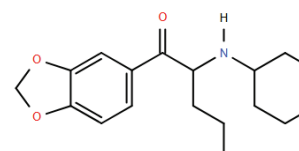
A white powder was indicated to contain 2-bromo-4-methyl methylpropiofenone. This compound is a precursor to the synthesis of 4-methylmethcathinone.



A light brown powder was found to contain 3,4-Methylenedioxy- α -pyrrolidinohexanophenone (MDPHP). The structure of this compound was confirmed by benchtop Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy.



A single 'XANAX' tablet was submitted to the lab, N-cyclohexylpentylone was detected. This substance is not controlled under the Misuses of Drugs Act.

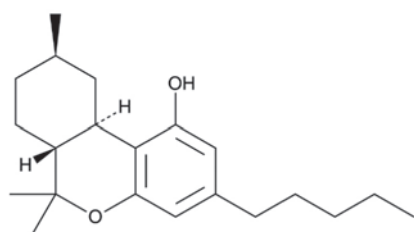


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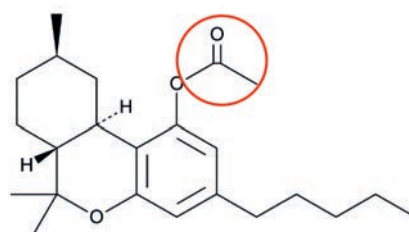
'Cannabis' products - the Wild West of the Drug Marketplace continues...

Cannabis and related cannabinoid products accounted for 35% of all drugs cases analysed by FSI in 2025. In FSI's Annual Report 2023, we reported on the emergence of a diverse range of consumer products - including jelly sweets, chocolate preparations, vape liquids, and oils containing a wide variety of synthetic cannabinoids. We also reported the emergence of a novel semi-synthetic hexahydrocannabinol (HHC), perceived as a substitute for the controlled drug tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), within this drug market.

By 2025, the landscape of semi-synthetic cannabinoids has evolved significantly, becoming increasingly complex. In August 2025, HHC was scheduled as a controlled drug under Ireland's Misuse of Drugs Acts. Despite this regulatory action, throughout 2025 forensic drug analysis by FSI's drugs scientists identified a growing number of HHC analogues in plant material, resin, vape products and edible items. These analogues circumvent the Irish Misuse of Drugs legislation. Notable examples include hexahydrocannabiphorol (HHCP), hexahydrocannabinol acetate (HHC-O) and hexahydrocannabiphorol acetate (HHCP-O).



Hexahydrocannabinol (HHC)



Hexahydrocannabinol acetate (HHC-O)

Figure 26: HHC vs. HHC-O, modified by the addition of an acetyl group

An additional analogue, hexahydrocannabinol-C8 (HHC-C8) - characterised by an extended alkyl side chain of eight carbons rather than the five carbons seen in HHC - was identified within a brown substance. This compound was subsequently isolated and purified and its structure elucidated using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) in collaboration with scientists at Trinity College Dublin (TCD). The resulting analytical data from FSI and TCD was sent to the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA), resulting in the first reported identification of this substance in Europe.



Approx 4cm

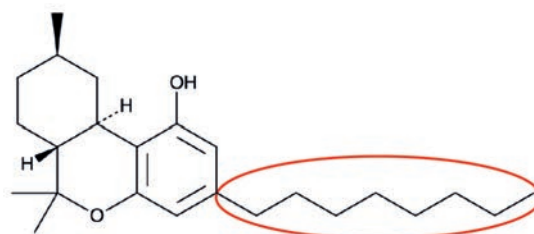


Figure 27: HHC-C8 was isolated and purified from this resinous material. The modified alkyl side chain of eight carbons is shown circled in red.

Further complexity arises in "hemp-style" cannabis products i.e. cannabidiol (CBD), cannabis and cannabis resin. Throughout 2025, there have been several FSI drug case reports involving these cannabis products adulterated with synthetic cannabinoids such as EDMB-4en-PINACA, ADB-4en-PINACA and MDMB-PINACA. These synthetic cannabinoids also circumvent Irish drugs legislation. In many instances, these cannabis products are also found to contain the above HHC analogues or other semi-synthetic cannabinoids such as tetrahydrocannabidiol (H4-CBD), compounding both analytical and regulatory challenges.

4

DNA evidence helped to secure a conviction in an Armed Robbery

An armed robbery occurred at a shop in Rathfarnham, Dublin in October 2023. CCTV showed a staff member working behind the till at the shop when two individuals wearing motorcycle helmets and gloves with their faces covered entered the shop and threatened the staff member with a hammer. The two individuals left the scene on a motorbike. Items including motorbike helmets similar to those seen on the CCTV, two balaclavas and a pair of gloves were later found discarded in the Phoenix Park in Dublin.

Two motorbike helmets, two balaclavas and a pair of gloves were submitted to Forensic Science Ireland for examination. A DNA reference sample was submitted for comparison purposes.

Matching DNA profiles were obtained from samples taken from one of the balaclavas and from the pair gloves. These DNA profiles matched the reference DNA profile submitted for comparison purposes.

The DNA evidence was contested at a pre-trial hearing in May 2025. In October 2025 an individual went on trial for armed robbery at the Circuit Court in Dublin with DNA evidence presented in court by a forensic scientist from FSI. Following the trial the individual was found guilty of armed robbery and was sentenced to 6.5 years in prison.

5

Blood Pattern Analysis, Fingerprint and DNA helped secure a conviction in the murder of Shane Knott

Shane Knott was found deceased in April 2024 in the rear garden of a residence in Naas, Co. Kildare. His body exhibited significant blunt force trauma and had been concealed. Bloodstaining was present within the living room of the residence, including on the walls and ceiling. An FSI Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (BPA) expert attended the scene to assist the investigation. Significant bloodstain patterns were identified in the living room, enabling the reconstruction of key aspects of the fatal assault. FSI further supported the investigation through Case Conferences with An Garda Síochána and extensive laboratory-based examinations, involving three separate DNA teams and the Fingerprint Analysis team. This work included DNA-based relationship testing, which assisted in the formal identification of the deceased. In addition, a DNA profile, matching Shane Knott was obtained from bloodstaining inside a rucksack associated with the suspect, Padraig Delaney. At trial, an FSI scientist attended over a three-day period, presenting key findings from both the scene examination and laboratory analysis. A defence scientist also presented evidence at trial. Padraig Delaney was convicted of the murder of Shane Knott and sentenced to life imprisonment in May 2025.



6

Lisa Thompson murder

Lisa Thompson was found deceased at her home in Dublin in May 2022. A post-mortem examination established that Lisa Thompson had died from a combination of ligature strangulation and multiple stab wounds. Brian McHugh was a suspect in this case. A window blind cord, believed to have been used in the fatal assault, was among items examined at FSI. Forensic analysis found DNA matching both Lisa Thompson and Brian McHugh on the window blind cord. Fingerprint examinations and a DNA Database search carried out at FSI also formed part of the investigative work. In February 2025, a forensic scientist from FSI presented the DNA findings, including those from the window blind cord, at the trial of Brian McHugh before the Central Criminal Court. A Fingerprint expert from FSI also presented evidence at this murder trial. Brian McHugh was subsequently convicted of the murder of Lisa Thompson and sentenced to life imprisonment.

7

Fatal Assault of Robert Wilkin in July 2023

A body recovered from the sea at Sliabh Liag, Co. Donegal in July 2023 was identified as Robert Wilkin through fingerprint comparison and DNA familial testing conducted by FSI. The death was deemed suspicious, with investigators believing Robert Wilkin had been assaulted in a vehicle prior to his arrival at the cliff location. FSI supported the investigation with extensive laboratory-based examinations. Key exhibits examined included an interior roof covering and a section of car seat from a suspect vehicle, as well as a rock recovered from the cliff edge. Examinations included Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (BPA), hair examination, and DNA profiling. The roof covering and section of car seat displayed extensive bloodstaining, from which DNA profiles matching Robert Wilkin were obtained. The rock was heavily bloodstained and human hairs were present, with DNA profiles from both the blood and hairs also matching Robert Wilkin. The case proceeded to trial in January 2025, where Alan Vial and Nikita Burns pleaded not guilty. Following a two-month trial, during which several FSI scientists gave evidence, the jury returned majority guilty verdicts. Both individuals were subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment.

8

Sexual Assault investigation

After a night socialising with her friends a woman wrapped herself in a blanket and went to sleep on her friend's couch. She woke up in pain, her friend's partner was there and said "I'm sorry" before leaving the room. The accused said he was only socialising with the woman and denied having any sexual contact with her.

Forensic scientists in FSI examined several exhibits including, underwear from the victim, underwear from the accused, and the victim's sexual offences examination kit. DNA matching the victim was found on the inside front of the accused's underwear. Semen was detected on several of the intimate swabs recovered from the victim.

The findings were reported as providing strong support that the accused had sexual contact with the victim, rather than he had social contact only with her. On the day the trial was due to begin the accused pled guilty. He was sentenced to eight years, reduced to seven to take account of the guilty plea. The strength of the forensic evidence in this case played a key role in the accused's decision to change his plea with the Judge in the case saying that the guilty plea was "compelled by the force of the independent corroboration".

9

DNA cluster cases aided by the National DNA Database

Between March and July 2025, four unlawful takings occurred across Cork. In October 2025, a DNA sample taken from a suspect was uploaded onto the DNA database and matched to this cluster of stains.

A second cluster of stains from seven cases (unauthorised taking, criminal damage, theft and robbery with a knife) that occurred in Dublin between September 2024 and March 2025 were resolved when a DNA sample taken from a convicted offender was uploaded onto the DNA database in 2025.

10

Prüm power across Europe

The Prüm treaty involves cross-border cooperation by means of exchanging judicial and police information and by providing mutual assistance. FSI began sharing with Romania, Lithuania and Czechia in 2025. The following are examples where crime stain profiles generated in cases in Ireland, matched to a person's profile in these countries.

A report issued by a FSI scientist in 2021 indicated that an unknown DNA profile was obtained from a glove recovered from a suspected grow house. Following intercountry exchange, the DNA profile found on the glove matched a person on the Lithuanian national database.

A report issued by a FSI scientist in 2025 indicated that an unknown DNA profile was obtained from a bottle left at the scene of a burglary. After DNA from the bottle was shared internationally, it matched a profile in the Czechia's database.

A report issued by a FSI scientist in 2022 indicated that an unknown profile was obtained from an axe taken to a scene. Following the intercountry exchange, the DNA profile from swabs of the axe was found to match the DNA profile of a person on the database in Romania.

11

Possession of an improvised device; a pipe bomb

In April 2024, a male was observed acting suspiciously in bushes and when approached by Gardaí discarded a backpack and fled the scene. The backpack and contents were examined, and a suspected pipe bomb device was found along with tools, gloves, masks and a bottle of liquid.

The pipe bomb was made safe and a sample of material was submitted to FSI along with the backpack and contents to help determine if explosives were present, what liquid was contained in the bottle and if any DNA or Fingerprints linking a suspect to the items was found.

An explosive was detected in the device and the bottle was found to contain water. Insufficient DNA or Fingerprints were found on the items tested.

Two days into the trial at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court the suspect in this case pleaded guilty to one count of possessing an explosive device in Finglas. The suspect was sentenced to six years for possession of an improvised pipe bomb.

12

Historic Listowel Castle Damaged in Hit and Run incident

In May 2023 damage to historic pillars of Listowel Castle was caused by a vehicle that was the subject of an unauthorised taking and later involved in a hit and run collision. During the incident the rear window of the vehicle was smashed, and the driver fled the scene.

Following the collision, a man suspected of being the driver of the stolen vehicle, was located nearby. His clothing included a red hooded top and black tracksuit bottoms. This clothing, as well as samples of glass from the broken rear window of the car were submitted to FSI for glass comparison analysis. The driver's car seat cover was submitted to FSI for Fibre analysis. Both were submitted to help address the issue of whether or not this person was involved in the collision.

The red hooded top and black tracksuit bottoms were examined, and glass fragments were recovered. A proportion of the glass recovered from his clothing was examined and compared to the control glass sample from the rear window. However, none of the glass sampled matched the glass from the rear window of the car.

A search of the driver's side car seat cover for fibres yielded twenty red cotton fibres matching the red cotton fibres of the suspects red hooded top and seven black cotton fibres matching the black cotton fibres of the suspects black tracksuit bottoms. The fibre results offered strong support that the suspect was in the driver's seat of the motorcar rather than he was not. The recovery of glass not matching the rear window is not an unexpected result in this case.

Following the trial the judge made very favourable comments regarding the States prosecution, culminating in the evidence of the "Forensic Scientist tying everything up and making it a Prima Facie Case".



13

Juvenile caught in possession of a petrol bomb

A juvenile was observed with a suspected petrol bomb by members of An Garda Síochána when on patrol in response to tensions arising out of a feud in the local area. The youth discarded the petrol bomb causing it to break into pieces and when the scene was searched a second intact device was found. The second device was made from a glass drinks bottle containing a clear yellow liquid with tissue paper stuffed at the neck. A photo of the device was provided to FSI from investigating Gardaí. Liquid from the intact device and tissue paper from the broken device were submitted to FSI for analysis for the presence of hydrocarbon fire accelerants, such as petrol or diesel oil. These substances are ignitable liquids and can be used as an accelerant to start or accelerate the intensity of a fire. The tests showed that petrol was present in both samples. In this report the Forensic Scientist was able to comment that a petrol bomb would comprise a flammable liquid in a glass bottle with fabric at the neck to act as a wick. This was unusual as typically, FSI receive only components of petrol bombs. The scientist gave evidence in court and the juvenile was charged with Possession of Explosives. The youth was prosecuted and given the benefit of the probations act under the promise that he was not to reoffend.



Photo source: An Garda Síochána.

14

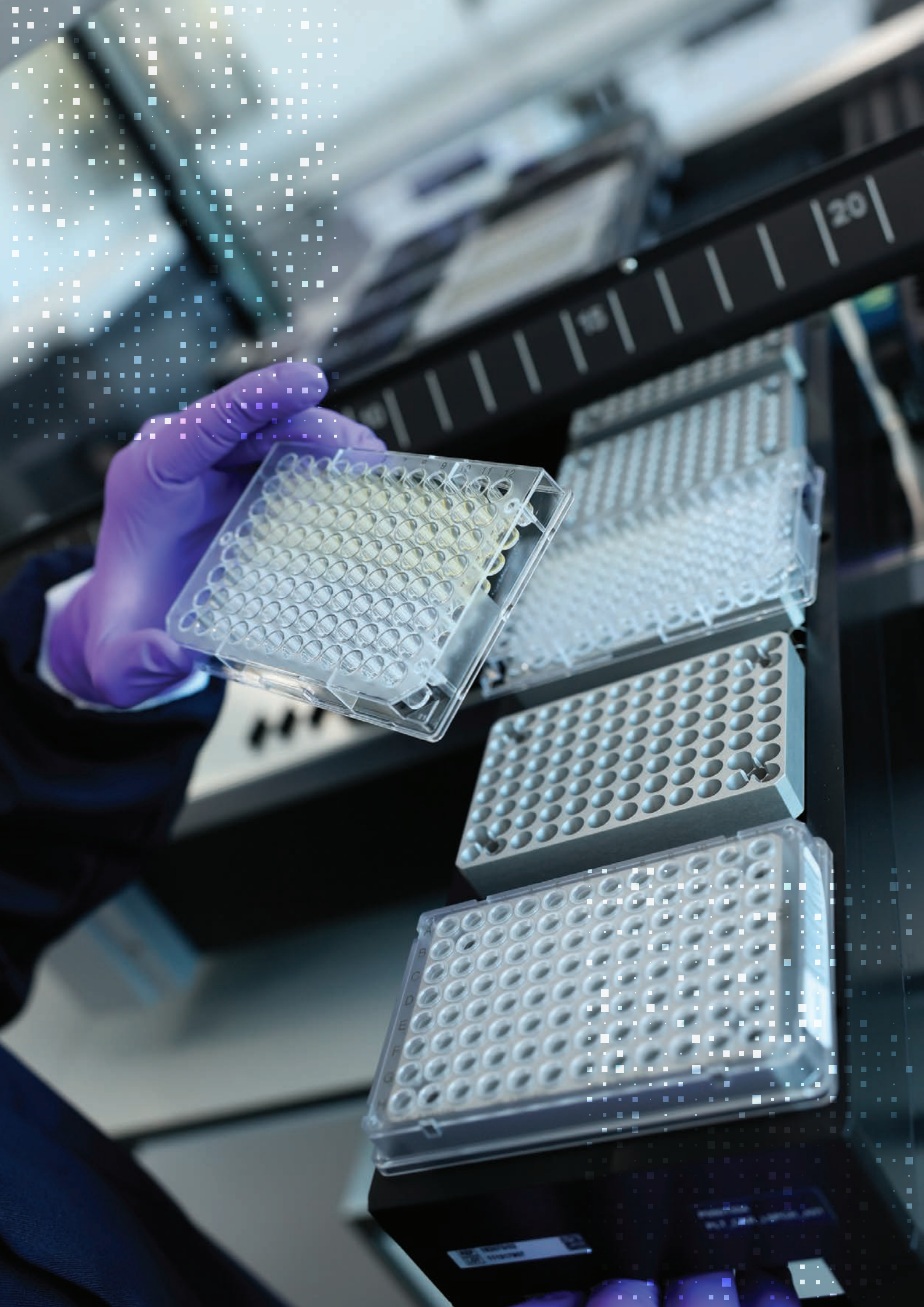
False Imprisonment and torture of a female by a group of men

This case is an example of drug debt related violence and intimidation.

A woman was abducted and taken to a flat, over a false accusation about missing drugs. She was beaten around the head and body with metal poles, burned, cut with a knife, kicked and punched, had her hair cut off and was threatened with rape.

Gardaí arrived at the residence to execute a search warrant in relation to a different offence and came upon the scene of the distressed woman in the presence of a group of men. In total, over 60 items were submitted to FSI for examination for the presence of blood staining, accelerants, DNA and fingerprints. Among the results obtained, bloodstaining was found on an item recovered from the scene. The DNA profile obtained from the blood staining matched the woman and fingerprints matching one suspect were also found on the item. Petrol was also detected at the scene.

At trial, five of the men present in the flat entered guilty pleas to false imprisonment and assault causing harm.



Appendix



Oral presentations by at EAFS 2025 by FSI staff

The evolution of designer benzodiazepines and related novel psychoactive substances (NPS) in seized tablets in Ireland 2019-2024.

Jan Carroll

Enhancing Forensic Services Through LIMS Transforming Forensic Science Ireland's support for the Irish Criminal Justice System with advanced analytics and automation.

Dr Hilton McWeeney

Addressing court room interpretation and communication challenges with Toxicology reports issued by Forensic Science Ireland.

Lynn Moynihan

The Decommissioning of a Forensic Science Laboratory.

Marce Lee- Gorman

Evaluation of cases of alleged sexual assault at Forensic Science Ireland: Formulating issues, hypotheses, scientific strategy and expectations.

Dr. Charlotte Murphy

Glass on Implements Suspected of Involvement in Breaking Crimes and those of the General Population.

Shonagh Masterson

Frequency of Gunshot Residue Types Encountered in Casework and Background GSR Levels in the Environment.

Michelle Boyle

Leveraging the DNA database to find the missing-An Irish experience.

Dr Linda Williams

EEO, The Elephant in the lab?

Annette Forde, Charlotte Murphy, Amanda Lennon
Male Underwear – The forgotten item in cases of alleged sexual assault?

Dr Lorna Flanagan

Environmentally Conscious Latent Mark Development – Changes Made and Green Ground Gained.

Dr Niall Ó Claonadh

Exploring the Return Rate of Fingerprint Development from Live Exhibits.

Dr Craig Mullen

Interesting Quantification Presentations from Forensic Science Ireland.

Sarah Hanniffy

The Validation and Implementation of a New Automated Fingerprint Identification System in Forensic Science Ireland.

Dr Kim Connick

Guidelines for the optimal recovery of biological material from airbags deployed in road traffic collisions for DNA profiling.

Dr. Loretta Breslin

The Identification of Harry Gleeson.

Dr Stephen Clifford

Internal validation of a high throughput targeted Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) sequencing system for kinship analysis of unidentified human remains from a mass grave.

Kristen O'Connor

The tale of nitazenes in Ireland – as told by Forensic Science Ireland.

Dr. Sarah Killoran

The forensic science aspect of an Irish gangland feud with an international dimension.

Dr. Alan Magee

Implementation of a Large-Scale DNA Identification Program associated with a Mass Grave at a Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway.

Kristen O'Connor

Workshops contributions at EAFS 2025 by FSI staff

Evaluation of cases of alleged sexual assault at Forensic Science Ireland: Formulating issues, hypotheses, scientific strategy and expectations.

M. Breathnach, C. Murphy, P. Kelly, R. Mahony

Forensic Seized Drug Analysis: Current Analytical and Legislative Challenges Posed by Novel Cannabinoids.

S. O'Malley, D. Casey, C. May, G. McLaughlin

Preparation for the Fundamental Forensic Knowledge Examination (WP2-UNLCOCK- Certain- FORS).

Y.O'Dowd

Poster Presentations by FSI staff at EAFS 2025

How a combination of forensic techniques helped secure a conviction at the Ashling Murphy murder trial in November 2023.

K. Connick, L. Flanagan, J. Hoade, D. Carroll, A. Slevin

Close to the source: A practical and standardised approach to successful validation for fingerprint development techniques.

S. Doherty, N. Ó Claonadh, E. Walsh, B. Gaynor

Is there a pattern to fingerprint patterns? A study of the fingerprint pattern classifications of the Irish National Fingerprint Database.

C. Doherty, K. Connick, A. Power, A. Slevin.

Minutiae, the devil is in the detail – an analysis of the distribution of minutiae counts on the Irish National Fingerprint Database.

A. Downes, K. Connick, A. Power, A. Slevin

Trends in adulterants and quantification of diamorphine in Ireland 2020-2024.

B. Fajinmi, S. O'Malley, W. Farrell, M. Gilligan, S. Hanniffy, R. Fagan, D. Casey, M. Larkin, V. Pitakpoolsin, M. McDonagh, G. Mercado, S. Murray

Development of a semi-quantitation screening method for rapid determination of low-level cocaine concentrations in casework using a weighed qualitative sample.

K.J. Flanagan, S. Killoran, S. Hanniffy, R. Fagan, L. Speranza

Investigating both the visual appearance and ability to analytically detect compounds following simulated “spiking” of different beverages with a range of drugs.

L. Moynihan, S. Killoran, B. Gibson, K. Murtagh

The detection of five synthetic cannabinoids in a single drug seizure of plant material; ADB-BUTINACA, ADB-INACA, ADB-4en-PINACA, MDMB-BUTINACA and MDMB-4en-PINACA.

M. Gilligan, G. Mercado

Behind The Scenes: a history of case intake services in Ireland and the transition to digitalization.

E. Heneghan, C. Jones, J. Doyle, M. Lee-Gorman

Evaluating the evidence – Case studies in Forensic Science Ireland.

P. Kelly, C. Murphy

Minor Components in Cannabinoid Preparations.

S. Kirk, R. Kennedy

Detection of N-pyrrolidinyl-3,4-DMA, ADB-D-5Br-INACA and ADB-FUBIATA in multiple powder items, from one seizure.

F. Kivlehan

Design and development of a DNA Application for Sample Handling (DASH).

C.S. Lee, M. Wright, C. Burke, H. Clarke

Does the quality and quantity of captured finger marks improve with experience? An investigation into in-house training of fingerprint examiners.

F. McGrath, C. Mullen, B. Gaynor

Immersive engagement with Forensic Science: The Great Gallery Heist Workshop.

J. Loftus, C. May, R. Dunwoody, S. Soper Ní Chafraidh, S. Fleming, A. Izquierdo, A. Browne, K. Connick

A snapshot of drugs seized at Music Festivals in Ireland 2022 to 2024.

A. McHugh-Moran, K. Murtagh, K.J. Flanagan, S. Martyn, D.G. Casey

The detection of nitazenes in forensic casework samples at Forensic Science Ireland between 2022 and 2024.

G. McLaughlin, C. Donnelly, C. McNamee, J. Moran, R. Fagan, J. Casey, A. McHugh-Moran, K. Murtagh, A. O'Donnell

First detection of the alprazolam analogue 4'-chloro deschloroalprazolam in Europe.

C. McNamee, C. May, G. McLaughlin

Science Supporting Justice: The Role of Case Intake Services in Forensic Science Ireland – The trends, patterns and life cycle of exhibits through the laboratory.

G. O'Daly, E. Devitt, L. McDonnell, T. Linnie

Lying in Wait – the increase in reverse hits following the launch of a new AFIS in Fingerprints.

A. Power, K. Connick, A. Slevin

The cocaine wave – trends in Ireland from 2020 to 2024.

L. Speranza, K.J. Flanagan, F. Kivlehan, S. Killoran, S. Hanniffy, C. Donnelly, G. O'Neill, R. Fagan, C. McNamee, M. Nevin, A. McHugh-Moran

Enhancing Competency Management in the Fingerprint Visualisation Lab.

E.J. Walsh, S. Doherty, B. Gaynor

Reeling in the years – A study of the trends in fingerprint tenprint submissions to the Irish Fingerprint Database from 2007 – 2024.

G. Walsh, K. Connick, A. Power, A. Slevin

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