



VICTORIA POLICE
Forensic Services Department

Turnaround times and backlogs for Forensic Units

This report was produced on 01/10/20 and is current until 31/12/20 and will be reissued every 3 months.

Definitions:

- **Turnaround time (TAT)** is the time to provide a report from the receipt of the case at VPFSD, (not from the date of offence or date of arrest),
- The **backlog** is the number of cases not yet reported,
- A **report** may be a Statement, Certificate or Forensic Report. A Forensic Report outlines the results obtained from the examination of items without complex statistics that would be in a Statement: the intent is to assist the judicial system reach early resolution.

The times are indicative only and exceptions can be made. However, any exception that is given priority may have an impact on timeframes for other cases in the system.

	Priority/turnaround times
Crime Scene Group	<p>Major Crime Scene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case reports are prioritised to meet brief deadlines. Currently 90% completed on time. • Backlog - 65 cases <p>Ballistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT – 2.5 months, prioritised to meet brief deadlines • Backlog - 221 cases
Fingerprint Sciences Group	<p>Laboratory Casework (FSG attended):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT (by priority) Major crime – 4.5 days Serious crime – 25 days Non-complex crime – 20 days • Backlog– 81 <p>High Volume Crime (e.g. Burglary, Theft from Motor Vehicle etc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT – 1.15 days • Backlog- 56 <p>Fingerprint reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Fingerprint results are initially reported via a Fingerprint Identification report, which is suitable for mention or committal proceedings.) • Contested matters or Trials may require a statement – TAT 12 weeks

Biological Sciences Group	<p>The following information is for DNA, blood pattern analysis and other biological examinations.</p> <p>Case summary reports are generally provided for cases prior to committal specific TAT's are detailed below.</p> <p>Sexual offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a suspect has been charged – case summary report- TAT generally within 10 weeks • Sexual offence cases that involve a child complainant or if the complainant is mentally impaired, a case summary report – TAT generally within 6 weeks. • Preliminary report of presence of spermatozoa from medical kits is provided by email to police – TAT within 48 hours. <p>Child in Custody cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case summary reports - TAT generally within 6 weeks. <p>Urgent investigative cases (community safety etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT - 1 week. <p>Statements for biological sciences cases: Contested committals and trials may require a statement which will be prioritised in consultation with the OPP using the Priority List – TAT 12 weeks</p> <p>Other biological sciences cases, not volume crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If cases are not on the Priority List, TAT of up to 8 months <p>Backlog total for all above cases: 654</p> <p>Volume Crime (burglary, theft from motor vehicles etc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average TAT - 16 days. • Backlog - 253 cases <p>Reference samples/Convicted Offender samples for upload to national DNA database:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT - 4.7 days Backlog - 2389 Note: 1908 items are awaiting clarification or forms to be sent in via member – current FSD policy prevents items from being analysed until this is received.
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Drug Sciences Group	<p>Cannabis and opium poppies (Botany counter):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT – generally within 2-3 weeks from date of examination by Botanist • Backlog - 0 cases • Cannabis and opium poppies are not examined prior to Mention Court unless fresh plants or destruction desired for large quantity or deteriorating plant material. <p>Cannabis Statement of yield (% of usable material) or plant age estimate: A yield or plant age estimate statement is only provided if requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT - statement is provided in time for Committal (if request received at least 6 weeks prior) <p>Botanical trace exhibits from crime cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT - 8 months • Backlog – 25 cases <p>Clandestine Laboratory Mention Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT - 8 weeks (for preliminary analysis results) • Statement produced upon request for cases listed for a hearing <p>Clandestine Laboratory Committal Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT - 5 to 8 months depending on case complexity, determined at the case conference with OPP/Drug Sciences Group/Clandestine Laboratories Squad/Informant. • Backlog – 19 cases (1343 items) <p>Drug analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT - 3 months • Backlog - 81 cases
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<p>Chemical & Physical Sciences Group</p>	<p>Chemical Trace (glass, paint, fibres etc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT investigative - 3 months • TAT evidential - 5 months • Backlog - 59 cases <p>Gunshot Residue (GSR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT preliminary report - 3 months • TAT urgent preliminary report - 1 month (e.g. hand samples from suspect; requires consultation with case manager): • TAT Statement investigative - 6 months • Statement evidential - 6 months • Backlog - 42 cases <p>Fire and explosions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT - 14 days • Backlog - 65 cases <p>Vehicle Examination Unit (stolen vehicle identity examinations):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT Preliminary Report – 3 weeks • TAT Investigative Report – 3 months • TAT Evidential Report - 4 to 5 months • Backlog - 62 Cases
<p>Digital Sciences Group</p>	<p>Audio visual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT (urgent) – 1 to 3 months • TAT (routine) – 6 to 10 months • Backlog – 95 cases <p>Document Examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAT (urgent) – 1 to 3 months • TAT (routine) – 6 to 9 months • Average TAT of handwriting / signature cases – 140 days • Average TAT of other document cases – 62 days • Backlog – 62 cases

For enquiries contact VPFSD on 9450 3444.