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Geological Society of London (GSL), Forensic Geoscience Group (FGG); the first 10 years and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG); the first 5 years

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2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of GSL-FGG and the 5th anniversary of IUGS-IFG. This paper explores some of the advances made in forensic geology over the past decade or more. FGG is the youngest of GSL 24 Specialist Groups and Associations, and was established during the bi-centennial year of GSL, on 20th December 2006. Although the origins of forensic geology can be traced to the nineteenth century, until the establishment of FGG there was no formal, professional group or organisation aimed at representing the interests of geologists who work with the police and law enforcement. In 2002, following a presentation and discussion on forensic geology, as part of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Science, held at Westminster Palace, House of Commons, U.K. [1], this led to the idea for a professional 'forensic geology group' to be set up and for the sharing of experiences and strategies. It was envisaged this could provide opportunities for the advancement of the applications of forensic geology. FGG was launched four years later [2]. The applications of geology to policing and law enforcement extend world-wide. As such, in 2009, IUGS established a 'Working Group' on Forensic Geology as part of the Commission on Geosciences for Environmental Management (GEM) [3]. This was subsequently elevated to the status of an IUGS 'Initiative'. IUGS-IFG was officially launched during the 62nd Executive Committee Meeting of the IUGS, which was held at UNESCO headquarters, in Paris, France, on 22nd February 2011 [4]. The aim, was to develop forensic geology globally and promote its applications. As part of IUGS-IFG, the Geoforensic International Network (GIN) was set up to represent the interest of forensic geologists and now has members from approximately 35 countries. GSL-FGG and IUGS-IFG have delivered numerous outreach events to audiences that includes; school children, the public, universities, co-professionals, engineers, geologists, scientists, police and law enforcement. Knowledge transfer, capacity building and training events have been provided for a number of international federal police forces and law enforcement agencies throughout Europe, South America, Africa, Middle East, Russia and CIS, Asia and Australia. GSL-FGG and IUGS-IFG have also encouraged, teaching and research in forensic geology at school, B.Sc, M.Sc and Ph.D levels, and in policing and numerous publications [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], [10]. Importantly, GSL-FGG and IUGS-IFG have supported operational investigations including searching the ground for burials related to homicide, organised crime and terrorism and provide of expert advice cases involving geological trace evidence associated with criminal and environmental crimes.

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