

CRFP's submission to the Forensic Science Regulator's Review of the optimal national approach to the registration of forensic practitioners

19 August 2008

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1. Executive summary

- 1.1 CRFP welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Forensic Science Regulator's Review.

Background

- 1.2 The Forensic Science Working Group (FSWG), chaired by Lord Jack Lewis, produced a Report in November 1997. This recommended that an independent registration council for forensic practitioners was necessary to secure the confidence of the Courts and the public in the competence of forensic practitioners.¹
- 1.3 Consequently, the Government, with full cross-party support, established CRFP in September 1999 in the form of a company limited by guarantee, with a Memorandum and Articles of Association which provided for a Governing Council, an Executive Board and Sector Assessment Panels, which consider applications from specialties for admission to the register. CRFP has operated on this basis since that date, with progressive constitutional changes made in 2006 to bring the organisation into line with current regulatory practice and corporate best practice. Constitutional arrangements for regulatory bodies are under renewed focus and CRFP maintains a watching brief on these matters, which are subject to on-going review.

Current status

- 1.4 CRFP is acknowledged and accepted as the dominant player in the field of forensic regulation of individuals. No other organisation has the expertise or facilities properly to accredit on an on-going basis the increasing number of forensic specialties² and the anticipated continuing developmental growth in this sector.
- 1.5 Projections of the rate of growth in the number of practitioners registered made initially by the FSWG in 1997, and subsequently by KPMG in May 2004, were unrealistic. This was partly because the original estimates of potential applicants were optimistically overstated. However, the fundamental factor is that the system is voluntary and not mandatory.³

¹ Relevant sections in the Report are marked by footnotes.

² Currently nearly 30; listed in Annex A.

³ The term 'mandatory' can refer to a statutory requirement or registration imposed as a condition of employment by employers, or as a procedural expectation of Courts and other users, which would depend on the cultural underpinning and sanctions available.

- 1.6 The forensic landscape has become more complex and has acquired a more international perspective since the FSWG Report was compiled.

Current potential

- 1.7 The original rationale for the creation of CRFP remains as relevant and important today. The introduction of the Human Rights Act 1998 enshrined in domestic law the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The body of case law from this Act has led to a cultural expectation in society of the need for a professional body that is independent of the Government, police and Judiciary. Scientific developments over time have led to an increased reliance upon forensic evidence in securing justice both for victims of crime and those charged with offences, as well as in the arena of civil cases. The Courts and the public need to have confidence in the competence and quality of forensic practitioners, knowing that their skills and expertise are properly accredited and assessed on an on-going basis to ensure they remain current. Recent media-reported controversies, in regard to concerns about evidence presented by certain individual practitioners, have led to disproportionate costs being incurred by Government bodies in reviewing thousands of cases, as well as potential costs of compensation in regard to miscarriages of justice. Each reported controversy undermines the confidence of the public in the justice of the Courts, Tribunals and in other regulatory systems.
- 1.8 To prevent potential conflicts of interest there is a need to continue the current separation between CRFP, which deals with regulation, and those professional membership bodies whose primary aim is to promote the interests of their members. To secure public confidence in the criminal and civil judicial systems, it is CRFP's firm view that it should be retained as the overarching regulatory body for all forensic practitioners and be provided with adequate resources to do so. It may well be that in the future, professional membership bodies whose main focus is to promote the interests of their members may amalgamate to maximise the utility of their resources.
- 1.9 This submission paper presents an evidence-based case to the Review of the proven value provided by CRFP registration in its role as the main independent accreditation organisation for forensic practitioners. It is possible that other bodies might seek to fulfil this role through open competition, although this could be financially and culturally counter-productive, and is not in the best interests of Government or the public. The function of regulation of forensic practitioners in this important field requires a clear and sufficient independence from Governmental bodies and the police, whilst delivering a valuable public service which operates in the best interests of the judicial process thereby securing the confidence of the public.
- 1.10 It is accepted there is an unequivocal need for a single body to oversee regulation and to agree strategy and implement policies based on best practice principles, operating under a set of transparent systems to disseminate the purposes and processes to the Courts and the public, with a line of accountability to Parliament.

Responsiveness

- 1.11 CRFP currently continues to meet the majority of these requirements and has quality as a core value. The original business model and projections envisaged by the FSWG Report require review and remodelling. CRFP is currently reviewing its objectives, strategies and processes and welcomes input from the Regulator, Ministers and other stakeholders to inform its future business plan for the services required. CRFP is 'fit for purpose' in regard to this proposed new regulation model, which would encompass not only the UK but also European and other international interests to present a global forensic service.

- 1.12 The development of a replacement or additional body to take over CRFP's functions would be otiose and incur very significant and unnecessary costs. Indeed CRFP suggests that such a proposal, were it to be made, would be perverse. CRFP is well placed to progress the work required, in consultation with the Regulator and stakeholders, and to forge a new future for the regulation of all forensic practitioners.
- 1.13 CRFP aims, ultimately, to register all forensic practitioners through a simple, uniform accreditation scheme. This will be either direct registration in the UK domestic market or through a formal system of 'equivalence' for international practitioners.⁴ For those specialties not currently encompassed by the register, mechanisms will be introduced to guide enquirers to other relevant and CRFP-endorsed lists.
- 1.14 In particular, the CRFP system should continue to apply to personnel involved in police organisations, thereby endorsing the independence and credibility of police witnesses required to adhere to Convention rights by the Judiciary and to provide public confidence. Some police forces have independent quality validation, and whilst CRFP notes that this step acknowledges the need for external audit of police performance, it maintains that the existing CRFP registration system provides the overarching uniform approach preferred by the Courts. This enables a known value to be attributed to the accreditation claimed by the individual.
- 1.15 CRFP will continue to contribute to external developments in standard-setting in the forensic arena and will embrace those which are of sufficient quality to enhance the service it provides.
- 1.16 CRFP is reviewing its current constitutional basis to ensure it is best suited to continue to deliver a registration and regulation service in the longer term. CRFP is consulting with stakeholders and will enter into dialogue with partners involved in the judicial systems, particularly the Regulator and Ministers, to make any necessary adjustments to facilitate this. This includes consideration of a change of constitution to a Non-Departmental Public Body. CRFP undertakes to scope, consult and act on recommendations for the future governance structure of CRFP, which will ensure it continues to serve the needs of all its stakeholders. CRFP will preserve the high quality of its current governance system, with a Board comprising lay and professional members, whose appropriateness for public office is evidenced by the combination of excellent experience and professional qualifications, appointed through open competition, as well as those members nominated by the Lord Chancellor, the Home Office and other key stakeholders.⁵

Public funding

- 1.17 In order to continue to provide the level of service to the forensic community for which CRFP is valued, appropriate levels of public funding based on a more realistic business model and projections will be required. The obligations placed on CRFP through its use of public funds, and the Government's commitment to such regulation, will engender a positive culture within the forensic profession and the diverse community it serves. The interests of all stakeholders will be served through this important and effective use of public funds.
- 1.18 CRFP feels that the current funding route, via the NPIA, may be unhelpful in terms of the public perception and will take advice on the appropriate source of future funding.
- 1.19 Key to the quantum of such funding is the need for a clear steer by Ministers and the Regulator on future government policy in this field of forensic regulation. It is envisaged that three registration scenarios could be considered which would inform future permanent funding arrangements:

⁴ Similar to that operated by the General Medical Council in relation to EEA doctors.

⁵ A list of current Board members is given at Annex C

- statutory registration;
- registration as a condition of employment or practice in this field;
- voluntary registration.

1.20 It is evident that provisions for interim funding arrangements will need to be agreed until the findings and recommendations of the Regulator are submitted and Ministerial decisions are implemented.

2. CRFP – facts and figures

2.1 CRFP has:

- 2730 individual registrants, some of whom are registered in more than one specialty. On average over 30 forensic practitioners join the register each month.⁶
- registrants who are revalidating after four years on the register;
- opened its register to 26 specialties⁷ ranging from small ones like archaeology (registrants were involved in the recent excavations at Haut de la Garenne, Jersey), through the scientific specialties (registrants gave key evidence in the cases of Harold Shipman and Barry George), and large specialties (including scene examination, which has over 1200 registrants);
- a Code of Conduct which was adopted by Interpol in relation to fingerprint examination soon after its evolution;
- appropriate and effective fitness to practise procedures. There are currently no fewer than eight cases in the system. It is anticipated that this number will rise significantly in the event of the introduction of mandatory registration;
- a website which allows stakeholders and the public full access to its policies, practices and register.

2.2 The CRFP assessment system:

- has over 250 specialty and lead assessors, who are respected experts in their fields;
- has process verifiers appointed by the Lord Chancellor, to whom CRFP is accountable.
- is robust, being focused on recent case-work as well as taking into account qualifications, training, references, and good standing;
- provides for annual returns, and revalidation after four years;
- has the capacity to ascertain competence in court performance through the references and court competency assessment forms;
- encompasses the registration of single practitioners and small companies as well as large providers;

⁶ The take-up of registration across the specialties is shown in the pie-chart at Annex B.

⁷ Soon to be 29, with more to follow; see Annex A.

- encompasses those who give evidence for the defence as well as those working for the prosecution;
 - extends over the whole forensic process from crime scene to court, including appeals;
 - covers the civil and family Courts as well as the criminal justice system. Although the initial focus was on the criminal justice system, many CRFP registrants, for example, veterinary surgeons, work in the civil and criminal Courts. The FSWG concluded that in terms of forensic practitioners presenting evidence in court there was no distinction to be drawn between the criminal and civil processes, despite the differing standards of proof.⁸ The Report also maintained that distinctions between the application of forensic science in the civil and criminal forums are blurred.⁹
- 2.3 The Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales and his colleagues prefer a registration system which encompasses the civil and family Courts as well as the criminal Courts.
- 2.4 CRFP provides the independent verification required by the Judiciary, users of forensic services and the public. The Judiciary needs to be able to rely on registration to provide judges with the confidence that the forensic practitioner appearing before them has high standards of professional conduct, has been recently assessed by their own professional peer group, and adheres to agreed national standards.
- 2.5 Even where the internal quality management systems of employers operate to a high standard, they are not infallible. A number of serving police officers have failed the CRFP assessment; and have been provided with support and advice to remedy the situation. Even if this had not been the case, the perception of the Judiciary and the public as to CRFP's independence is compelling.

3. Developments in the forensic landscape

- 3.1 Since CRFP was established, the forensic landscape in relation to the protection of standards has become more sophisticated. Complementing the work undertaken by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service, there now exists:
- a Ministry of Justice. CRFP is accountable to the Lord Chancellor who appoints the process verifiers for the assessment process;
 - a National Policing Improvement Agency. CRFP's grant in aid is currently received from the Home Office via the NPIA. The Chief Executive of the NPIA is the Home Office's representative on the CRFP Board;
 - Skills for Justice. CRFP is working with Skills for Justice to align the National Occupational Standards more closely with the CRFP criteria and to gain accreditation for the CRFP assessor training programme;
 - a Forensic Science Regulator. In the Regulator's threefold jurisdiction, namely organisations, processes and individuals, CRFP is the designated body for the regulation of practitioners. CRFP is represented on the Regulator's Advisory Council and appropriate Specialist Groups.

⁸ Page 6 (1.24)

⁹ Page vii (Chapter 2 Diversity of the Sector)

3.2 CRFP acknowledges the significant and valued contribution to the establishment and maintenance of high forensic standards by the organisations in 3.1 above. In respect of those organisations concerned directly with the standards of competence of individual practitioners, the CRFP system provides a complementary approach, essential for the protection of the integrity of the justice system. However the complexity of the forensic landscape requires streamlining and CRFP is of the view that rationalisation is required to create a unified system where users and the public are afforded clarity of understanding and reliance on the integrity and consistency of such a unified system.

4. Is a registration body needed?

- 4.1 A registration system for forensic practitioners will always be required for the same reasons cited by the FSWG in 1997. The Courts and the public require a clear and transparent way of establishing forensic competence to retain faith in the justice system and to better manage the risk of miscarriages of justice.¹⁰ There is a fundamental need to ensure that the credentials of expert witnesses are checked in a transparent and authoritative manner.¹¹
- 4.2 There are three ways of securing a conviction – by confession, witness testimony and forensic evidence. The first and second methods are increasingly subject to challenge through the appeals Courts; correspondingly there is an ever-increasing reliance on the apparent objectivity of forensic evidence in securing justice.
- 4.3 The public are increasingly aware of the importance and crucial nature of forensic evidence in securing justice. However, popular media coverage (such as the plethora of TV programmes on the subject) appears to have fuelled a misplaced belief that forensic science is flawless. Conversely however, the news media highlight the controversies of wrongly executed forensic evidence. This reflects the need for, and importance of, a robust, transparent system of regulation such as that provided by CRFP, as well as the need for a didactic and proactive approach to manage public expectations.

Distinguish regulation and representation

4.4 CRFP believes it is essential clearly to distinguish the conflicting roles of regulatory and membership/professional bodies, as referred to earlier in section 1.8. The FSWG Report identified this divide.¹² Two years ago, the Law Society and Bar Council lost their powers to investigate complaints against lawyers and barristers, separating out that function from their representative role. The Pharmaceutical Society is currently similarly separating these functions, to ensure there is no potential conflict of interest, and CRFP expects that other organisations will follow. With CRFP clearly constituted as and seen to be, the regulatory body in forensic practice, this separation of functions in forensic science is already achieved. Indeed CRFP is seen as the 'kite mark' of excellence in the regulatory field.

5. Does CRFP add value?

5.1 CRFP has operated for nearly nine years. It has the experience, systems and expertise to set national strategy on and systems for the registration of forensic practitioners. Furthermore, it is the body established for this purpose, with cross-party support, by the Government.

¹⁰ Stephen Lawrence, Damilola Taylor

¹¹ Gene Morrison

¹² Page vii (Chapter 3 Consultation Process)

5.2 The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Ken MacDonald QC, said

I believe the establishment of the CRFP will be in the coming years a valuable asset to the criminal justice system. The continued development of the CRFP, both in terms of the service provided and the expanding membership is very welcome. The CPS has a public duty to ensure appropriate witnesses are able to give their evidence in accordance with their area of expertise as well as their duty to the court. Your work in this field clearly has the scope to contribute to the maintenance of appropriate standards amongst the forensic science community.¹³

6. Should the CRFP register be the first port of call?

6.1 In practice:

- some specialties do not have a register or professional regulatory body of their own and welcome the opportunity to set and maintain standards through the CRFP system; they include the forensic anthropologists who worked on the sites of war massacres/genocide to collect evidence for use in the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.
- certain practitioners have dual registration, for example, doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons, podiatrists and radiographers, with their own professional body, and with CRFP in respect of their forensic work. Their CRFP registration complements their mainstream professional registration. CRFP already has a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Medical Council and is working towards a similarly-functional exchange of letters with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The co-operation will function primarily in the fitness to practise arena. CRFP argues that its capacity to assess court-related matters, by building the assessment of forensic performance into the assessment system and soliciting independent forensic opinions to enhance the information available in a particular fitness to practise case where necessary, exceeds that of many of the other statutory bodies.
- where there is a robust external registration scheme for individuals which is of the same standard as the CRFP assessment scheme, for example, the one being developed for forensic accountancy, CRFP will consider a system of equivalence. CRFP will not contemplate a lowering of its standards in any circumstances.
- where a list of forensic practitioners is held by another organisation, those practitioners should be encouraged to apply for CRFP registration and the other lists closed down. Examples in this category include the ACPO National Register of Police and Government Department Fingerprint Experts and the Register of Accredited Forensic Pathologists. Indeed many practitioners on other lists are already CRFP registered.

6.2 CRFP believes that the distinction which is sometimes made between 'forensic practitioners' and 'experts' is arbitrary, imprecise and unhelpful. For instance, when does a general practitioner who provides occasional services as a forensic medical examiner (the new name for police surgeons) cease to be a 'forensic practitioner' and become an 'expert'? The CRFP system provides that any professional who is involved in providing evidence to court – so long as there is sufficient casework on which to assess competence – is potentially capable of registration.

¹³ Letter to CRFP dated 13 July 2006

7. Should registration be mandatory?

The attitude of the Courts

- 7.1 The FSWG Report suggested that the attitude of the Courts would play a crucial part in determining the credibility of a voluntary register.¹⁴ It is CRFP's firm view that judges must have the freedom to call any evidence they deem to be appropriate to any case.
- 7.2 In particular, the Judiciary has argued its wish to take evidence from practitioners working in very small and also in emerging specialties. CRFP deals with this by using the model it has devised for Natural Science practitioners, in which the specialty assessors are drawn from mainstream science specialties and take further advice from experts in universities where necessary.
- 7.3 Courts may wish to accept evidence from practitioners overseas. This is currently met by CRFP registering practitioners working overseas, and can be extended to those working overseas who visit the UK for short periods.

Voluntary system insufficient

- 7.4 The FSWG Report recognised that an entirely voluntary system rather than a mandatory system might not be sufficient. This has proved to be the case; the rate of growth of the register has fallen short of the projections in the Report. This purely voluntary basis is the main reason why the CRFP model, which is intrinsically sound, has not been able to deliver fully to the scale originally envisaged.
- 7.5 The FSWG suggested that the creation of a statutory basis for its activities should not be ruled out.¹⁵ Any such legislation would however take some time to progress and implement.
- 7.6 It is currently and increasingly the case that for certain large employers, registration is effectively mandatory, being required of new recruits and in the context of achieving promotion.
- 7.7 CRFP sees the Judiciary as the vital determinant in underlining the value of CRFP registration. It was always the intention that registration should be a tool for the Courts in securing justice. CRFP has made, and continues to make, considerable efforts to raise its profile within the Judiciary, having run judicial road shows and provided briefings to individual judges and relevant bodies. Recently CRFP has met and communicated with the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales, Lord Justice Leveson, and his colleagues. They have indicated that the Judiciary would welcome clarity in identifying the forensic competence of witnesses. CRFP has provided the evidence that CRFP registration should be the vehicle for this.

8 Can CRFP adapt to a new environment?

Constitutional issues

- 8.1 CRFP is currently a company limited by guarantee, following the recommendation in the FSWG Report. To ensure that the legal status of CRFP remains fit for purpose in the rapidly expanding and developing field of forensic science, the Board is considering many options including whether:

¹⁴ Page vii (Chapter 3 Consultation Process)

¹⁵ Page 35 (6.19, paragraph 5)

- to remain a limited company;
- to apply to be a charity (in addition to being a limited company);
- to seek to become an NDPB;
- some other future model might be appropriate, for example, that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

CRFP is open to suggestions from its many stakeholders, including Government, as to the best governance arrangements to serve its core business, and is ready to respond to signals from others. Such proposals will be subject to scrutiny and due process before adoption.

8.2 The Board of CRFP is reviewing the constitution, size and membership of the governing body.

Partnerships

8.3 CRFP is actively looking to maximise the saliency of existing and future relationships with stakeholders:

- Skills for Justice (SfJ) is introducing National Occupational Standards (NOS). For existing specialties, the CRFP criteria for assessment of specialties can be readily brought into line with the NOS; indeed there is considerable consonance as they were devised by the same advisers. For new specialties, the NOS will usefully inform the CRFP criteria.
- The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) has authority for the operation of the international standard ISO 17024; 'Conformity assessment – general requirement for bodies operating certification of persons'. Preliminary examination of the standard suggests that CRFP is already reaching compliance in terms of governance, management and procedures.
- SfJ and UKAS will also have a role in the accreditation of CRFP assessor training.
- Larger employers have their own internal quality assurance systems. The CRFP system of accrediting the competency of individuals complements these by providing an objective audit, as required by the public and the Judiciary. CRFP has already conducted two rounds of on-site assessments and is working with the Scottish Police Service Authority to extend this approach widely across the forensic science specialties in Scotland.

CRFP has been approached to administer external competency testing, but is of the opinion that there may be some conflict of interest.

Including all those involved in the production and articulation of forensic evidence

8.4 The FSWG Report mentioned its support for the view that the new body should encompass the whole of the forensic process.¹⁶

- More recently, the report by Professor Caddy on the Damilola Taylor case suggested that CRFP registration might cover forensic assistants. CRFP has had preliminary discussions with the Forensic Regulator and is working to devise an appropriate extension to the scheme for these practitioners;

¹⁶ Page 5 (1.21)

- CRFP is also giving active consideration to extending a form of registration to trainees, i.e. those who are qualified but not yet fully experienced in forensic work. This would provide the opportunity for new entrants to forensic work to be subject to the jurisdiction of the CRFP Code of Conduct in anticipation of progression to full registration;
- The CRFP scheme already caters for forensic managers in crime scene investigation who have some direct involvement in case-work. The registration of other managers and specialised staff, such as trainers, could form a natural extension to the CRFP scheme.

The Law Commission consultation document

- 8.5 An important consultation document from the Law Commission will be issued in January 2009. Should this result in substantial changes in the way the Courts vet forensic evidence, CRFP will seek to enact the necessary changes in the application of its assessment system.

Europe and visiting specialists

- 8.6 There is an increasing emphasis on harmonisation of standards across Europe. This arises from developments in the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, and implementation of the PRUM Treaty, together with a regulation which will provide a legal framework for the provision of accreditation services. It is not yet ascertainable whether Europe will settle on a system of standard-setting based on organisations or individuals: however, the Netherlands, seen as a leader, is introducing state registration of individual practitioners.
- 8.7 Following the successful drive to increase take-up in Northern Ireland, CRFP is pursuing the extension of registration south of the border to Eire.
- 8.8 Similarly, CRFP has recently engaged in constructive discussions with representatives of the Armed Forces which have forensic staff in all the overseas bases and war zones.

9. Business considerations

Operations

- 9.1 The CRFP executive currently comprises a Chief Executive and four full time members of staff.¹⁷ There is some additional support from two part-time consultants and from Board members. CRFP has a cadre of no fewer than 250 experienced assessors and process verifiers. Overall, there is extensive, in-depth expertise incorporated in the current CRFP organisation and in its operation. Further, in line with best practice in corporate governance it has always had an independent Chairman, who leads the Board. It also runs Committees to the Board which are in line with best practice. All its practices and policies are published openly on its website and regularly explained to practitioners via newsletters and other forms of information exchange.

Finance

- 9.2 The Home Office provided start up funding with the intention that the organisation might become self-sufficient as fee income rose. The absence of a mandatory system has required the continuation of Home Office funding. The current grant in aid is currently paid by the Home Office through the NPIA. The amount receivable for the current

¹⁷ See Annex C (below list of current Board members)

financial year is small, and is due to reduce further in 2009-2010 and to cease in March 2010.

- 9.3 To continue to operate efficiently with the increased number of new applicants which would occur following the introduction of mandatory registration (in whatever form this takes), CRFP would need to employ additional processing staff. Covering these costs by increasing the registration fee (currently £165 per annum) is not recommended until a sensitivity and feasibility study is carried out. CRFP is considering an increase in the fee for registration in an additional specialty, since the current fee of £25 does not cover the administrative costs. There may be a period between the currently diminishing grant in aid and the inflow of increased funding from increased registrant numbers when the financial situation will require further small scale external support.
- 9.4 If the registration system is extended in breadth to all those involved in the forensic process, as discussed earlier in section 8.4, the necessary research and development study will have to be undertaken, which will need to be costed.
- 9.5 Currently the cost of the fitness to practise work is contained in the overall annual budget. Like all other regulators, CRFP cannot predict the number and complexity of the cases which will arise in any given period, but the Board remains confident of its ability to continue to deal with them. It is expected that a move towards a mandatory system will result in a significant increase in the amount of this work, since it has tended to be the case that those who may be borderline in terms of forensic competency have deliberately chosen to remain outside the registration system.
- 9.6 CRFP intends to prepare a detailed business plan to cover these, and any other developments. It proposes developing its draft strategic plan to cover the period 2009-2012.
- 9.7 CRFP feels that the current funding route, via the NPIA, may be unhelpful in terms of the public perception. It is for decision whether the source of continued funding should be from the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice or another source.
- 9.8 CRFP would welcome engagement in a debate as to whether any registration body should be totally self-financing. The FSWG Report uses the words *virtually self-financing*.¹⁸ Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, a former member of CRFP's Governing Council, has expressed the view that bodies acting in the public interest should retain an element of public funding for reasons of accountability. Consequently, a desire to see CRFP independent of all public funding may well be entirely misconceived.
- 9.9 In considering the costs of providing a public service it is necessary to take into account the costs which would have fallen on the public purse if the service had not been available. It is impossible to quantify the legal as well as the human costs arising from miscarriages of justice, but both are considerable. Whilst no system of registration can remove entirely such occurrences, the Judiciary and the public are assured and will continue to be assured by the presence of the tested and reliable model of CRFP in this arena.

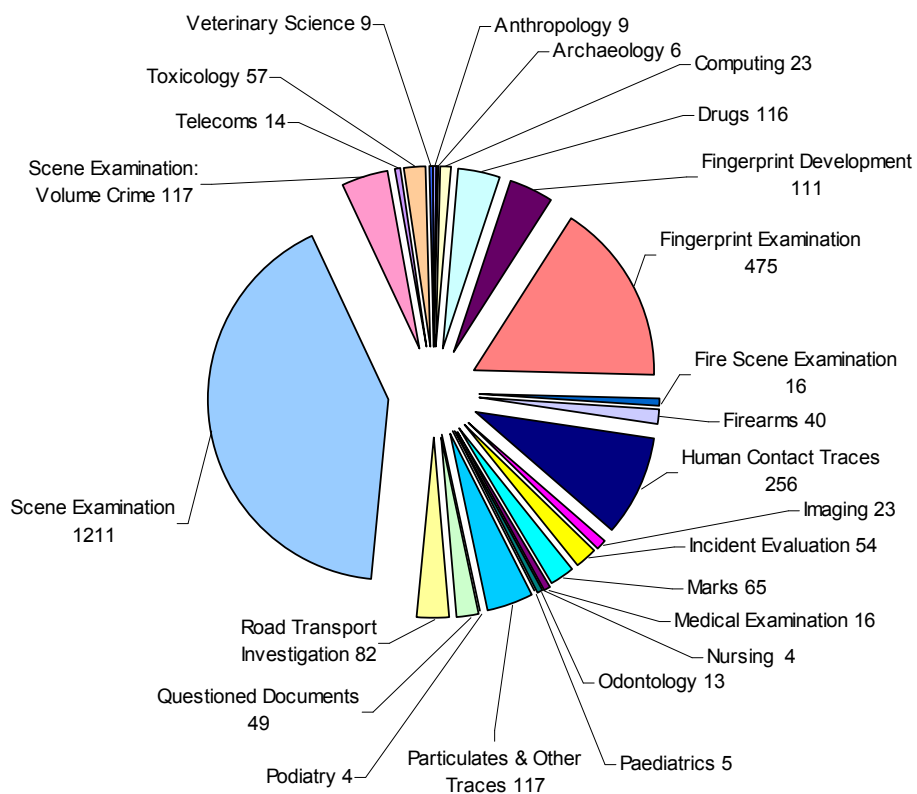
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¹⁸ Page vii (Chapter 6 Recommendation: A Registration Council for Forensic Practitioners)

List of forensic specialties to which the CRFP register is currently (as at 19 August 2008) open

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Audio examination and phonetics (from 1 September 2008)
- Computing
- Drugs
- Fingerprint development
- Fingerprint examination
- Fire scene examination
- Firearms
- Human contact traces
- Imaging
- Incident evaluation
- Linguistics (from 1 September 2008)
- Marks
- Medical examination
- Natural science : earth science, including geology and pedology; entomology; environmental science; hydrology; marine science; meteorology; plant science, including botany, palynology and taphonomy (from 1 September 2008)
- Nursing
- Odontology
- Paediatrics
- Particulates and other traces
- Podiatry
- Questioned documents
- Radiography
- Road transport investigation
- Scene examination
- Telecoms
- Toxicology
- Veterinary science
- Volume crime scene examination

Take-up of registration across the specialties



The Register Total - 2892

Note: The figures show the number of registrants per specialty. Some practitioners are registered in more than one specialty; as at 14 August 2008, there were 2730 practitioners on the register.

Current Board members of CRFP

Professor David Croisdale-Appleby JP, Acting Chairman
 Professor at the Wolfson Research Institute; at the School of Medicine & Health, University of Durham, and at the Durham Business School.

Mr Sean Doyle
 Principal Scientist, DSTL Forensic Explosives Laboratory: appointed in consultation with the Association of Forensic Science Providers.

Mr Tristram Elmhirst
 Head of Forensic Services, West Mercia Constabulary: appointed to chair the Incident Investigation Sector Assessment Panel

Judge Kyrie James
 Judge of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, Parole Board for England and Wales: appointed lay member

Mr Edward Lord JP
 Non-Executive Chairman, Public Private Partnerships Programme; Non-Executive Deputy Chairman, Whittington Hospital NHS Trust; and a Member of the City of London Corporation: appointed lay member

Ms Angela McNab
 Director of Public Health Performance & Delivery, Department of Health: appointed lay member

Mr Hew Mathewson
 Dentist, currently President of the General Dental Council and a Member of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence: appointed lay member

Mr Nick Mitchell
 Head of Scenes of Crime, Leicestershire Constabulary: elected by fellow practitioners

Dr Chris Moynehan
 GSR Lead Scientist, LGC Forensics: elected by fellow practitioners

Mr David Mulhern QPM
 Chief Executive, Scottish Police Services Authority: nominated by the Crown Agent of Scotland

Mr Peter Neyroud QPM
 Chief Executive, National Policing Improvement Agency: appointed by the Minister of State at the Home Office

Mr Chris Sims OBE
 Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police: nominated by ACPO/ACPOS

HH Judge Zoe Smith
 Resident Judge, Reading Crown Court: nominated by the Lord Chancellor

Professor Wesley Vernon
 Head of Podiatry Services, Sheffield PCT: appointed professional member

Dr Suzy Walton
 Public interest advocate; Former Senior Civil Servant, Cabinet Office: appointed lay member

CRFP Executive

Dr Kate Horne, Acting Chief Executive
Professional regulator, previously with the General Medical Council and Royal College of Physicians

Mr Josh Bramall, Assessor Support Officer

Mr Terence Dourado, Registration Officer

Mr Andreas Heiner, Systems Officer

Ms Ynes Taylor, Administration Manager

Part-time consultants

Mr Mike Allen, Developmental Projects Consultant

Mr Freddie Hall OBE QGM DL, Representative for Northern Ireland

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