

## Newsletter

### Message from the Regulator

I am sure that you will know that my terms of office in the posts of Forensic Science Regulator and Surveillance Camera Commissioner came to an end in February 2014. A new Surveillance Camera Commissioner has now been appointed, and the deadline for applications to the [advert](#) to recruit a new Forensic Science Regulator is 24 March 2014, with a view to the Secretary of State for the Home Department agreeing a new appointment in May.

The Secretary of State has asked that I continue in the role of Regulator on a part-time basis until the new Regulator is able to start. I have also started in a new part-time role as a Commissioner with the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Please note that emails sent directly to me or addressed for my attention will be held over until I am able to deal with them. My officials already handle a lot of cases and issues referred to me, so it would be expedient if you address the majority of queries and issues to the general mailbox, [FSREnquiries@homeoffice.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:FSREnquiries@homeoffice.qsi.gov.uk). That way the issue can be progressed while I am unavailable, and my staff will make me aware of issues or ask for final decisions from me as required.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support during the interim period and I look forward to briefing the newly appointed Regulator before I finally depart.

**Andrew Rennison**

## Quality Managers Conference

The Regulator's conference aimed primarily at quality managers was well attended with almost 190 delegates from the police service, independent forensic science providers and invited stakeholders.

The previous conference focused upon quality standards for fingerprint comparison, this year's conference widened the scope with general quality management and fingerprint standards run as parallel breakout sessions.

The majority of the presentations are available on the Regulator's website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/forensic-science-regulators-conference-2014>

The afternoon plenary was largely oral, however His Honor Judge Andrew Goymer has made a transcript available. Below is the summary agenda with available material.

Morning plenary	
Welcome	June Guinness OBE
Australian Standards Framework	Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde
DNA contamination - a global issue	Dr Ingo Bastisch
A review: forensic quality standards framework	Andrew Rennison
Quality Standards	Jonathan Vaughan

Breakout session 1		Chair: Gary Pugh OBE
Manual of Fingermark Enhancement	Dr Helen Bandy	
Validation or Verification?	Kenny Laing	
Fingermark Enhancement Validation and Beyond	Robert Bone	
Fingerprint Comparison Standard Considerations	Gary Pugh /June Guinness	

Breakout session 2		Chair: Dr. Roger King
Review of quality failures	Simon Iveson	
Can a wrong be made right?	Martin Hanly	
Data Integrity for the National DNA Database with DNA-17	Adam Shariff	
Managing quality failings and moving to a mature quality model	Andrew Rennison	
Route to Innovation: Awareness, Communication, Partnership	Ali Anjomshaa	
Archaeology Standard	Robert Janaway	

Afternoon plenary	
The court dependence on the quality of forensic science	HHJ Andrew Goymer

## Accreditation deadlines

The Regulator was involved in the negotiation of the EU decision on accreditation and incorporates those deadlines into his Codes as they were entirely in keeping with the advice on standards he was giving to the Home Secretary. These requirements remain the Regulator's requirements; the deadlines were published in the 2011 edition of the Codes of Practice and Conduct.

Available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/forensic-science-providers-codes-of-practice-and-conduct>

The Regulator is considering new categories for the accreditation requirements section of the Codes to be published in summer 2014. The Codes are only expected to contain minor amendments; although advice is currently being sought from police leads as well as ensuring they keep pace with Criminal Procedure Rules.

## Editorial Notes

To assist with future communications could you please ensure we have the latest key person contact details for your organisation.

Comments are welcomed by the Forensic Science Regulation Unit:

[FSREnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FSREnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS NEWSLETTER TO COLLEAGUES**

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