



Forensic Science Regulator

Forensic Science Advisory Council (FSAC)

Note of the meeting held on 05 December 2022 in London and online via videoconference

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. The Regulator welcomed the group. Attendance is recorded in annex A.

2. Update from the Regulator

- 2.1. The Regulator shared a presentation on the Code covering the expected timelines for the Code passing through parliament, the fact that this will mean all elements of the Act will be enacted and an explanation of timings for the Code coming into effect.
- 2.2. The Association of Forensic Science Providers representative queried how many providers are expected to be non-compliant with the Code when it comes into force and if dismissal of evidence is expected to become a default challenge. The Regulator explained that the level of compliance with the Code is generally dependent on how established the field is. The Regulator noted that is unpredictable how non-compliance with the Code will be viewed.

3. Response to the consultation on the Code

- 3.1. The Regulator discussed changes that are being made to the Code, based on the consultation. The NPCC representative noted that it would be helpful if they could be involved in testing new wordings, in particular for the changes to digital and footwear.

Minutes – Minutes – Minutes – Minutes – Minutes – Minutes – Minutes – Minutes

- 3.2. There was a wider discussion of the status of the Code with regards to admissibility challenges and the compliance statement and how this enables courts to understand risk.

4. Response to the baseline compliance survey

- 4.1. The Office of the Forensic Science Regulator shared the work the Office has been undertaking to understand the baseline level of compliance with the Code, in advance of it coming into effect. The UKAS representative commented that it would be useful for UKAS to collaborate on future versions of this, as they hold the definitive data on accreditation.
- 4.2. The Office of the Forensic Science Regulator shared the work the Office is planning to undertake to understand compliance with the Code and the associated risk. The UKAS representative commented that it would be useful for UKAS to be involved in this as UKAS is the definitive source of accreditation data.

5. Any other business

- 5.1. No further items were raise for discussion.

DRAFT

Annex A

Representatives present:

Forensic Science Regulator

Office of the Forensic Science Regulator

Chair of NPCC National Quality Board

United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)

Association of Forensic Science Providers (AFSP)

The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Judiciary

Forensic Science Northern Ireland

British Association in Forensic Medicine

Apologies received

Criminal Bar Association

Coroners' Society of England and Wales

Scottish Police Authority

DRAFT