



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme	
Protective Marking	Official
Publication Scheme Y/N	Yes
Title	Compliance with the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Conduct and Practice
Version	1.0
Summary	This policy applies to all areas within the scope of the Codes of Conduct and Practice of the Forensic Science Regulator (FSR)
(B)OCU or Unit, Directorate	Forensic Services
Author	
Review Date	July 2022
Date Issued	17 July 2018

Freedom of Information Publication Scheme					
Protective Marking:	OFFICIAL			Publication (Y/N):	Y
Title:	Compliance with the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Conduct and Practice				
Summary:	This policy applies to all areas within the scope of the Codes of Conduct and Practice of the Forensic Science Regulator (FSR)				
Branch / OCU:	Forensic Services				
Date created:	17 July 2018	Review date:	July 2022	Version:	1.0
Author:	Chanda Lowther-Harris				

Application

When? This Policy applies with immediate effect.

Who? All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) or the Commissioner must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) policy and associated procedures. However, it is recognised that circumstances may necessitate a deviation from the standard policy and procedures. In these circumstances, officers and staff should be aware of this and be able to justify any such deviation.

This Policy applies in particular to officers and staff involved in all areas within the scope of the Codes of Conduct and Practice of the Forensic Science Regulator (FSR). The FSR Codes of Practice are for the providers of forensic science services to the Criminal Justice System.

What? Forensic science is taken to cover sciences with scene and/or laboratory-based elements and therefore are not intended for disciplines such as forensic accountancy or psychiatry. Although the Codes could be extended to forensic medicine, they have not been drafted with that in mind. However, the accreditation process requires formal demonstration of competence to a third party so certain suspect and victim sampling may continue to remain out of scope. The Codes cover the following:

- a. initial forensic science activity at the scene;
- b. the scene examination strategy;
- c. the recovery, preservation, transport and storage of exhibits;
- d. screening tests for use in the field;
- e. the assessment, selection, examination, sampling, testing and/or analysis of exhibits;
- f. testing activities using laboratory-based methods;
- g. the recording of actions taken;
- h. assessment/review of examination and test results;

- i. the reporting and presentation of results;
- j. interpretations and opinions.

Policy Principles

The MPS requires officers and staff to follow the guidelines set in this policy.

- All forensic services within the MPS (as the legal entity) that fall within the Codes of Practice and Conduct of the Forensic Science Regulator will be delivered through a single corporate Quality Management System that is accredited to international standards, subject to external third party accreditation and operated by the Directorate of Forensic Services.
- The Director of Forensic Services will on behalf of the Commissioner be the Senior Accountable Person for ensuring that the MPS meets the quality standards set by the Forensic Science Regulator and that all forensic staff who give evidence as an expert witness comply with their duty under the Criminal Procedure Rules.

Purpose and Benefits

The purpose of this policy is to assist MPS officers and staff to build, maintain and work within a quality management system designed to meet the requirements of the Forensic Science Regulator and international standards. In doing so, the MPS will benefit further by removing duplication, reducing risks, greater corporacy and efficiency within the MPS.

Compliance with this policy benefits the MPS as all officers and staff will:

- act in accordance to the same quality management system
- comply with the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Conduct and Practice which will soon become legislation.

Having accreditation also provides reassurance to public and in particular, victims of crime that all MPS forensic services will delivered in line FSR and international standards.

Health and Safety Impact Statement

This policy has been developed with appropriate consultation with the MPS Safety and Health Risk Management Team [SHRMT] and no significant negative impact on health and safety in the MPS has been identified in terms of:

- Compliance with health and safety at work statutory provisions including Codes of Practice;

- MOPAC/MPS Safety Management System;
- Service delivery that may impact officer, staff or public safety;

Associated Documents and Policies

[Codes of Practice and Conduct of the Forensic Science Regulator](#)

Equality Impact Assessment

Policies are developed and reviewed using a consultative approach involving relevant internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, developers must consider what action needs to be taken to help overcome or minimise any disadvantages that people who share a protected characteristic will experience in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

All relevant parties were consulted and asked to provide feedback regarding any concerns around adverse impact based on protected characteristics. Comments were assessed and reflected in the final policy and associated Toolkits.

The impact of the policy will be monitored to identify any emerging issues, learning and benefits post-delivery of the policy. The table below summarises the outcomes of these actions:

Research and Consultation	
Review of Research	The basis for this policy is the implementation of the <u>Codes of Practice and Conduct of the Forensic Science Regulator</u> .
Internal consultation	Consultation was carried out with the following groups: Directorate of Legal Services, Safety & Health Risk Management, Finance Business Partners, Information Assurance unit, Specialist Crime & Operations HQ, Special Operations HQ, Territorial Policing HQ, Directorate of Professionalism, Property Services, Digital Policing, Strategic Human Resources, Transformation Directorate - Strategic Design Authority, and Diversity & Business Change, Directorate of Media & Communications, Commercial & Finance, Procurement, the Commissioner's Private Office, and Strategy and Governance.
External Consultation	External consultation has been with the Police Federation, Home Office and National Police Chiefs' Council.
Protected Characteristics (Equality Act 2010)	
Summary of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)	All forensic services within the MPS (as the legal entity) that fall within the Codes of Practice and Conduct of the Forensic Science Regulator will be delivered through a single corporate Quality Management System that is accredited to international standards, subject to external third party accreditation and operated by the MPS Directorate of Forensic Services. These quality standards are set by the Forensic Science Regulator. Having a single Quality Management System across the MPS does not have an impact (either positive or negative) on any protected characteristic. However, should any issues arise, these will be discussed and the EIA will be amended.
Age	Please see summary of EIA above.

Deaf/ Disability	Please see summary of EIA above.
Gender reassignment	Please see summary of EIA above.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Please see summary of EIA above.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Please see summary of EIA above.
Race	Please see summary of EIA above.
Religion or belief	Please see summary of EIA above.
Sex	Please see summary of EIA above.
Sexual Orientation	Please see summary of EIA above.
Other issues for example: Low income groups, single parents.	Please see summary of EIA above.
Monitoring	
12 month implementation plan	This policy will reduce risks and improve corporacy and efficiency within the MPS. Having accreditation also provides reassurance to the Forensic Science Regulator (FSR), Criminal Justice System and the public that forensic service delivery is being delivered to the required governmental standards. Compliance will be monitored through informing the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) of the agreement for a single quality management system for the MPS. Thus all new applications will be extensions to the already existing scope of accreditation and would have had to go through Forensic Services Directorate. Annually UKAS will undertake an assessment of the quality management system. The assessment team from UKAS will include experts in the field and an assessment management who will interrogate the system. If successful, the MPS will maintain its accreditation. If not, there will be corrective actions for the MPS to address. Successful accreditation will be published on the UKAS website with a full schedule of what activities are covered. The schedule is published annually and is available to the public and will provide the accredited status of the MPS.