



Forensic Science Regulator

O v e r s e e i n g Q u a l i t y

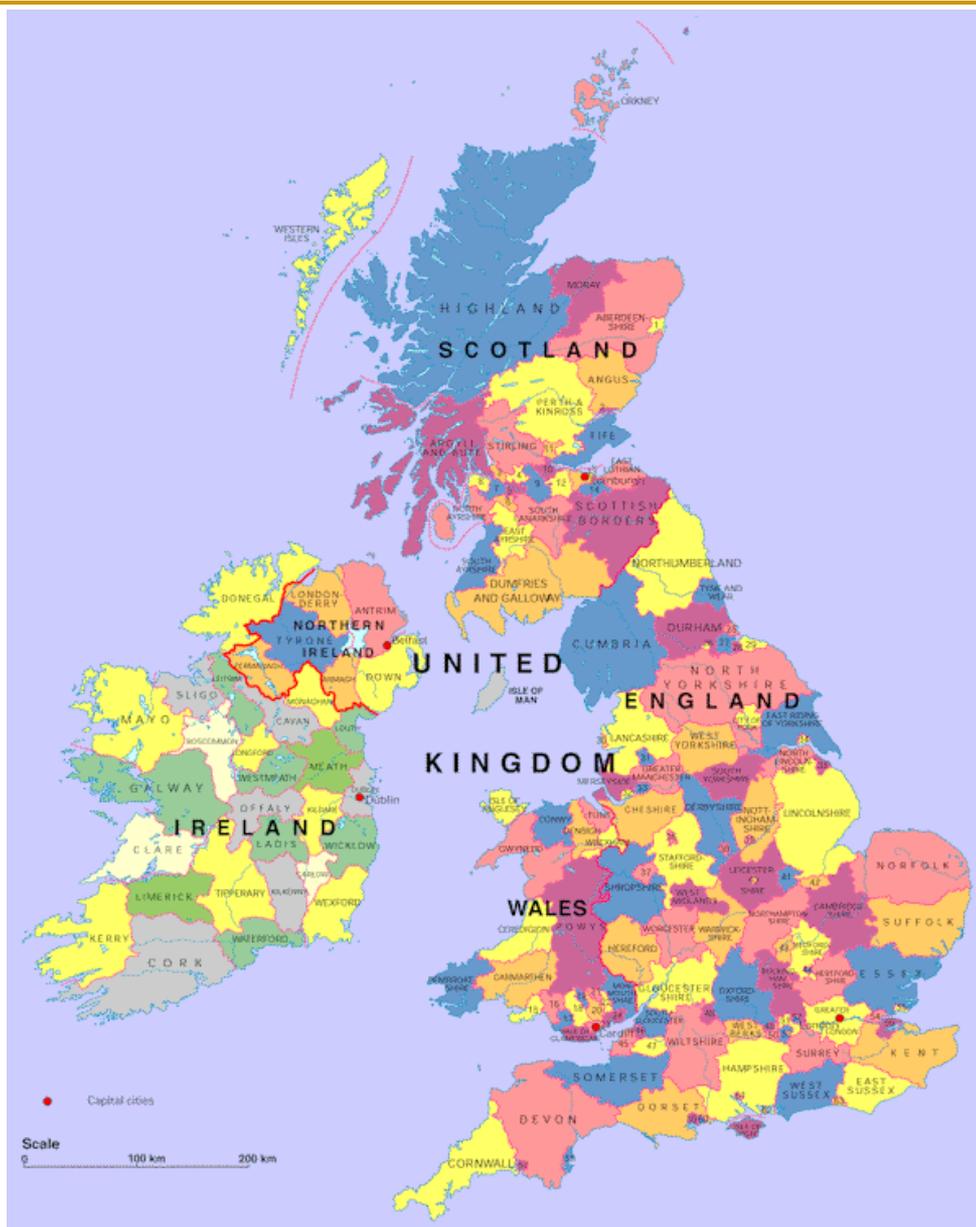
Regulating forensic science in the UK

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Context

- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) - 3 criminal justice systems
- Crime
- Science





England and Wales

- 43 police forces (in-house laboratories)
- 8 forensic service providers (commercial)
- Government Forensic Explosives Laboratory

Scotland

- 1 police force
- Own forensic service provision

Northern Ireland

- 1 police force
- Own forensic service provision

National DNA Database



Context

- DNA expansion programme
- Neoliberal policies
- Commercial market
- Europe
- Expert witnesses
- No legislation
- Government austerity



Background

- Quality failings and miscarriages of justice
- Royal Commission
- Reviews
- Parliament Science and Technology Committee
- Court of Appeal decisions

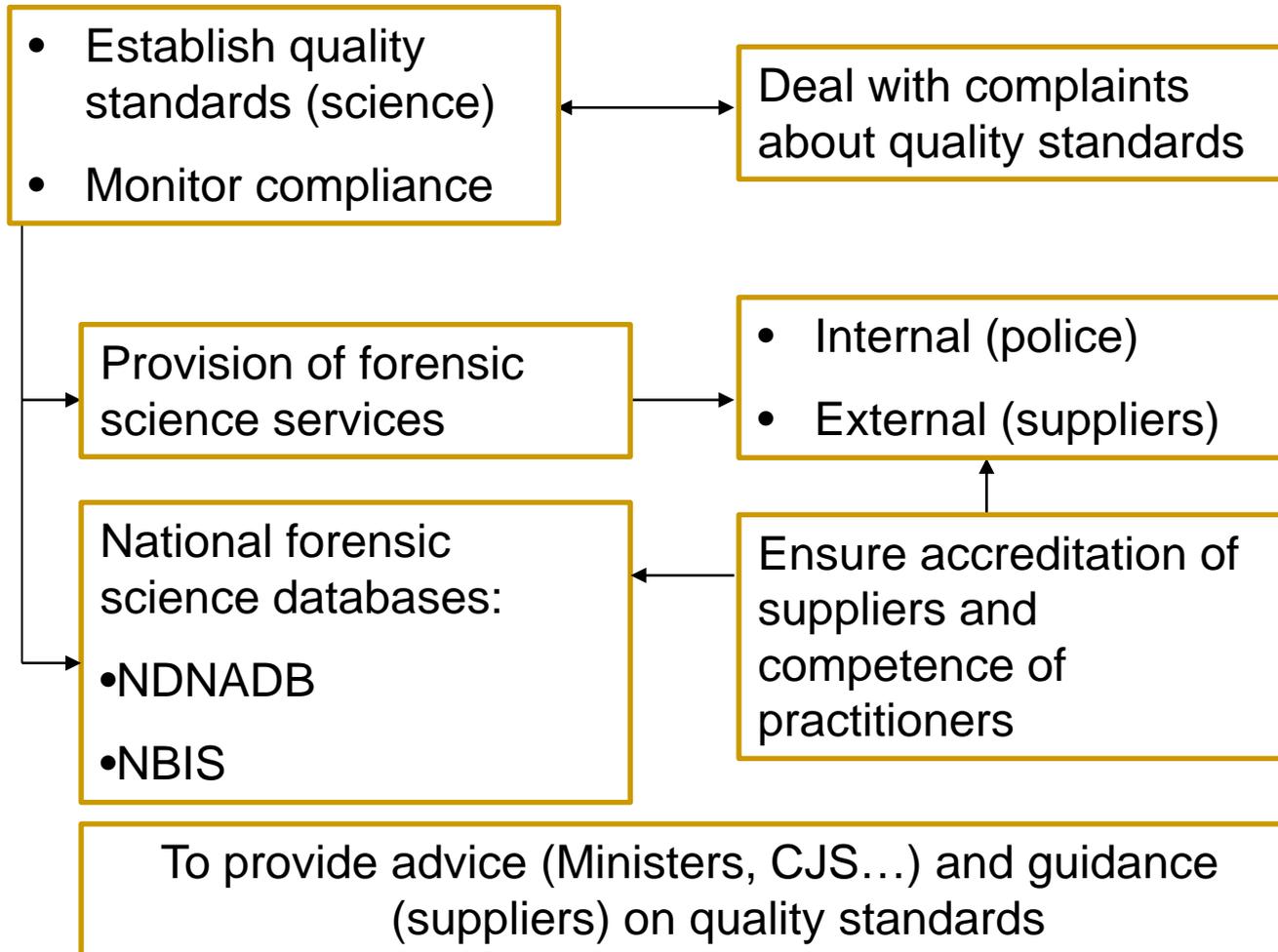


Status

- Appointed by the Secretary of State
- Written Ministerial Statement
- Independent of government (public appointment)
- 3 years plus 3 years
- Advisory Council
- CCTV



Role – Since February 2008



Scope of regulation

Equipment and consumables used at all stages, crime scene investigations, medical examinations of victims and suspects, evidence recovery, analysis, interpreting of evidence, reporting of evidence, forensic pathology and digital forensics. This includes occasional experts brought in to assist (for example, forensic archaeologists) at any stage of the process.



Advisory Council

- Judge
- Crown Prosecutor
- Deputy Chief Constable of Police
- President, Forensic Science Society
- Laboratory managers
- Coroner
- United Kingdom Accreditation Service
- Skills for Justice
- Forensic pathologist
- Criminal Cases Review Commission

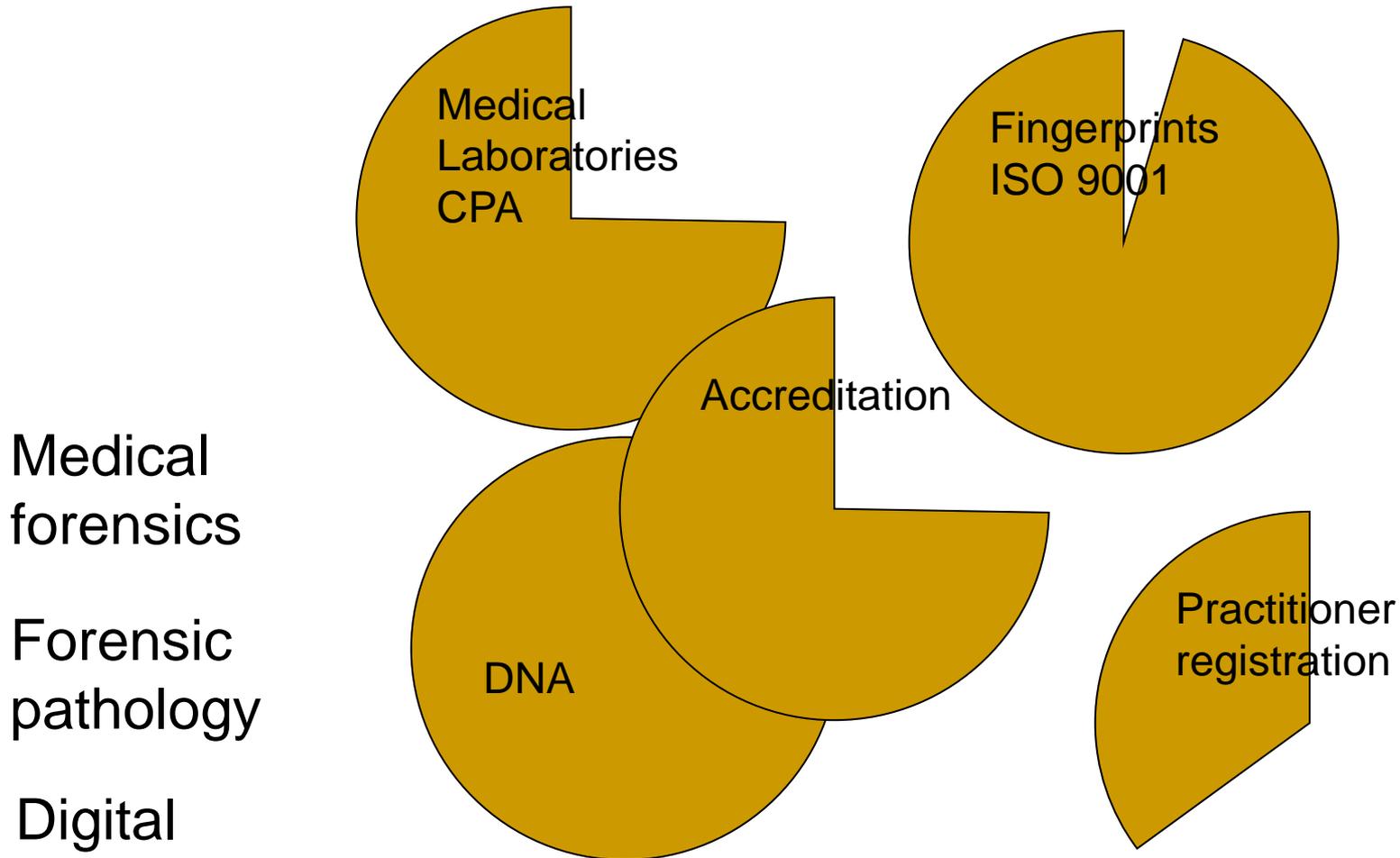


Specialist Groups

- Quality standards
- DNA analysis
- Fingerprints
- Forensic pathology
- Medical
- Contamination
- Digital



Standards 'ad hocracy'



Regulating quality

- Competent organisation
 - Competent practitioners
 - Reliable and valid methods
 - Impartiality
- Compliance mechanism (UKAS)
 - Guidance and standards
 - Professional bodies



Standards Framework

Forensic
pathology

Professional
bodies

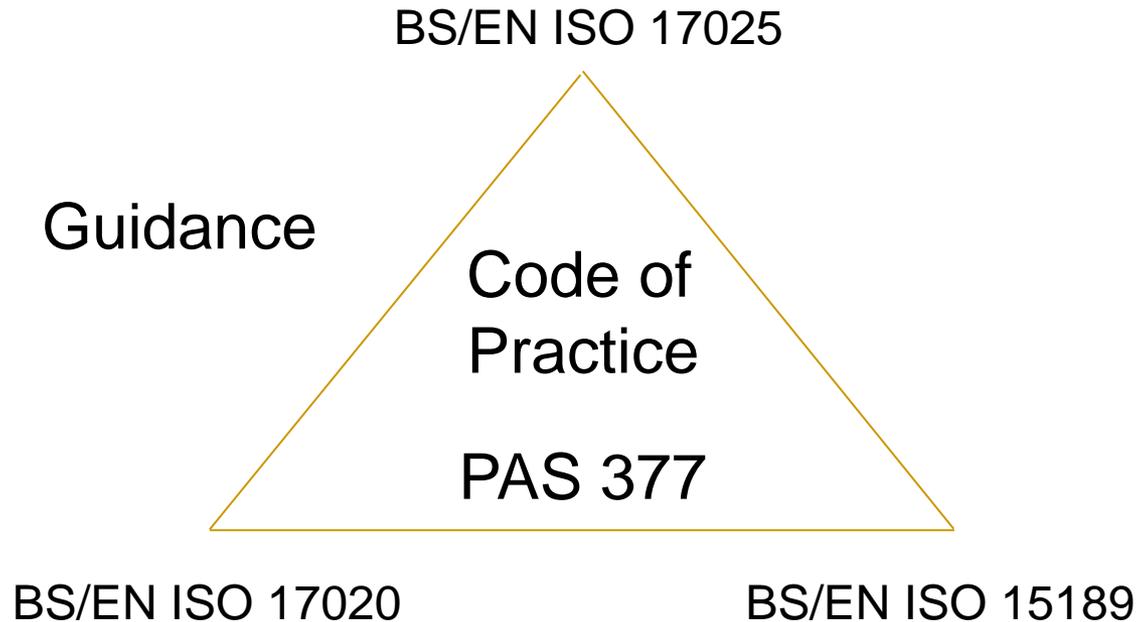
Codes of Practice

British standard for consumables

Guidance



Standards Framework



BS PAS 377:2012 Specification for consumables used in the collection, preservation and processing of materials for forensic analysis. Requirements for product, manufacturing and forensic kit assembly.



Codes of Practice and Conduct

- Laboratory
 - BS/EN ISO 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
- Crime scene
 - BS/EN ISO 17020 General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection
- Medical
 - BS/EN ISO 15189 Medical laboratories. Requirements for quality and competence



Codes of Practice and Conduct

*for forensic science providers and practitioners
in the Criminal Justice System*

Version 1.0

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Codes of Practice and Conduct

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Codes of Practice 2013 / 14

- Laboratory
- Fingerprints
- Crime scenes
- Contamination
- Digital / video
- Fire scenes
- Evidence interpretation
- Shoe marks
- Firearms discharge residue
- Human contact trace – BPA
- Drugs
- Entomology
- DNA
- Firearms
- Fibres
- Tool marks
- Medical
- Nuclear



Standards Framework

Professional bodies

- Royal College of Pathologists
- Royal College of Physicians
Faculty of Forensic and
Legal Medicine
- Royal Anthropological Institute
- The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences
- Fingerprint Society
- Institute for Archaeologists
- UK and Ireland Association of
Forensic Toxicologists
- UK Association of Forensic
Nurses

Duties of expert witnesses

Criminal Procedure Rules
Criminal Practice Directions



Current issues

- Finish in post
- Dr Gill Tully takes over
- Vision 2020
- Quality pathways
- Court of Appeal cases
- Legislation

