

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE PATHOLOGY DELIVERY BOARD**

1. The Pathology Delivery Board (“the Board”) is the successor to the Home Office Policy Advisory Board which was instituted in 1991 *“to oversee the provision of forensic pathology services in England and Wales, to establish best practice for the speciality and to encourage the development of the profession through the training of practitioners and the support of academic departments and relevant research”*. The Board took over from its predecessor on 1 October 2005.
  
2. In particular, the Board is responsible to the Home Secretary for :
  - (i) identifying those forensic pathologists of sufficient skill and standing to provide credible expert assistance to police forces, coroners and courts in cases involving violent or suspicious death and making recommendations as to those forensic pathologists suitable to be members of the Home Secretary’s Register of Forensic Pathologists (“the Register”) . The Register is the Home Secretary’s personal recommendation of a pathologist and the Board’s recommendations will be approved or rejected by a Civil Servant representing the Home Secretary.
  - (ii) supervising the funding and training of new forensic pathologists to support the criminal justice system
  - (iii) protecting the integrity of the Register and maintaining the confidence of the public and the Home Secretary in the Register to support the criminal justice system, by amongst other actions, :
    - setting criteria for admission to the Register
    - operating disciplinary procedures under the Disciplinary Rules issued by the Home Secretary
    - undertaking appropriate audits and inspections directly or in partnership with the Forensic Science Regulator
    - setting expected levels of service
    - reviewing management information
    - entering into protocols with members of the Register
    - establishing links with other regulatory bodies such as the Forensic Science Regulator, the GMC and the Human Tissue Authority
    - monitoring the demographic profile and geographic distribution of members of the Register to ensure consistent national provision
  - (iv) setting the case fee to be paid by police forces to registered forensic pathologists for a forensic post-mortem

- (v) organising the members of the Register into Group Practices to support rotas for police forces and to provide opportunities for peer review and professional development
  - (vi) raising with members of the Register, coroners, police forces, the Forensic Science Regulator, the Home Secretary, the National Assembly of Wales, the Law Officers, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Royal College of Pathologists, the Human Tissue Authority and others any matters that would improve the standards of forensic pathology in England and Wales
  - (vii) supporting the continuing professional development of members of the Register
  - (viii) maintaining the forensic pathology service for the criminal justice system in England and Wales
3. The Board shall comprise 13 people as follows:
- (i) A Chair, appointed by the Home Secretary
  - (ii) A Secretary, appointed by the Chair
  - (iii) A Deputy Chair, appointed by the Chair
  - (iv) A Deputy Secretary, appointed by the Chair
  - (v) A nominee from the Coroners' Society of England and Wales
  - (vi) The President of the British Association in Forensic Medicine, ex officio
  - (vii) The Chair of the Forensic Pathology Sub-Committee, of the Royal College of Pathologists, ex officio
  - (viii) A member of the Register elected by members of the Register
  - (ix) A nominee from the Crown Prosecution Service
  - (x) A nominee from the Association of Police Authorities
  - (xi) A nominee from the ACPO Homicide Working Group
  - (xii) The ACPO lead on Forensic Pathology for the Police Service, ex officio
  - (xiii) The Chair of the Forensic Science Regulator's Forensic Pathology Specialist Group

*A Civil Servant representing the Home Secretary may attend meetings of the Board and its committees as an observer. Other persons may attend as observers at the discretion of the Chair.*

*In relation only to paragraph 3(v) – 3(xiii) (inclusive) and only when an organisation therein referred to is subject to change which affects the composition of the Board, the composition of the Board may be amended by a proposal being passed by the Board and approved by a Civil Servant representing the Home Secretary. In all other circumstances the composition of the Board may only be changed by the Home Secretary.*

4. Quorum for meetings for the Board shall be five members of whom two must be forensic pathologists. In the event of a tie on a vote on any matter before the Board, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
5. Each member of the Board may nominate an alternate to take their place in their absence. In the event that the Chair and the Deputy Chair are absent the Secretary shall chair the meeting.
6. In addition to any sub-committees that the Board may establish from time to time, the Board shall maintain:
  - (i) A Registration & Training Committee
  - (ii) A Disciplinary Committee.

6.1. The Registration & Training Committee shall comprise 7 people as follows:

- A Chair and Secretary appointed by the Chair of the Board
- Three senior forensic pathologists appointed by the Board
- One member to represent the interests of coroners, appointed by the Board
- One member to represent the interests of the Crown Prosecution Service, appointed by the Board

Quorum for the Registration & Training Committee shall be three members.

6.2. The Disciplinary Committee shall in accordance with the Home Secretary's Disciplinary Rules, Issue 2, July 2007 comprise 6 people as follows:

- A lay member as Chair (i.e. a non-forensic pathologist)
- Two senior forensic pathologists
- One additional legally qualified member
- One member to represent the interests of the coroners
- The Secretary of the Board

The Board shall appoint the members other than the Chair and the Secretary. Quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be three members.

7. Without prejudice to the Home Secretary's powers and subject to the Disciplinary Rules issued by the Home Secretary, the Chair of the Board is permitted by the Home Secretary to take any steps he deems necessary to

maintain the integrity of the Register and of the criminal justice system including the suspension of a member of the Register and the disclosure of information to the criminal justice system (but not the removal of a member from the Register).

8. The Board shall ordinarily meet on a quarterly basis.
9. Administrative support to the Board was previously provided by the Home Office but since 1 April 2007 has been provided by the National Policing Improvement Agency.
10. The Home Secretary remains accountable to Parliament for the operation of the Register and for the provision of forensic pathology services to the criminal justice system in England and Wales and may vary the Board's constitution from time to time.
11. This constitution was approved by the Home Secretary on 15/2/2010 and will be published on the forensic pathology website maintained by the National Policing Improvement Agency.