

PATHOLOGY DELIVERY BOARD

THE PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE HOME SECRETARY'S REGISTER OF FORENSIC PATHOLOGISTS

1. The Registration and Training Committee (“**the Committee**”) of the Pathology Delivery Board (the “**Board**”) is responsible for making recommendations to the Home Secretary on who is suitable to be admitted to the Home Secretary’s Register of Forensic Pathologists (“**the Register**”).
2. A candidate for admission to the **Register** must satisfy the **Committee** that the candidate:
 - (a) is fully registered with the General Medical Council;
 - (b) has a current GMC Licence to Practice;
 - (c) has the legal right to work in the United Kingdom;
 - (d) is of good character;
 - (e) is solvent;
 - (f) is not a patient under the Mental Health Act 1983;
 - (g) has disclosed all completed, current or pending criminal investigations, cautions or convictions (in whatever jurisdiction) relating to the candidate;
 - (h) has disclosed all completed, current and pending disciplinary investigations or outcomes into the candidate carried out by any medical, legal or other professional or regulatory body (in whatever jurisdiction)
 - (i) has disclosed any disqualifications to be a company director;
 - (j) holds specialist registration with the General Medical Council in one of the following four areas:
 - (i) Histopathology with a sub-specialism in Forensic Pathology;
 - (ii) Forensic Pathology;
 - (iii) Forensic Medicine; or
 - (iv) Histopathology;
 - (k) has demonstrated current knowledge and understanding of:
 - (i) the obligations for disclosure in criminal proceedings and in particular the Criminal Proceedings and Investigations Act

- 1996 as amended and the obligation to retain, record and reveal.
 - (ii) the Human Tissue Act 2004 as may be amended
 - (iii) the standards required by the “Code of Practice and Performance Standards” (November 2004) issued by the Home Office and the Royal College of Pathologists (“the **College**”)
 - (iv) the Coroners Act 1988 as may be amended
 - (v) the Coroners Rules 1984 as amended
 - (vi) the Criminal Procedure Rules 2005 as amended and in particular Rule 33
 - (vii) the Crown Prosecution Service’s Guidance for Expert Witnesses contained in Appendix K to the Disclosure Manual.
- (l) has successfully completed an appropriate assessed courtroom skills training course in relation to the Criminal Justice system in England and Wales
- (m) has had sufficient experience of working in the criminal justice system of England and Wales (and shall take into account relevant experience outside the jurisdiction)
- (n) has signed the current Protocol for Membership of the Home Secretary’s Register of Forensic Pathologists (“**the Protocol**”); and
- (o) has a written offer to join a Group Practice recognised by the Home Secretary.
- (p) has no other professional or legal commitments that would prevent the candidate from providing an effective service to a police force.
3. For candidates who only have specialist registration in Forensic Medicine or Histopathology (without Forensic Pathology), the **Committee** will also require written advice from the **College** that the candidate has undertaken training, passed qualifications and gained experience equivalent to entry on the Specialist Register in Histopathology (Forensic Pathology).
4. Before admitting a candidate to the **Register**, the **Committee** must request and receive three satisfactory references from persons nominated by the candidate and which relate to the candidate’s recent professional and personal fitness to be on the **Register**. The **Committee** will send to each nominated referee copies of the candidate’s application documents and ask the referee to verify the application documents to the best of their ability.
5. Before making a recommendation to the Home Secretary to admit a candidate to the **Register**, the **Committee** shall, through the National Policing Improvement Agency, obtain BCE (Enhanced Basic) Security Clearance for the candidate. It is a condition of continued membership

of the **Register** that the admitted forensic pathologist retains such security clearance.

6. The **Committee** may in its discretion ask for further information from a candidate to demonstrate compliance with the criteria. Such information may include copies of recently completed autopsy reports and may be given by way of a personal appearance by the candidate before the **Committee**. When a person is applying for readmission to the **Register** the **Committee** shall require a personal appearance by the candidate.
7. If the **Committee** decides not to recommend a candidate for admission to the **Register**, they should notify the candidate and may in their discretion provide guidance to the candidate.
8. If the **Committee** decides to recommend a candidate for admission to the **Register**, it should not communicate this to the candidate in the first instance.
9. The Home Secretary is not obliged to follow the **Committee's** recommendation to admit a candidate to the **Register**.
10. If the Home Secretary admits the candidate to the **Register**, the Secretary to the **Board** shall notify the candidate and other members of the **Register** of the candidate's admission to the Register.
11. If the Home Secretary rejects the **Committee's** recommendation to admit, the Secretary to the **Board** shall notify the candidate and the **Committee**.
12. Where the Disciplinary Tribunal imposes the sanction of removal from **Register** on a member of the **Register** that person is permanently barred from applying for re-admission to the **Register** under Rule 216 of the Disciplinary Rules.
13. Where the Disciplinary Tribunal removes a person from the **Register** under Rule 217 for having failed to satisfy conditions connected with a suspension by the end of the period of suspension, the person may apply to the **Committee** for re-admission under the process and criteria set out in this document but re-admission will also be subject to the consent of the Disciplinary Committee and re-admission cannot take place until 12 months after the scheduled end of the period of suspension.
14. This process and criteria shall come into force with immediate effect on approval by the **Board**.