



## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

### Standard setting and quality regulation in forensic science.

1. There is a growing urgency and expectation among police, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and forensic science providers of the provision of some form of regulatory function. A need for regulation is assumed in work being carried out on the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) strategy for the future of forensic science and that of the Forensic Science Procurement Steering Group. It is necessary, therefore, to have a view of how such a regulatory function should be established.
2. In evidence given before the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, on 23 November 2005, Mr Andy Burnham MP announced that the next stage regarding the future regulation of the forensic science market would be consultation.
3. The Minister, Joan Ryan has agreed in principle that creating a forensic science regulatory function is the most appropriate way of overseeing quality, standards and integrity in forensic science and maintaining public confidence. She has also agreed in principle with the proposed scope of that regulatory function and to further consultation with stakeholders to develop a more robust proposal for wider function, detailed structure, governance and costings for the regulatory function.
4. **The attached document initiates that consultation.**
5. Consultation runs from Friday 1 September to Friday 24 November 2006. A number of organisations will be formally consulted but views are also invited from anyone with an interest.
6. Respondents should indicate their involvement in the Criminal Justice System.
7. If you disagree with our analysis or our proposed strategy, do tell us but please provide us with alternatives that are, in your view, a better approach.
8. Responses to this consultation should be sent to: [keith.batten2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:keith.batten2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)