



The Future of Forensic Bioinformation

Seminar Two – 25th March, 2009. University of Leeds.

Agenda

- 0930 Tea/ Coffee
- 1000 Welcome and Introduction to the seminar
- 1020 Session One – *Data Sources*
- 1115 Tea / Coffee
- 1140 Session Two – *Research Studies*
- 1300 **Lunch**
- 1400 Session Three – *Knowledge Gaps*
- 1515 Tea/ coffee
- 1540 Session Four – *Futures*
- 1630 Concluding discussion
- 1700 Close
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Contributions

Attendees will not be asked to give formal 'presentations' and there will no 'podium speakers' as such. Instead, it is hoped that each attendee will be able to consider the questions outlined below (in addition to adding any issues that they feel have been omitted but merit discussion) and come with the intention of sharing their perspective on each of the issues. The seminar will then be a discussion between experts, each contributing to the intended debate.

Chatham House Rule

The seminar will operate under the Chatham House Rule in order to facilitate a frank and open discussion. The Chatham House Rule reads as follows:

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

This seminar will consider:

- What the police/government/public ideally need to know in order to measure the impact, evaluate the effectiveness and, ideally, cost-effectiveness of current and proposed uses of forensic bioinformation;
- What evidence exists about inputs, outputs and the effective uses of forensic bioinformation in law enforcement and criminal justice;
- What additional work is necessary to improve knowledge and ensure stakeholder and public confidence in decision making about forensic bioinformation collection and uses.

The format will be a series of structured and necessarily short discussions on the issues listed below led by the organisers. This is intended to encourage maximum participation by all attendees in identifying the options for resolving each issue, relevant sources of data and precedents. It is also hoped to clearly identify those issues where a consensus has been reached or may be possible between the different perspectives and interests represented at the seminar and, where this is not possible, at least clarify the extent and significance of any disagreement.

Session One – Data Sources

This session will consider currently available national and local data sources which provide evidence on the current uses of forensic bioinformation. We will attempt to answer the following questions:

1. What methodologies are available that might enable us to make meaningful assessments with regard to impact or effectiveness within law enforcement or criminal justice?
2. What information is needed if we are to use such methodologies?

3. Are there any special features of forensic bioinformation that may require us to adapt existing methodologies or treat data differently?

More specifically:

1. What standardised data are collected on the effective uses of bioinformation?
2. Who holds these data, how have they been analysed, and what reports exist that summarise and interpret them?
3. What uses are made of these data/interpretations and by whom?

In particular, there will be consideration of:

- NDNAD and IDENT1 statistics;
- Performance Management data;
- Answers provided to Parliamentary Questions and to other deliberative fora.

Session Two – Research Studies

Session Two will consider the availability of operational and research studies of the uses of forensic bioinformation in England & Wales and elsewhere. Key questions to be answered will include:

1. What studies currently exist?
2. What methodologies do they use?
3. What are their findings and what efforts have been made to collate and compare such findings?
4. What uses are made of these operational and research studies, and how are their results disseminated to professional communities and the wider society?

Session Three – Knowledge Gaps

The third session will consider the existing gaps in knowledge of the effective and cost-effective uses of forensic bioinformation. Particular attention will be paid to:

- Knowledge of effective management strategies for controlling the collection and use of forensic bio-information in both volume crime investigations and serious crime investigations;
- Methods for measuring the cost-effectiveness of current and proposed uses of forensic bioinformation;
- The relationship between knowledge of the effective uses of forensic bioinformation and knowledge of the effective uses of other intelligence and investigative methodologies.

Session Four – Futures.

The final session will be concerned with potential developments in the demand for more information about the use of bioinformation in support of criminal justice as well as improvements in what may be collected in the UK and elsewhere.

- The current work and future plans of key stakeholders to request or collect more information on the effective uses of forensic bioinformation;
- Government expectations of data and the future funding of forensic bioinformation.
- Whether the currently available range of data allow a sufficiently wide range of stakeholders and interested parties to come to well supported conclusions about the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the current uses of forensic bioinformation.
- What additional kinds of data can be collected to improve knowledge of the uses of forensic bioinformation;
- Whether lessons can be learned from efforts to collect such data in other jurisdictions

Useful Reading:

NDNAD Annual Report 2006-07 <http://www.npia.police.uk/en/11403.htm>

NPIA: Forensics21 Programme, see: <http://www.npia.police.uk/en/10432.htm>

NPIA: IDENT1, see: <http://www.npia.police.uk/en/10504.htm>

PACE 1984 Code D (2008), *Code of Practice for the Identification of Persons by Police Officers*, [http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/2008_PACE_Code_D_\(final\).pdf?view=Binary](http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/2008_PACE_Code_D_(final).pdf?view=Binary)

Police Science and Technology Strategy 2004 – 2009
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/PoliceST_S2_part11.pdf

Attendees

Martin Bill	FSS Senior Scientific Manager
Mick Carling	NPIA
David Charlton	Sussex Police
David Coleman	Lanner/ FSS
Stacey Dibbs	ACPO
Jim Fraser	Strathclyde University
Keith Fryer	Police Training Centre
Rick Graham	University of Leeds
Peter Hall	Greater Manchester Police
Chris Lawless	University of Durham
Paul Marchant	Leeds Metropolitan University
Carole McCartney	(Project Team)
Ruth McNally	CESAGEN
Brian Rankin	Forensic Science Society
Nerys Thomas	NPIA
Robin Williams	Chair (Project Team)
Tim Wilson	Chair (Project Team)

Travel Expenses

We hope that you will be able to reclaim expenses from your employing organisations. If this is not the case, we are able in some instances to secure a contribution to travel costs (up to a maximum of £100 per seminar attended). Please contact Carole McCartney for further details.

For enquiries please contact:

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