

# The Future of Forensic Bioinformatics



# Agenda – Seminar Three



- 1000 Welcome and Introduction
- 1020 Session 1 – *International Cooperation*
- 1115 Tea / Coffee
- 1140 Session 2 – *International Cooperation (cont.)*
- 1300 Lunch
- 1400 Session 3 – *The Significance of Marper*
- 1515 Tea/ coffee
- 1615 Session 4 – *Initial reactions to “Keeping the Right People on the NDNAD”*



# Aims, Outcome and Process

- Four expert meetings:
  - Integrity and integration (January)
  - Evidence and assessment (March)
  - Internationalisation and exchange (May)
  - Testing with international experts the outcomes of the first three events against, as far as may be practicably foreseen, the parameters of the restricted ‘margin of appreciation’ applicable to forensic bioinformation (July)



# Aims:

- Series of structured and necessarily short discussions on the issues.
- Maximum participation by all in identifying the options for resolving each issue, relevant sources of data and precedents.
- Clearly identify those issues where a consensus has been reached or may be possible or where this is not possible, to clarify the extent and significance of any disagreement.



# Aims, Outcome and Process

- Record of meetings (not verbatim) on the project website (recording – Chatham House Rules)
- Comments on those records – as *statements* of amplification, support and dissent together with suggested areas for research or further consideration – on the project website (authorship can be identified or anonymous)
- A final record of this process – a description of the possible parameters – both as a publication to mark the end of this project and hopefully a waymark for others grappling with the issues



# Aims, Outcome & Process

- Outcome will not be Volume II of Nuffield Council on Bioethics – but complementary – and informed by that report and continuity of involvement
- It is not intended as a reaction to ‘*Marper*’ judgement – but hopefully the project is timely now that the law is to be clarified
- This seminar is not an occasion when participants’ need to state opinions for the record or be bound by the ideas they simply want to test.



# Please remember:

- There is a great deal of ground to cover
- Important that all viewpoints and views are captured for the record
- Need to stick to the agenda and the key issues within that agenda
- Opportunity for reflection, comment and suggestions via the website
- The organisers have never done anything so ambitious before and your help is greatly appreciated.



# This seminar will consider:

- What, if any, are the implications of the judgement in *S. & Marper v. The United Kingdom* for law and practice relating to the use of forensic bioinformation during international cooperation for law enforcement and victim identification purposes?



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# This seminar will consider:

- There have been critical examinations of the reliance that investigators and courts can place on forensic science within the UK and the USA. These have resulted, respectively, in the appointment of the Forensic Science Regulator and the National Research Council's (NRC) report. Should these internal concerns encourage similar questions about the reliability of forensic bioinformation, or the validity of its use, when it has been received from other jurisdictions or via intra-state channels where there may not have been a similar degree of critical review?



# This seminar will consider:

- Also, congruent with an important theme from the second seminar, is there a risk of treating forensic bioinformation exchange issues in isolation from understanding how its significance may change at different stages of an investigation, the need for effective integration with other intelligence or evidence and the effect this may have on the assessment of its value to the outcome of an investigation?



# This seminar will consider:

- Are further measures or resources needed to improve the governance, integrity and volume of such information, and, if so, whether extra funding is possible during the current global recession?



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