



Forensic Science Regulator

O v e r s e e i n g Q u a l i t y

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28 January 2022

Camilla Graham Wood and co-signatories
Senior legal Officer
Privacy International

Via e-mail

Dear Millie

RE: Use of forensics in the Home Office's asylum, immigration and nationality functions

Thank-you for your letter of the 20th January in relation to the use of forensic science by the Home Office. I would very much like to meet with you and your colleagues if they wish, to set out my role as the Forensic Science Regulator, the changes and impact of the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021 and to better understand your concerns about the use of forensics in the Home Office's asylum, immigration and nationality functions.

As you highlight my role is to set standards for forensic science activities that relate to the investigation of crime and the presentation of evidence in the Criminal Justice System. Those parts of the Home Office which cover immigration, asylum and nationality perform a range of activities, some of which would fall under my remit. You raise some interesting questions and I am making enquiries to understand the range of activities that are being undertaken, the quality processes that are in place and levels of compliance with the current non-statutory Codes of Practice and Conduct.

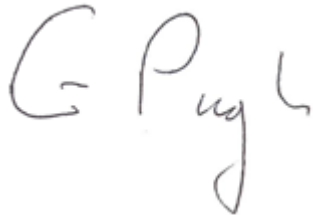
A number of the points in your letter relate to provisions of the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021 and how this will be used to ensure compliance with a statutory Code. At this point I think it appropriate to note that many of those provisions have not been brought into effect yet. Over the course of this year I expect the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021 to be commenced and

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the statutory Code to come into effect once it is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

I am happy to have a meeting over Teams or to meet in person, I am on annual leave 9-16th February. To meet in person may take longer to organise as I tend to make irregular visits to London but I will be in London on 17th February for other meetings if you are available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Pugh". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Mr Gary Pugh OBE