



Inspection of Human Tissue Audit Report

Terms of Reference

May 2013

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An audit carried out by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), with the assistance of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), into the retention of human tissue by police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland made ten recommendations to improve processes and procedures for the retention of human tissue in criminal cases.

Since the audit report was published on 21 May 2012, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the State Pathologist's Department (SPD), the Coroners Service and the Office of the Police Ombudsman have been working collaboratively to implement the recommendations. It is anticipated that all the recommendations will be completed by spring 2013.

The Department of Justice wishes to commence an independent assessment of progress made against implementation of the recommendations within the ACPO report. The aim of the review is to provide an independent assessment to the Minister of Justice on responses by the relevant agencies to the recommendations identified in the ACPO audit.

The aims of the inspections are:

- to evaluate the work done by agencies, individually and collaboratively, to implement the recommendations of the ACPO human tissue audit report;
- to assess progress made in embedding new policies and procedures into operational practices of respective organisations, including the disposal of 'legacy' tissue samples; and
- to provide assurance on the procedures for retention of tissue samples relating to current and future criminal cases.
- to report findings to the Minister of Justice and the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) in June 2013.