



THE FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE

Fact sheet



The Forensic Science Service®

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- The Forensic Science Service® (FSS®) enjoys a reputation as the world's foremost provider of forensic science, based on impartiality and quality. It was established as an executive agency of the Home Office in April 1991.
- The mission of the FSS is to maximise our contribution to crime detection, the conviction of criminals, and exoneration of the innocent.
- The FSS provides a national service primarily to the 43 police forces in England and Wales, the Crown Prosecution Service, HM Revenue and Customs, HM Coroners as well as the Ministry of Defence Police and British Transport Police.
- The FSS operates from seven laboratories across the country – Birmingham (2), Chepstow, Chorley, Huntingdon, London and Wetherby. It employs more than 2,500 staff.
- In 2004/5, the FSS dealt with 130,000 cases, attended 1,800 crime scenes, and appeared as expert witnesses in court 2,500 times.
- For the past 30 years it has run a research facility which has been responsible for many significant forensic science breakthroughs and innovations - particularly in the application of DNA technology.
- The FSS pioneered the use of DNA profiling in forensic science and set up the world's first national criminal intelligence DNA database - launched in April 1995.
- The National DNA Database® (NDNAD) matches DNA samples from scenes of crime - for example from blood or semen - with individuals or other crimes.

Notes: The Forensic Science Service, FSS and National DNA Database are registered trademarks.

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