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**TITLE**

Forensic science policy and the question of governmental University research quality assessment

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Summary of research outputs submitted in forensic cognate disciplines in RAE2008 and REF2014
- Assessment of the value of these exercises in the audit of University research quality in forensic science
- Discussion of policy and implications for forensic science research quality assessment

**ABSTRACT**

Forensic science policy has been the subject of a series of judicial and parliamentary enquiries in the United Kingdom in recent decades. Forensic science research has been a recurrent theme in their reports, which have included recommendations for research into the economics of forensic service provision; for the development of expertise and centres of excellence; and for research to establish the validity of the forensic sciences. These recommendations reflect similar concerns expressed internationally—particularly in the United States. In the United Kingdom, however, the Forensic Science Service recently enjoyed a near monopoly in research, and limited research funding and activity in the Universities was exacerbated by the lack of visibility of forensic science in government

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