



Further Response (June 2020)

by

THE FACULTY OF ADVOCATES

to

the Consultation Document

on

**the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill
("the FMS Bill")**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Further to a letter from the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee ("the Committee") dated 11 June 2020 the Faculty of Advocates welcomes the opportunity to comment further on the FMS Bill.
- 1.2 The Faculty would propose to respond to questions 5-10 inclusive (The Retention Service) and 19 and 20 (Admissibility of Evidence) as set out in Annexe A to the Committee's letter. Broadly speaking at this stage, however, the Faculty would respectfully refer the Committee to the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Practice and Conduct in relation to Sexual Assault Examinations (2020) which can be found at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886562/116_Requirements_Sexual_Assault_Examination.pdf
(see in particular sections 1, 7, 8 & 9)

A copy of this document is also attached as a PDF.

- 1.3 The Forensic Science Regulator ensures that the provision of forensic science services across the criminal justice system in England and Wales is subject to an appropriate regime of scientific quality standards. It works with the Home Office. The Faculty respectfully adopts the general approach, standards, methodologies and recommendations of the Forensic Science Regulator and considers them of assistance to the Committee, subject of course to adapting such practices to circumstances in Scotland.

22 June 2020