

# FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

## Protecting The Public From Repeat Drug-Driving Offenders: Call For Evidence

### Comments from the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine

#### Background

The Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (FFLM) was established by the Royal College of Physicians of London in 2005 with the following objectives:

- To promote for the public benefit the advancement of education and knowledge in the field of forensic and legal medicine in all its classes;
- To develop and maintain for the public benefit the good practice of forensic and legal medicine by ensuring the highest professional standards of competence and ethical integrity.

It is recognised as the authoritative body for the purpose of consultation in matters of educational or public interest concerning forensic and legal medicine.

The Faculty is composed of professionals working in the following disciplines:

- forensic medical practitioners (forensic physicians, forensic nurses, forensic paramedics, forensic pathologists, forensic psychiatrists, forensic odontologists);
- medico-legal advisers & dento-legal advisors;
- medically-qualified coroners;
- clinicians working in secure and detained settings.

#### Section 3: Blood sample screening

**Question 8: In order to comply with current medical practices, should the admissibility requirements in respect of a “specimen”, set out in section 15(5) and (5A) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 be amended to enable vacuum blood extraction?**

The law needs changing to allow the use of both vacutainers or a needle and syringe. This allows a single sample (i.e. venepuncture of the vein) to be divided into two containers. Either whilst the needle is still in the vein (vacutainer) or after removal of the needle from the vein (needle & syringe). The option to retain a needle and syringe sample is important as it is easier to use this technique for those with poor veins.