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FORENSIC AND INVESTIGATIVE BODIES IN THE UK: GENERAL OVERVIEW

The work of forensic and investigative bodies in the countries of the United Kingdom England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland — is based on the principles of common law and high evidentiary standards. All four parts of the Kingdom have developed systems of forensic laboratories that work in close cooperation with the police, analytical centers, and judicial bodies. A key element is the accuracy of evidence collection, documentation, and preservation, as well as the use of modern technologies that enhance crime-solving capabilities.

England is a leading center of forensic innovation and sets general standards for the entire United Kingdom. English forensic experts apply 3D scanning of crime scenes, allowing precise reconstruction of crime circumstances for later use in court. A nationwide DNA database plays a major role, containing hundreds of thousands of samples and enabling rapid identification matches. Digital forensics is an important area, including the analysis of smartphones, computers, network logs, communication data, and the recovery of deleted files. England actively uses automated video analytics systems

and facial recognition technologies, helping to identify suspects and track their movements. Major cities operate mobile forensic laboratories that allow on - site preliminary examinations without transporting physical evidence [1].

Scotland has its own independent forensic service, separate from England, known for strict procedures and special attention to the chain of custody. The Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services use advanced methods of trace examination, biological analysis, and microscopy. Crime - pattern forecasting is a significant element of investigative work, improving the efficiency of detective units. Scotland has a unique judicial model with the possible verdict “not proven,” which increases the importance of a strong evidential base. Mobile forensic teams ensure access to crime scenes even in remote mountainous areas [2].

Wales is integrated with the English forensic system but maintains its own network of regional centers. A significant part of forensic activity in Wales focuses on digital crime, as cybercrime rates are relatively high. The use of uniform British standards for handling biological material ensures the admissibility of evidence in courts of both England and Wales. Automatic number-plate recognition systems are widely used, and joint investigation teams are created to handle complex cases.

Northern Ireland has one of the most specialized forensic institutions — Forensic Science Northern Ireland (FSNI). Due to the region’s history of conflicts, it has highly developed areas of explosive - related forensics, analysis of improvised explosive devices, and chemical identification of hazardous materials. Forensic units widely apply spectroscopy and advanced chemical analysis methods. Rapid response forensic teams operate in the region to conduct immediate examinations of explosions, shootings, and serious violent crimes. Northern Ireland actively cooperates with UK agencies, the European Union, and Interpol in investigating cross-border crime [3].

Overall, the forensic services of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland demonstrate a high level of scientific, technological, and organizational development. Each region has its own special features, but they are united by the use of modern technologies, strict standardization, precise procedures, and close inter-agency cooperation.

The experience of these countries is considered among the most effective in the world and may serve as a model for improving forensic systems in other states.

Analyzing all mentioned above we can conclude that forensic and investigative bodies in the UK work to support criminal investigations through scientific analysis and evidence recovery. Their work involves forensic investigators collecting evidence from crime scenes, forensic pathologists conducting post-mortems for coroners, and a central regulator ensuring quality standards and ethical conduct across the justice system. Key functions include DNA analysis, fingerprint and toolmark examination, toxicology, and expert testimony in court.

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FEATURES OF POLICE ACTIVITY UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The introduction of martial law fundamentally transforms the operational, organizational, and legal foundations of police activity. Under such extraordinary conditions, law enforcement agencies face heightened demands regarding efficiency, adaptability, and strict adherence to legal norms. Police officers serve as key actors in ensuring