



**Criminal Appeals route through
the consultation paper:
forensics**

All numbered questions and paragraphs below are hyperlinked to the relevant pages online.

The Law Commission published a [consultation paper](#) on Criminal Appeals on 27 February. Consultation runs until 27 June 2025. By our [terms of reference](#), our review aims at ensuring that appeals and their consequences are effectively, efficiently and appropriately resolved.

This short “route through” the consultation paper is aimed at those concerned with or involved in **forensics**. If you can and want to, we recommend that you read the full consultation paper. However, we do not expect or prefer that respondents to our consultation answer all 108 of our consultation questions; this route through is aimed at enabling those concerned in forensics to read parts of the paper of core relevance to them so that they can answer the consultation questions of most relevance to them.

Alternatively, you can read our 37-page [summary paper](#), of which summary consultation questions [6](#), [9](#), [20](#), [22](#), [23](#), [24](#) and [28](#) will be of particular relevance to those involved in forensics.

How to respond

You can respond to any and all of the full consultation paper’s questions via our [online form](#) and navigate by chapter. You can also respond to our summary via its [form](#). Alternatively, you can email us with answers or queries at criminal.appeals@lawcommission.gov.uk.

Areas of most relevance to those concerned with or involved in forensics

The test for admitting fresh evidence in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division (Chapter [6](#))

See [6.34 to 6.115](#) and Question [17](#).

Court-appointed or “independent” experts on appeal (Chapter [6](#))

See [6.117 to 6.126](#) and Question [18](#).

The effect of fresh evidence on convictions, and ordering retrials (Chapter [8](#))

See [8.90 to 8.126](#) and Question [35](#).

Minimum evidence retention periods and the effects of not adhering to them (Chapter [15](#))

See [15.3 to 15.15](#), [15.79 to 15.96](#) and [15.106 to 15.139](#) and Questions [90](#), [91](#) and [92](#).

The potential for a national Forensic Archive Service (Chapter [15](#))

See [15.94 to 15.96](#) and [15.140 to 15.146](#) and Question [93](#).

Duties of disclosure of, requests for and rights of access to evidence (Chapter [15](#))

See [15.16 to 15.74](#), [15.97 to 15.105](#) and [15.148 to 15.183](#) and Questions [94](#) and [95](#).

Reviews of systemic miscarriages of justice (Chapter [17](#) and Appendix [3](#))

See [17.3 to 17.7](#) and [17.66 to 17.71](#) and Appendix 3 paragraphs [30 to 63](#) and Question [104](#).

Trial issues in relation to types of evidence and disclosure (Chapter [17](#) and Appendix [4](#))

See [17.74 to 17.75](#) and [17.109 to 17.112](#) and Appendix 4 paragraphs [33 to 61](#) and Question [106](#).