



RAI Code of Practice for Forensic and Expert Social Anthropology

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document has been developed by the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI) of Great Britain and Ireland (a professional body for forensic anthropology in the UK) in association with the United Kingdom Forensic Science Regulator.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this document is to establish the professional standard of performance within the field of Forensic and Expert Social Anthropology (FESA) in the UK and internationally. It details the standards of practice that are expected for forensic and expert social anthropologists undertaking work on behalf of parties engaged in legally binding proceedings overseen by courts or other legally empowered bodies in the UK and internationally. This work encompasses both the conduct of forensic investigations and the provision of expert opinion. This Code of Practice must be read in conjunction with the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Practice and Conduct (CoPC)¹. It is recognised that there are a number of areas of specialisation within forensic and expert social anthropology that fall outside of the CoPC, however where relevant, the Code of Conduct should be followed.
- 1.1.3 For the purposes of this document, 'Forensic and Expert Social Anthropology' refers to a specific range of activities undertaken by appropriately qualified social anthropologists, which involve the provision of evidence to courts or other legally empowered bodies. Within this range of activities, forensic and expert social anthropology encompasses the conduct of forensic investigation, including either or both fieldwork and/or desktop work as defined at Section 3 below, where the purpose of that investigation is the establishment of facts relevant to a matter before a court or other legally empowered body. By contrast, but also within this

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/forensic-science-providers-codes-of-practice-and-conduct-2021-issue-7>

range of activities, expert social anthropology encompasses the provision of expert opinion to a court or other legally empowered body, based on facts already established. Forensic and Expert Social Anthropology are closely interrelated, and Forensic and Expert Social Anthropologists (FESAs) may be engaged by a court or other legally empowered body to undertake both activities.

2 Scope

- 2.1.1 This document is relevant to all forensic and expert social anthropologists practicing in the UK and internationally.
- 2.1.2 This document acts as a guide to all operating within the field of forensic and expert social anthropology in the UK and internationally.
- 2.1.3 This guidance defines the purpose of the forensic and expert social anthropology process and the series of steps that must be followed from the time a forensic and expert social anthropologist (FESA) is notified of involvement in a matter until the presentation of findings, whether by report alone or through the provision of evidence to a court or other legally empowered body.
- 2.1.4 In agreement with the UK Forensic Science Regulator, this is a stand-alone guide given the niche nature of forensic and expert social anthropology, and so does not specify which International Standard should be applied to the work being conducted, although it has been aligned with International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation G19:08/2014, Modules in a Forensic Science Process², where possible and applicable as advised by the UK Forensic Science Regulator. It should be noted that certain types of analytical test may require accreditation as detailed in the Statement of Accreditation and Standards Requirements in the UK Forensic Science Regulator's CoPC.
- 2.1.5 While it is recognised that academic teaching and research are important elements of the professional practice of forensic and expert social anthropology, this

² https://ilac.org/latest_ilac_news/ilac-g19082014-published/

document does not apply to teaching or research in forensic and expert social anthropology.

3 Terms and Definitions

This section provides the definitions for terminology.

3.1.1 Competence

Competence is the demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills and, where relevant, demonstrated personal attributes.

3.1.2 Contract

A contract may be any written or oral agreement to provide forensic and expert social anthropological services. Note that a contract does not necessarily involve payment for the services, may be mandated by law and may require to be in accordance with local, regional or national legal requirements.

3.1.3 Forensic or Expert Report

A forensic or expert report is a written report of the results and interpretations of a forensic investigation into the cultural causes of social phenomena and/or an expert assessment of those causes, submitted to a court or other legally empowered body. A written report may be in a format prescribed in legislation (a witness statement or report) and may be provided electronically.

3.1.4 Critical Findings

Observations and results that may have significant impact on the conclusion reached and the interpretation and opinion provided.

3.1.5 Equipment

Equipment refers to all tools, instruments and software that are used as part of the forensic and expert social anthropology process.

3.1.6 Investigator

A person, however titled, who is trained in the development of causal, evidence-based explanations for culturally specific social phenomena. Investigators are responsible for coordinating all fieldwork and desktop work, including all information and data collection and processing necessary to produce a report.

3.1.7 Culturally Distinct Community

A culturally distinct community refers to a community of people that may be distinguished from other communities of people on the basis of the distinct idea system that community members share with one another, together with the systematic instantiation of those ideas in social interactions between community members.

3.1.8 Fieldwork Site

A fieldwork site refers to that geographic region where the Forensic and Expert Social Anthropologist undertakes fieldwork (see below).

3.1.9 Culturally Significant Site

A culturally significant site is a geographic point or a definite geographic area, including all natural and/or synthetic features therein, which has specific and unique significance for a culturally distinct community of people.

3.1.10 Culturally Significant Object

A culturally significant object is a natural or synthetic object that has specific and unique significance for a culturally distinct community of people.

3.1.11 Terms of Reference (ToR)

ToR refer to the exact tasks that the Forensic and Expert Social Anthropologist has been asked to undertake in relation to a matter, and should be agreed with the relevant instructing authority prior to the commencement of work. The terms of reference will define the role of the FESA within the broader forensic and expert strategy(ies).

3.1.12 Fieldwork

Fieldwork refers to that domain of work encompassing interviews and other forms of consultation, including site visits, which provide a primary source of forensic and expert social anthropological information and data.

3.1.13 Desktop work

Desktop work refers to that domain of work conducted away from the field, generally involving secondary information and data collection and processing, including information and data modelling and analysis, and report writing.

3.1.14 Information and Data

Information and data refer to two states of structured texts, whether written, audio, video or computer code. Information and data represent more aggregated and less aggregated states respectively. The threshold for the definition of data is that it be quantifiable at a unit level, such as for example, the number of people consulted in the course of fieldwork, the number of times a single person is consulted, or the number of occurrences of a distinct consultation theme. By contrast, information may encode data in an aggregate state, but is otherwise qualitative rather than quantitative.

3.1.15 Information and Data Collection

Information and data collection refers to processes by which either or both information and/or data are collected by a Forensic and Expert Social Anthropologist in the course of either fieldwork or desktop work.

3.1.16 Information and Data Processing

Information and data processing refers to any process by which information and data is modelled and analysed in the course of developing a report.

3.1.17 Validation

Validation is the confirmation by examination and the provision of objective evidence that the particular requirements for a specific use are fulfilled.

4 Duties and Responsibilities

This section describes the remit of a Forensic and Expert Social Anthropologist (FESA) which will generally, although not exclusively, fall into the following categories.

- 4.1.1 To assess whether one or more culturally distinct idea systems has played a causal role in the instantiation of one or more distinct patterns of social interaction relevant to a given legal matter.
- 4.1.2 To identify the specific culturally distinct idea system that has played a causal role in the instantiation of a specifically distinct pattern of social interaction relevant to a given legal matter.
- 4.1.3 To establish, consistent with Section 3.1.7, the social extent of the culturally distinct community involved in a given legal matter, where that extent is comprised of the relationships that link individuals to that community.
- 4.1.4 To assess the cultural basis of the relevant community's social extent, comprising one or a combination of idea systems, including but not limited to, kinship, religion, language, health and/or economy for example.
- 4.1.5 To comment on any variation between culturally distinct idea systems that would be deemed typical by the relevant community itself, and any culturally distinct idea systems that would be deemed atypical by that community.
- 4.1.6 To assess and record the specific instances of social interaction that have occurred as a consequence of the culturally distinct idea systems identified.
- 4.1.7 To reconstruct the sequences of idea-to-instantiation that have given rise to the relevant social interaction.
- 4.1.8 To comment on whether the sequences of idea-to-instantiation described above conform with processes that would be deemed typical by the relevant community itself.
- 4.1.9 To undertake or assist in the recording of information and data either or both via fieldwork and/or desktop work.

- 4.1.10 To write statements and reports and attend court to give evidence as an expert witness when required.
- 4.1.11 To provide awareness to the investigating authority of other FESA specialisations that might be considered in the investigative process, which are not within the expertise of the practitioner, including but not limited to, kinship, linguistics, religion, economics, or health, for example.
- 4.1.12 Some FESAs will carry out case reviews for Defence solicitors.
- 4.1.13 Some FESAs will be competent to advise on the use of other investigative tools/experts to assist in the case (including but not limited to geographic information systems, audio and visual recording and production, statistical analysis, network analysis, specialist software systems, for example) and to undertake specialist information and data management if appropriate and within their professional competence.

5 Professional Competency

This section refers to a level of competency required of any Forensic and Expert Social Anthropologist (FESA) certified under The Royal Anthropological Institute's professional certification and continued professional development (CPD) program. While required of FESAs certified under the RAI CPD program, this level of competency should also serve as a guide for FESAs who do not have this certification.

- 5.1.1 FESAs must maintain professional expertise and demonstrate continued competency in each of the categories in which they practice (Section 4), for example through relevant certification and recertification (by an appropriate professional body such as the Royal Anthropological Institute), and must record continuous professional development and current practice within the field.
- 5.1.2 The RAI's Code of Practice encourages the implementation of systems in place to enable critical checks of all casework reports prior to submission (see Section 7.3).
- 5.1.3 The Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI) has developed a professional certification and continued professional development (CPD) program, which includes 5-yearly

recertification. The certified FESAs within this scheme must adhere to this requirement to maintain their competency and certification with the RAI. Any FESAs not certified by the RAI should be able to demonstrate up to date, ongoing competence and continued professional development by another objective route. The RAI has processes in place to address complaints concerning RAI certified FESAs. However, in all cases the Forensic Science Regulator shall be informed at the earliest opportunity about any complaint if it has significantly disaffected the end user, such that it could attract adverse public interest or lead to a miscarriage of justice.

- 5.1.4 The FESA must ensure that the potential for cognitive bias is mitigated wherever possible, by having appropriate processes in place as described in the Forensic Science Regulator's guidance on Cognitive Bias.

6 General Forensic and Expert Activities

This section identifies the different activities across the forensic process. While the procedures described here may seem to form a timeline, this is not necessarily the case in practice and the order in which activities are performed will vary depending on the circumstances.

6.1 Initial Discussion

- 6.1.1 The FESA will take principal responsibility for the relevant services provided to the case once they have been contacted and have agreed to progress with the investigation. All decisions and information must be recorded in the FESA's contemporaneous notes, and records must be continuously updated throughout the investigation.
- 6.1.2 The FESA must ensure that they have processes in place to monitor and review their assignments regularly in relation to each case, in order to ensure that they fulfil the Terms of Reference (ToR) correctly and fully as agreed.
- 6.1.3 On initial contact the FESA must:
1. Initiate accurate and contemporaneous record keeping.
 2. Clarify the scope of an assignment and establish clear ToR.

3. Agree the ToR and ensure that any work that they agree to undertake is within their area of competence and expertise. They must at this stage raise any potential conflicts of interest.
4. Ensure all necessary information and data is gathered in relation to the extent, and particular conditions of the assignment, while taking steps to avoid unnecessary information and data that could potentially contribute to cognitive bias. Information and data likely to be required includes:
 - a) the temporal/historical and spatial/geographic extent of the social phenomena connected with the matter under investigation,
 - b) the name/contact details of the person responsible for coordinating the FESA's engagement with the matter, e.g. the client representative,
 - c) nature of the social phenomena under investigation,
 - d) any health and safety issues specifically connected with the matter that may affect the FESA's engagement,
 - e) requirement for any special equipment or competencies,
 - f) required timescales including fieldwork if necessary,
 - g) whether it is necessary for the FESA to attend any briefings or strategy meetings,
 - h) the client's perceived requirement from the FESA at that stage.
5. Inform the client about the expertise and technical knowledge of the FESA and the ways in which they can support the specific investigation.
6. Agree any anticipated costs in relation to their work and ensure that authorisation is obtained from the appropriate budget holder prior to the commencement of any work.
7. Ensure that appropriate clearance has been obtained (necessary to work with certain communities and other agencies).

8. Identify the required resources, facilities and equipment to undertake the role requested of the FESA and ensure that there is access to these.
 9. Inform the client about any potential work, logistical requirements and other recommendations which could be actioned while awaiting the arrival of the FESA. This may include activities that might preserve oral evidence where there is a risk of interviewees travelling or passing away due to illness or old age, for example.
 10. Seek approval in advance should any other persons be required to attend the scene with the lead FESA (e.g. a second FESA or scientist from another discipline).
- 6.1.4 The FESA may be responsible for subcontracting other specialists. If this is not the case the organisation of these specialists would then lie with the investigating team.

6.2 Response and Actions During Fieldwork

- 6.2.1 Once the ToR have been agreed, there shall be no unreasonable delay in responding to a call to commence either or both fieldwork and/or desktop work, and the client must be made aware of the time required to prepare and to travel if necessary.
- 6.2.2 Costs and deadlines shall be discussed and agreed at the briefing stage where possible. This will include any critical timescales such as custody time limits, bail and court dates etc., to which they may be expected to work.
- 6.2.3 Where required, the FESA shall provide their own specialist equipment for engagement in fieldwork or have agreed that it is to be provided by the client.
- 6.2.4 The FESA will be contactable or provide an alternative point of contact for the client.
- 6.2.5 Prior to any fieldwork being undertaken, a briefing with an appropriate individual should be undertaken so that the FESA is informed about the nature of the matter and any background information or data of significance and relevance.
- 6.2.6 If, during the briefing, new information and/or data about the matter comes to light, renegotiation of the ToR must be initiated if appropriate.

6.2.7 The type of matters an FESA may attend include (but are not limited to) the following assessment of evidence based on the FESA's own specialist area of expertise:

1. Protection or documentation of culturally significant sites.
2. Protection, repatriation or documentation of culturally significant objects.
3. Culturally-based claims to physical and/or intellectual property including lands, waters, natural resources, artefacts, traditional knowledge, procedures, designs, technology, etc.
4. Culturally-based claims to child custody.
5. Culturally-based claims to asylum.
6. Individual or collective persecution on the basis of distinct cultural attributes, viz. membership of a distinct cultural community.
7. Culturally-based defence from prosecution.

6.2.8 When commencing fieldwork, the FESA must introduce themselves to the point of contact and be prepared to show appropriate identification.

6.2.9 All activities, observations, findings and conclusions must be recorded in the FESA's contemporaneous notes and documentation must be continuous throughout the investigation.

6.2.10 The FESA must be aware of both legally and administratively necessary, and culturally appropriate procedures for engaging in fieldwork within a given jurisdictions and with a specific community. The FESA must endeavour to comply with these procedures at all times.

6.2.11 The FESA must ensure that they minimise the risk of contributing unnecessarily to interpersonal disputes among members of the community or communities with which they engage.

- 6.2.12 The FESA must undertake a risk assessment for their specific activities and ensure awareness and adherence to other risk assessments already in place.
- 6.2.13 An assessment must be made before any fieldwork is carried out, to outline and agree the FESA's involvement, bearing in mind the presence of other evidence, other specialists and other staff. Agreement must be reached with the client and other experts involved in the matter to avoid compromising other potential evidence. The agreed strategy should be documented by all concerned and should be agreed with the client. Any additional fieldwork required by the FESA, including deployment of any specific techniques that necessitate the use of equipment (for example, GIS mapping), must be discussed at the outset with other experts.
- 6.2.14 In the case of protective object retrieval as documented at 6.2.7(2) above, any disturbance of a culturally significant site must be in line with the agreed strategy and any removal of objects from the site or relocation within the site must have been agreed previously, according to local management guidelines.
- 6.2.15 Any photographs taken by the FESA must only be with the express permission of the client (or their representative) and the individuals photographed. Where culturally significant sites and/or objects are photographed by the FESA, it must be with the express permission of the declared cultural custodians of those sites and/or objects. Images must be stored in a secure manner and be disclosed to the client.
- 6.2.16 The FESA must understand the requirements of other attending specialists and members of the research/investigative team, clarify their various roles and responsibilities and coordinate their activities with the wider team at all times.

6.3 Records of fieldwork and information and data management

- 6.3.1 Records can be undertaken via a variety of means including written notes, images or by voice recording, and must commence prior to the commencement of either or both fieldwork and/or desktop work and continue throughout the examination investigation process. All conducted activities, observations, findings and conclusions reached during fieldwork and/or desktop work must be recorded. Records must be

sufficient to permit another competent FESA to understand and evaluate the work undertaken.

- 6.3.2 Any interviews, consultations, photographs, audio or video recordings, GPS data or other information or data collected by the FESA must be suitably recorded, labelled, catalogued and stored to ensure subsequent identification of provenance. This includes time, date, location and source.
- 6.3.3 All information and data must be appropriately stored and secured to minimise the risk of damage, degradation, loss and/or unauthorised access. The FESA must ensure that data is in a format that is readily accessible by other FESAs.
- 6.3.4 The FESA must ensure that if they take control of any information or data a 'chain of custody record' is maintained and that any storage facilities utilised are secure and appropriate to minimise the risk of damage, degradation, loss and/or unauthorised access.
- 6.3.5 The FESA must ensure the next stage of continuity of the information and data that they assemble is executed appropriately, ensuring there is a written record of this attached to the information and data and within their notes.
- 6.3.6 Any damage, degradation, loss and/or unauthorised access affecting information and data assembled by the FESA must be recorded in the FESA's notes and the relevant personnel informed.
- 6.3.7 If portable equipment or software is to be used in the field or office, it must be calibrated according to specific local conditions before use. This calibration must be recorded. Examples of equipment include global positioning system (GPS) devices. Examples of software include, but are not limited to, geographic information systems (GIS), social and kinship network analysis or genealogical population modelling software, and language-specific translation software.

6.4 Documentation and handling of culturally significant sites and objects

- 6.4.1 Examination of culturally significant sites and objects must be undertaken with dignity and respect, and in accordance with the wishes of the culturally authorised custodians and/or traditional owners of those sites and objects.
- 6.4.2 Any examination, measurements or other form of documentation and/or handling must be undertaken by a FESA who has a proven competency in the use of the corresponding methods.
- 6.4.3 Documentation and/or handling of culturally significant sites and objects shall be undertaken using techniques which are agreed in advance, and which will cause no physical effect to the sites or objects.
- 6.4.4 Care must be taken when interacting with culturally significant sites and objects. All culturally significant sites and objects must be considered at risk of damage when being documented and/or handled. Any damage caused during documentation and/or handling must be recorded.
- 6.4.5 Methods for examination must be validated according to the validation of methods outlined within the Forensic Science Regulator's CoPC (see definition of validation at section 3.1.17). Methods used must have demonstrated levels of reliability. All methods must be undertaken by a FESA who has proven competence in their use and the methods and conclusions must be subject to case specific critical check as part of the critical review process.
- 6.4.6 The reliability (precision and accuracy), variability (statistical variance), errors of any method (for example, estimating the precision of a global positioning system or the reliability of oral or documentary-based social or kinship networks) and calibration related to any instrumental measurement, must be understood by the practitioner and stated clearly in any conclusions based on that method.
- 6.4.7 Methods shall be fully documented (see Section 7) including procedures for quality control.

6.5 Equipment

- 6.5.1 The FESA must maintain all specialist equipment and ensure that equipment which is to be used on more than one fieldwork site, is cleaned or otherwise maintained using a method validated to prevent malfunction.
- 6.5.2 All measuring equipment must be calibrated and maintained as appropriate to manufacturer's guidelines and records kept of such.

6.6 Validation

- 6.6.1 The interpretive methods, techniques and equipment used throughout a FESA examination shall be validated prior to the implementation of the method since all methods/testing should be fit for purpose and comply with validation of methods outlined within the Forensic Science Regulator's CoPC.
- 6.6.2 All methods shall be fully documented including procedures for quality control and where appropriate, the use of reference materials.
- 6.6.3 Validation studies are required for all methods including comparative methods. Validation studies can be conducted by the scientific community (as in the case of standard or published methods) or by the practitioner themselves (as in the case of methods developed in-house or where significant modifications have been made to previously validated methods).
- 6.6.4 If a method is validated by another organisation the practitioner should review validation records to ensure that the validation performed was fit for purpose and should ensure that this is included in their documentation.
- 6.6.5 Where practicable, technical procedures used by a FESA shall be validated before being used in either fieldwork or desktop work. For novel techniques or non-routine activities where this is not the case, the practitioner should still have validated the method, product or service in accordance with the requirements of the Forensic Science Regulator's CoPC before the results are reported and shall ensure that the status of the validation, product, method or service is clearly understood by the end user prior to its use.

- 6.6.6 It is important to ensure that the FESA is current in their knowledge and literature reviews should be undertaken regularly to ensure that a full range of opinions can be conveyed regarding the use of techniques and conclusions drawn from results as displayed through documented CPD.

7 Documentation and Records

This section addresses documentary requirements for the FESA.

7.1 Requirements for Records

- 7.1.1 Each FESA must have a documented procedure to create and maintain records relating to each case under investigation. All information and data must be documented appropriately and may include, but not be limited to, records of any communication with the client (verbal and written), contract review, financial information, terms of reference, examinations requested, forensic and expert strategy(ies), examination notes, diagrams, printouts and images, draft reports, evidence of critical checks.
- 7.1.2 The records must be such that another competent practitioner could evaluate what has been performed, interpret the data and if necessary repeat the activity.
- 7.1.3 The records must be sufficient to provide an auditable trail and should comply with data protection law and confidentiality practice.
- 7.1.4 Records must be made at the time of interview, consultation, photography, audio or video recording, GPS mapping or other information and data collection, or as soon as practicable thereafter, and these must include all of the information which would make it clear from the case record who has performed each stage of the process, and when this was done.
- 7.1.5 Any changes made to the records must be retained so that the original information can be reviewed whether this is in hard copy or electronic format. All modelling and analysis undertaken must be recorded, even if it is eventually rejected, along with the information of who has rejected the result and why.

- 7.1.6 Each page of every document in the case records must be traceable to the matter. There must be a mechanism by which the integrity of the documentation is maintained.
- 7.1.7 Hard copy records must be paginated using a page numbering system that indicates the total number of pages.
- 7.1.8 All records must be stored securely, including electronic records, and a method of indicating place of storage should be included in the matter file. All case matter files should be retained for as long as required by the retention schedule of the relevant legal administrative system.
- 7.1.9 Where case matters involve the assessment of images or other information and data provided by a third party, delivery of that material shall be through secure and recorded methods, and storage shall follow data protection law and confidentiality practice.

7.2 Report writing

- 7.2.1 It may be that the FESA may supply preliminary reports verbally or via email. Any verbal report must be supported by a written document at the earliest opportunity and records kept of all communication in a traceable manner. These results must include a caveat that the results are provisional and an indication of whether they have been subject to a critical check.
- 7.2.2 Any Streamlined Forensic or Expert Reporting³ undertaken by the FESA should adhere to Streamlined Forensic or Expert Reporting Guidance and Toolkit available from the relevant legally empowered body by which the FESA is engaged. This may include standardised document templates or other pro forma data entry system.
- 7.2.3 The FESA must produce a formal report to record:
1. The information provided to them with regards to the history of the matter.

³ <https://www.fcn.police.uk/services/science/streamlined-forensic-reporting-sfr>

2. Evidence to justify the actions and decisions taken at during fieldwork and or desktop work.
3. The analysis strategy and methods utilised and/or considered.
4. The results of the analysis.
5. The justification for preferring one explanation over others, where findings can lead to more than one explanation.
6. The conclusions and explanations for those conclusions, with reference to current and pertinent literature when appropriate.
7. The repeatability, reliability and accuracy of all methods relied upon must be stated clearly.
8. The quantification of all records kept by the FESA, referring to matter numbers and other relevant identification codes where allocated.
9. Any additional information required, with reference to the relevant expert witness guidance or other equivalent guidance in the jurisdiction where the FESA is engaged.
10. The FESA must ensure that the legal requirements for expert reports are followed.

7.2.4 All reports from a FESA shall be critically checked prior to submission (section 7.3).

7.2.5 The FESA should produce the report as quickly as is practical within the specific circumstances of the case and within an agreed timescale.

7.2.6 The FESA must be prepared to consider new information and produce supplementary reports as appropriate.

7.2.7 The FESA must write the report in a fair and unbiased manner, taking into account all relevant issues, remembering that their core responsibility is to the court.

7.2.8 The FESA must ensure that the report is not in any way misleading.

- 7.2.9 Any sharing or storage of the report must follow data protection law and confidentiality practice.

7.3 Matter-Specific Critical Check

- 7.3.1 The RAI's Code of Practice encourages where practicable that a case specific critical check has been undertaken by another appropriately qualified FESA. The second FESA shall scrutinise the document to ensure that the report is internally consistent, the conclusions drawn are justifiable from the information set out in the report, and the report is capable of being understood without reference to other material, e.g. material included within appendices.
- 7.3.2 Before signing and submitting the report, it is the responsibility of the FESA to check their work for typographical and grammatical errors.
- 7.3.3 If any doubt or unresolved disagreement arises during any matter-specific critical check process that may be undertaken, it is the responsibility of the FESA that this be brought to the attention of the client as soon as practically possible.

7.4 Disclosure of information

- 7.4.1 The FESA must ensure that all findings are made available to the client and surrender all information and data to them and to any other appropriately authorised personnel associated with the matter as required by law.

7.5 Obligations to the Court

- 7.5.1 The FESA must ensure that they fulfil their obligations to the court or equivalent legally empowered body in relation to the matter in which they are engaged, such as a tribunal, commission, or other equivalent authority. This includes but is not limited to: responding to court warnings, fulfilling the details of expected preparations, including the preparation of joint reports if requested, and undertaking expert witness testimony when required.