

Keith Borer Consultants

Forensic expertise – *when you need it*

September 2019



Handwriting and Signature Accreditation for KBC's Huntingdon office

Handwriting and signature comparisons are some of the oldest forms of forensic analyses and carry the same value to this day. These comparisons are still found in criminal cases, civil claims, family matters, estate settlements, immigration matters and employment issues. The work requires expertise, high quality and consistency, and what better way to demonstrate this than by an external assessment against an international quality standard.

Keith Borer Consultants is excited to announce the document examination section has received UKAS accreditation to ISO17025 for handwriting and signature comparisons. The handwriting team, Dorothy Allan and Louise Floate, who are both based in KBC's Huntingdon office, bring years of experience, dedication and high quality examinations to the handwriting section.

Will you see any difference? Other than the addition of the UKAS logo, the reports will be of the same high standard you are used to, but what you will have is formal external and independent recognition of the quality that underpins our findings and opinions.

Here's what our scientist Dorothy Allan has to say:

"We are extremely pleased to have achieved accreditation for handwriting and signature examinations. UKAS have recognised that our examinations and comparisons follow robust procedures including rigorous independent checking and peer review. Given that handwriting and signature examinations are subjective, and there are many lone individuals claiming to be experts in this field, accreditation should give clients further assurance that they will receive the best advice and reports from KBC."

Karl Ebejer, Forensic Scientist and Quality Manager, has piloted the project from its inception to acceptance by UKAS:

"This is a significant milestone for KBC, as we now have two offices undertaking accredited activities in an environment of constant pressure to deliver quality, we are pleased to be expanding our scope of accreditation."

You can contact Mrs Allan or Mrs Floate by calling 01480 432 794 or emailing huntingdon@keithborer.co.uk.

Cyber Essentials Certificate for Keith Borer Consultants

Both the Huntingdon and Durham offices have recently been awarded a Certificate of Assurance for the Cyber Essentials Scheme. The Government-backed scheme aims to ensure businesses "guard against the most common cyber threats and demonstrate their commitment to cyber security". Ross Donnelly, KBC's IT Manager and Digital Team Leader says: "We feel it is important for us to demonstrate to our customers our commitment to keeping their data safe."

Blood Patterns, DNA Profiling and Statistical Evaluation at Huntingdon

Helen Davey, Mike Appleby and Emma Youngson are Forensic Biologists operating out of KBC's southern office, complementing the expertise of the 4-strong biology team in Durham. Recent instructions have included a murder case, considering the significance of a small amount of DNA on a knife; an affray, considering the movements and actions of individuals through blood pattern analysis; and a drugs case involving the examination of a firearm and consideration of 'touch' DNA derived from it.

Out of sight, out of mind?

When was the last time you needed an expert in footwear marks, glass fragments or textile fibres? Dorothy Allan is Huntingdon's trace evidence specialist (in addition to her handwriting expertise). Even though these evidence types are considered 'old school', they can still offer valuable evidence where DNA or fingerprints have failed. Could they be useful in your case? Why not give us a call to talk it through.



An opportunity to meet some of our team . . .

Mrs Emma Youngson

Forensic Scientist,
Huntingdon Office

How long have you been a forensic scientist?

I have been a forensic scientist since 2000 following graduation from Strathclyde University with an MSc in Forensic Science. Since that time I have worked as a consultant forensic scientist dealing with a range of different cases. I joined Keith Borer Consultants in 2019.

What cases do you find most interesting?

Some of the most interesting cases are drink-drive cases, as people from all different walks of life can find themselves in unusual situations. However, the most satisfying cases are those where I really feel that I have made a difference. These may be large, complex cases or small, apparently straightforward ones. I enjoy having discussions with solicitors or Counsel about the strengths and weaknesses of the scientific evidence in order to help them get to grips with the significance of the findings. I am always happy to discuss things over the phone if there are any questions to ask or issues to clear up.

What are your specialisms?

I specialise in DNA profiling, the examination of blood patterns and body fluids, and in alcohol-related matters.



@KBCalison

You can follow Keith Borer Consultants on Twitter for up to date details of CPD training seminars for solicitors and barristers, links to news articles and case excerpts that may be useful to your case.



CrimeLine CPD Podcasts

If you are a CrimeLine subscriber, you can catch up with the experts at KBC in a series of forensic podcasts. Topics include cloud computing, fingerprints, cannabis, indecent imagery, DNA, fire investigation and handwriting analysis. Look out for new podcasts being added to the series. You'll find them under CPD.

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Services

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Fingerprints
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Firearms residues
Fires
Footwear marks
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