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Keith Borer CONSULTANTS

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ADDED EXPERTISE

KBC has welcomed two experienced forensic practitioners to the team recently:

Chris Walsh is an expert in Cell Site Analysis, with over 28 years' experience in North Wales Police. His focus was on computer/mobile phone forensics, cybercrime and digital media investigation.

And **Forbes Scott** is a Collision Investigator, with a long career behind him at Norfolk Constabulary. A keen motorcyclist and LGV licence holder, Forbes has first hand experience of many of the vehicle types he examines during the course of his day-to-day work.

But 'steaming' ahead in adding expertise to the RTA team is **Adrian Armstrong**, who has recently passed his road roller test (category G), meaning he is now licensed to drive ALL categories of vehicles!

SFR Update

The National Guidance for Streamlined Forensic Reporting was updated in June 2021. The major revisions are as follows:

- Questioned documents, medical and fire investigation added to the list of Approved Evidence Types.
- Reference to Accreditation – use of approved and updated template documents to ensure compliance with accreditation requirements. It should be noted that, if none of the results contained within the SFR are accredited, there "should be no reference at all to accreditation within the report and the declaration section should be deleted in its entirety. There is no requirement to explicitly state the results are not accredited."

The SFR1 (or MG22B) is a summary of the forensic evidence in a case; it does not usually include any evaluation of a finding in a case-specific context or provide details of sampling techniques, statistical evaluations or sample quality. It is suitable for arrest, interview, charge and pre-trial management but it is not a witness statement and is not intended to be used in evidence unless as agreed fact. The person who assembles the SFR1 may not be the person who undertook the forensic examination and should not be called as a witness unless they are also the author of an SFR2 (MG22C/D). It is only when the Defence do not accept the SFR1 that the production of an SFR2 evaluation report is triggered. Even when an SFR2 is produced, there may be no contextual interpretation of the evidence as an SFR2 is not considered to be a full evaluative statement but is intended to deal with specific issues.

Accurate evidential evaluation depends on assessing the limitations of the sampling and testing, and the extent to which the result could have arisen from other stated or reasonable alternative circumstances. Here at KBC, we have experts in a wide range of forensic disciplines who can assist in establishing the evidential significance of a finding in the specific context of your case.



@KBCforensics

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 to find out more about the services we offer.



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 CBD oil, IP addresses & cloud storage, fingerprints, indecent imagery, DNA, fire investigation and handwriting analysis. Look out for new podcasts being added to the series. You'll find them under CPD.



An opportunity to meet some of our team...

NICHOLAS GRAHAM

How long have you been a forensic scientist?

I began my career as a Forensic Scientist back in 2012 at Cellmark Forensic Services after completing a Masters in Forensic Science at Kings College London. Initially my role involved examining exhibits, after which I trained in the DNA profiling process from start to finish and progressed to Forensic DNA Interpretation Team Leader. In 2018, I joined Keith Borer Consultants after relocating to the North East and, over the last 2 years, I have integrated well into KBC's experienced team of Biology Reporting Scientists.

What aspects of the job do you find most interesting?

The cliché is to say the variety of work we encounter but, in reality, this is the truth! No single instruction is like another and I relish tackling each one independently, aiming to assist both our instructing parties and the courts as far as possible.

What are your specialisms?

DNA profiling analysis and body fluid identification.

Upcoming Events

Appearing live and in person (at last!), KBC will be attending the following events:

- Cancer Research UK/Trinity Chambers - 22nd September 2021 - Dorothy Allan will be speaking about handwriting comparison on Wills and other documents (online webinar)
- Coroners' Society of England and Wales - 24th September 2021 - Adrian Armstrong will have an exhibitor's stand at the Annual Conference and attend the Gala Dinner
- LegalEx London - 10/11th November 2021 - KBC's handwriting team will attend as exhibitors alongside Cellmark Forensics
- Broadway House Chambers - 31st March 2022 - Julian Dunnill will be speaking about drugs cases and POCA

Follow us on Twitter or contact Alison O'Neill for details of all our upcoming events.

Cryptocurrencies

In recent months, it seems barely a week has gone by without cryptocurrencies making the headlines, whether it is Bitcoin reaching a 1 trillion USD market cap, cryptocurrency mining's impact on global warming or cyber-heists of millions of pounds of cryptocurrencies being stolen in a matter of minutes. Long has cryptocurrency been touted as associated with shady and illegal activities but, with PayPal announcing that they are facilitating the purchase, holding (or 'hodling' to cryptocurrency enthusiasts) and selling of select cryptocurrencies for UK customers, it is becoming more and more mainstream and perhaps more likely to appear in your cases.

This year, the Metropolitan Police reported seizing £114m of cryptocurrency in June and £180m in July, whilst in May West Midlands Police were tipped off to a suspected cannabis farm but found a cryptocurrency mine when the premises was raided. The monetary impact of any illegal activity surrounding cryptocurrency can attract a Proceeds of Crime Application. The volatility of the value of various cryptocurrencies is frequently discussed, with market dips of 40% or more not uncommon. This can call into question valuation placed on seized assets; was the valuation made at the time of seizure, at a market peak, when the individual came into possession of the asset or when they were found guilty or sentenced?

The mining of Bitcoin and other 'proof of work' cryptocurrencies requires a considerable amount of electricity. Large scale 'mines' are often located in countries where electricity prices are lower in order to increase the profit of these operations. There has, however, been instances where electricity meters have been bypassed and the unmetered electricity used to power these miners. The valuations placed on the stolen electricity can be wildly exaggerated.

Scientists at Keith Borer Consultants have experience mining various cryptocurrencies as well as maintaining an active interest in cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

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