



THIS ISSUE

Imagery Expertise
New Huntingdon Office
Meet the Team
New Faces

NEW FACES

We welcomed **Alex Bretherton** to the growing Alcohol, Drugs & Toxicology team at Durham recently. He has several years' experience in drugs testing, as well as a BSc(Hons) in Pharmacology and a MSc in Forensic Science.

We've also been busy recruiting into the Digital Forensics team - watch out for future announcements!

How to instruct an Imagery Expert

If you are thinking of instructing an imagery expert, but aren't sure how best to go about it, here's a quick guide to the services we offer and the materials we need to be able to assist.

What do you want us to do?

Our imagery team offers a number of services that may be of use to you, including image improvement, identification of people/objects and analysis of events. When you have a case that would benefit from one of these services, it's worth giving us a call ahead of sending papers so we can understand your requirements, inform you of what can or can't be done and provide you with alternative or additional lines of enquiry you may not have considered.

Quality of imagery

What we can observe and report on is entirely dependent upon the quality of the imagery provided to us - which includes both the quality of the original footage and any copy made available by the police. Image quality is often reduced when it is copied into a different format and for this reason you should always seek a bit-by-bit copy of the original format imagery. Requesting this early in the process, and ideally ahead of formally instructing us, can massively reduce report preparation delays.

Estimate of costs

We endeavour to have an estimate to you within 24 hours of receiving your enquiry, subject to being provided with necessary information. Generally speaking, to provide an estimate we will need to know:

- Your client's name, and the names of any co-defendants
- The funding type, e.g. private or Legal Aid
- When the report is required by
- What service you need, e.g. enhancement of footage and/or stills, or analysis with an opinion on specific issues
- What you are hoping to achieve, e.g. what is a person holding, enhancement of a specific frame

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Instructing an Imagery Expert (Ctd)

- Whether your request relates to a single or multiple incident and whether footage covers one or more days
- How much footage there is and from how many cameras. Each individual camera position has to be analysed separately in order to establish what it is showing or what detail it is able to show. Please be aware that video frame rate can vary greatly from one to thirty frames per second, so even relatively short clips can take a great deal of time to analyse frame-by-frame. It is helpful if you can identify the precise start and end points within a video file that are of specific interest.
- Whether any reference imagery has been taken and whether it is available in a useful format. Imagery taken of a suspect close to the date of arrest can be very helpful, as are any photographs of seized clothing. Low-quality images, such as those inserted into the case papers, are often of insufficient quality to be worked on and the original format imagery should be requested.
- If facial/body comparison is required, is your client available to be photographed and, if so, where? Facial/body comparison requires us to take reference photographs of your client so we may have to arrange a prison visit or travel to another location.
- Any questions you want us to address

When we provide our estimates, we draw on our extensive experience of similar cases and aim to provide you with a realistic assessment of how much time it will take to provide the service you need and when you can expect a report. We are always happy to discuss our estimates and to revise them if the scope of work changes.

Get in touch

If you have an imagery enquiry, please contact Andrew Farley, Nigel Cook or Dr Guy Cooper at our Durham office or Ian Warrick at the Huntingdon office.



New Huntingdon Office

Keith Borer Consultants was established in Durham in 1980, with a satellite office opening in Huntingdon in 2004.

Three new colleagues joined the Huntingdon team this year, prompting a search for bigger premises with more office and laboratory space. The new location on the northern edge of Huntingdon is perfect, being only a 5-minute drive from our old office.

The Huntingdon office is home to the Handwriting and Questioned Documents section, as well as members of our Biology, Alcohol, Drugs & Toxicology (ADT), Firearms and Imagery teams.

The newest additions to the Huntingdon team are:

Ian Warrick: Imagery

Ian primarily works on cases involving photographic and video evidence. This includes the identification of people or objects and the analysis of events or actions. He also undertakes photographic and video work, including post-capture editing and enhancement.

David Platt: Firearms

David specialises in the examination of firearms and ammunition, including identification and legal classification under relevant UK firearms legislation. He also considers functionality and effectiveness of different weapons and has experience of scene reconstruction and injury causation.

Kerri Allen: DNA and Body Fluids

Kerri has considerable expertise in the identification of body fluids and the interpretation of DNA profiling results. She also specialises in the analysis of textile fibres, hairs and damage to clothing, particularly in sexual offence, assault and murder cases.

An opportunity to meet the team...

FORBES SCOTT

Collision Investigator

How long have you been a collision investigator?

Since 2013. I previously worked at Norfolk Constabulary and joined Keith Borer Consultants in summer 2021.

What aspects of the job do you find most interesting?

I am particularly interested in motorcycle and scooter collisions, being a keen motorcyclist myself. I understand the risks that some riders take and the how other road users can be unaware of a bike's speed or even its presence. I also enjoy vehicle examination, looking for defects and damage, which can help us work out what has happened and relate that back to marks the scene.

What are your specialisms?

I undertake all types of vehicle examination and collision investigation. Having spent many years taking apart and rebuilding motorcycles, I have an extensive knowledge of their structure and function. I hold a license to drive large goods vehicles, so can assist with those queries, too.

Out with the old... in with the new!



The KBC calendar has been very well received for many years. However, our research tells us that the majority of you have gone digital. So we will no longer be sending out a desk calendar in December. The end of an era!

Our Huntingdon office has moved! Since 18th July 2022, our address is:

Suite 2, 6B Vantage Park
Washingley Road
Huntingdon
PE29 6SR

Email and phone numbers remain the same.

SERVICES

Alcohol
Anthropology
Arson
Ballistics
Blood patterns
Body fluids
CCTV
Cell site analysis
Chemicals
Computer examination
Crime scene assessment
DNA profiling
Damaged clothing
Drugs
Ecology
Electronic tagging
Explosions
Fibres
Fingerprints
Firearms
Firearms residues
Fires
Footwear marks
Forensic overview
Glass fragments
Hairs
Handwriting
Health & safety
Industrial accidents
Mobile phones
Paint
Personal injury
Physical fits
Road traffic accidents
Tachograph analysis
Toolmarks
Toxicology
Video imaging

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...and in Scotland:
Tel: 01835 822 511

@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 that may be useful to your case and, of course, details of what we do.



CrimLine CPD Podcasts

If you are a CrimLine 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.



Please note that we are no longer members of DX