



keynews

May 2014



Delivering Key News from Key Forensic Services Ltd

A message from Lisa Doxey Account Manager



Welcome to the second edition of Key News. I hope that you found our first edition interesting and informative and some of you have had a chance to use our services over recent months.

We have had a busy few months since our last edition getting out and meeting with a wide range of our customers from Bolton in the north to Plymouth in the South where solicitors and barristers braved the torrential rain and floods to hear about document examination and the role of the scientist in a major crime. Further details of some of our activities are outlined in this edition including our sponsorship of the Pro Bono Award at the Birmingham Law Society Awards.

In each edition we will be bringing you 'Casefile Corner' which gives an insight into some of the cases that we have worked on. This time we have a fascinating case that was undertaken by our Digital team which provided enough evidence to acquit the defendant. Details of this can be found on the back page.

I do hope that you find this of interest and would be pleased to hear from you with any ideas for further editions. Don't forget that as one of the leading forensic companies in the UK we are able to provide a diverse range of services working for criminal, civil and family lawyers and would welcome the opportunity to discuss your requirements. Please don't hesitate to get in touch and I look forward to being of assistance in the future.

Lisa Doxey

Account Manager

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New DNA profiling commences in July this year

Due to changes to the National DNA Database, from 24th July, all UK forensic service providers will be using a new, more discriminating chemistry (known as 'DNA-17') for the generation of DNA profiles from all types of samples. The new DNA-17 chemistries will provide:

- **An increase in discrimination.**
- **Increased sensitivity resulting in an increased chance of obtaining a useable profile from degraded DNA.**
- **Increased robustness against substances which may inhibit the generation of a DNA profile.**

The new chemistry looks at an increased number of sites ('loci') on the DNA strand and is therefore much more discriminating. The increased sensitivity means specialist techniques developed to work on 'low template' or 'low copy number' DNA profiling, (which is currently used

when very little DNA is present in a sample) are no longer required. In addition to day to day investigative work, the DNA-17 chemistry is especially suited to the investigation of 'cold cases', where traditional DNA technology has failed to generate a meaningful DNA profile.

At KFS we offer a totally bespoke cold case review service for unsolved cold cases. Our experts are well-versed in finding, recovering, analysing and interpreting forensic evidence from unsolved cold cases, many years after the crime occurred and after items had been examined by other forensic science providers using older techniques. Our scientists offer advice on the likelihood of obtaining meaningful results from old or challenging material and in some circumstances, it may even be possible for them to re-examine and re-sample crime scenes and exhibits, sometimes years after the crime.



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Expert Witness



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Key Forensic
Services Limited

Birmingham Law Society (BLS) Annual Awards

Key Forensic was the proud sponsor of the BLS Award for Corporate Social Responsibility and Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year.

KFS Finance Director Brian Thomas presented the award to Hayley Simonds, Trainee Solicitor, Mills & Reeve LLP.



KFS hosted a table at the Awards Dinner and invited customers along to enjoy the proceedings. Commenting on this prestigious occasion, KFS Finance Director Brian Thomas said: 'I was delighted to be able to present the award to Hayley Simonds, she is a very worthy winner. It was also a rare opportunity and a great pleasure for me to get out and meet some of our customers.'

< **Brian joined guest presenter for the evening Emma Jesson and after dinner speaker Steve Cram to present the award to Hayley.**

Birmingham Law Society

KFS has recently partnered with Birmingham Law Society to provide specialist forensic training to barristers and solicitors in the Birmingham area. This follows a series of successful seminars delivered to barristers' chambers across the country, dealing with such topics as:

- Questioned Document Examination
 - The role of the forensic scientist at major incidents
 - Forensic firearms examination
 - The value of Blood Pattern Analysis evidence
- More details on our joint venture with BLS to follow.



Key Forensic's MD addresses tomorrow's Forensic Scientists

Our Managing Director, Paul Hackett recently addressed students at the University of Coventry's Midlands Regional Student Forensic Science Conference, providing them with an insight into the forensic marketplace and the role of the forensic scientist and hopefully, inspiring them to consider a career in Forensics.



Returning Officers get our vote!

With the upcoming local elections in May 2014 we were approached recently by the Electoral Services team at Walsall Council to see if we could provide some training to assist Returning Officers in differentiating between forged and genuine signatures.

When voters attend their local polling station to vote, they are asked to put a cross in the box, however many people utilise the postal voting system and this requires a signature from the voter when they apply for a postal vote and when they complete their postal voting papers. These 2 signatures are then compared by the returning officers to check that they match.

Key Forensic Services had been involved in the investigation into falsified signatures at previous local elections and was therefore perfectly placed to be able to deliver this specialist training.

Dr. Kate Barr, one of our Senior Document Examiners gave training sessions to both Walsall and Coventry Council members. The aim of the training was to give an overview of the things to look for when trying to determine whether a signature is forged or genuine. Things to check included shape, style and flow of signatures as well as simple things like whether the names of the 2 signatures were the same. Comments received from the Returning Officers following the training included:

'Would recommend other elections/LA teams undertake the training'

'It has made me think more. I will feel more able to do my job better after this training'

'Informative and useful. Reinforced the approach I was taking already'

Key Forensic helps WMAS to get to the **HART** of the matter!

The Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART) are specialist ambulance teams who provide a rapid response to major incidents. These may include chemical, biological or radiological incidents as well as major events such as terrorist attacks, train crashes, motorway accidents and building collapses. In general they could attend any incident or accident where it may not be safe for other ambulance personnel to attend.

HART work alongside fire and rescue teams to triage and treat casualties and are therefore within the 'inner cordon' of these major incidents. Although the HART teams have some forensic training when they are given their advanced training for their role, it has not, up until now been an area that they are continually trained in. The West Midlands Ambulance HART team therefore asked Key Forensic Services if we could provide some forensic awareness training. This enables them to be more aware of the impact of their actions upon a

major investigation. The team's primary concern is always to preserve life but a little consideration to their surroundings may also assist in preserving forensic evidence that may be crucial to understanding the events leading up to a major incident.

Key Forensic's Dr. Phil Seaman provided the West Midlands HART team with Forensic Awareness Training on 1st April. The session started with an overview of some of the forensic evidence types and how evidence can be transferred from one area to another. This was then followed by a practical session whereby the team were given a scenario to deal with. This included a man needing medical attention in a car where there were a number of different types of evidence that could be of use to the police at a later date. These included footprints, bloodstaining, DNA and firearms evidence. Following the practical session Phil talked through how the scene had been dealt with and what evidence had been in the vehicle.



The 'patient' that needed medical attention.



The HART team assessing the situation & preparing to remove the patient from the vehicle.

East Anglian Chambers Seminar



As part of the programme of seminars mentioned previously, we recently provided EA Chambers in Ipswich with an evening CPD seminar on the subject of Questioned Document Examination, presented by KFS Head of Questioned Documents Steve Cosslett.

Around 25 solicitors and barristers attended the Seminar and Alison Scanes, EA Chambers Deputy Senior Clerk commented, "It was really easy to arrange and I found Lisa and Steve a pleasure to deal with. I look forward to arranging more events in the future"

If you are interested in Key Forensic Services providing a CPD talk please contact

Lisa Doxey, Account Manager on 02477 712230.



Trading Standards Institute Conference

Harrogate, 30th June-5th July

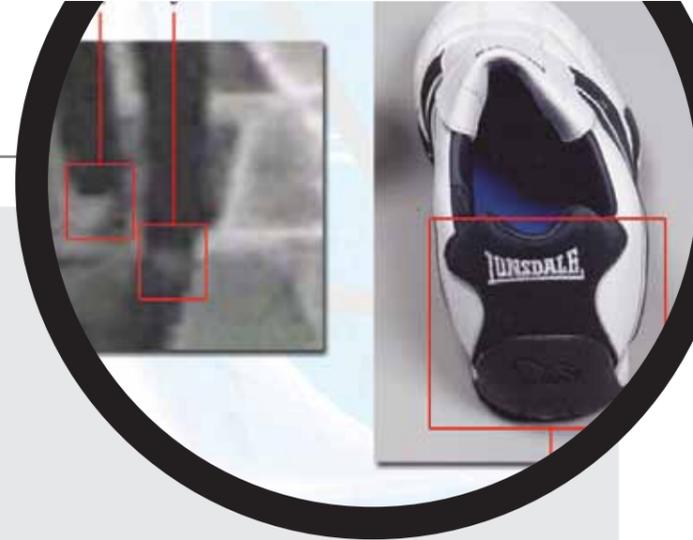
KFS will be exhibiting at the TSI 2014 conference in Harrogate. Come and see us on **Stand E3** where you can meet our team and learn about the wide range of forensic services and specialist training we offer to aid Trading Standards investigations and prosecutions.

Following on from last year's TSI conference we were approached by West Berkshire and Wokingham Trading Standards to provide some forensic awareness training to their officers. The event was attended by 20 staff who carry out a wide range of roles within Trading Standards. Our expert Helen Haworth explained the different evidence types and how some of these can be preserved. She also advised on the type of things to consider for packaging and preserving that can be considered for forensic examination at a later date. In particular, with rogue trader cases, items may be left around that in the event of a prosecution could prove invaluable in linking a person to the 'scene'.

If you are a Trading Standards team that has a requirement for any forensic examination or training please contact Lisa Doxey on 02477 712230.



Casefile Corner



CCTV Analysis plays pivotal role in Attempted Rape Case

A Defendant had been charged with the attempted rape of a young female in London. The Defendant had been visiting London with a colleague whilst on leave from the Foreign Legion.

The young female victim had been attacked and knocked to the ground whilst out jogging near to her home in North West London. Her attacker sexually assaulted her and fortunately, his attempt to rape her was prevented by a passer-by who chased the attacker from the scene.

The Defendant was arrested a short time later in a nearby street. The Defendant was positively identified as the attacker by the victim and by the witness who had chased him from the scene. Police enquiries established the existence of CCTV footage which, whilst of relatively poor quality, showed a male of similar appearance and wearing similar clothing as the Defendant, running from the crime scene.

The Defendant vehemently denied the allegations stating that the offender must have been his friend who was also in the area at the time of the alleged offence. Police enquiries failed to trace the defendant's colleague. The defendant was remanded in custody awaiting trial on charges of attempted rape and sexual assault.

The Defence team submitted the CCTV evidence to Key Forensic Services for detailed analysis and the case was assigned to Steve Lamb, a Reporting Manager within Key Forensic's Digital Forensic Unit. At first glance, the CCTV appeared to support the Prosecution assertion that the male seen running from the crime scene was very similar in appearance to the defendant.

Using the very latest forensic analysis equipment and techniques, very minor differences in style and design of the white training shoes worn by the attacker and those seized from the Defendant at the time of his arrest were established. Although the differences were minor, they were sufficient to establish that the shoes worn by the attacker seen running from the crime scene could not be the same as those recovered from the Defendant at the time of his arrest.

During the trial, the victim stated that she could not be certain that the defendant was her attacker and the witness who had chased the attacker from the scene admitted that he had lost sight of the attacker for some time between the crime scene and the location of the defendant's arrest.

The new evidence in relation to the differences in the shoes prompted the Metropolitan Police to initiate further enquiries and established that the defendant's colleague (who had also been wearing similar clothing) had left the United Kingdom shortly after this incident and had since been arrested in France for a similar offence using the same modus operandi. The Defendant in this case was acquitted.

The CCTV camera can be likened to the perfect witness; it has no pre-conceived ideas, no biases, a perfect memory which is not subject to influence post-event and records all that unfolds before it in a dispassionate and accurate manner. All it requires is a highly skilled and experienced Forensic Analyst to interrogate it!



Get in touch!

For Further information please contact our Account Manager Lisa Doxey on 02477 712230 or email sales@keyforensic.co.uk

Download our customer brochure <http://bit.ly/1eKIuG2>

www.keyforensic.co.uk