

Forensic Equity

Safe in the knowledge



Your colleagues
will thank you
for putting this up in the office

**Providing legally aided forensic science services to the defence
or independent expertise to the prosecution**

Forensic accounting

Financial crime
Fraud and other financial investigations
Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) confiscation orders

Forensic biology

Blood pattern analysis (BPA)
Body fluid analysis
Clothing damage analysis
DNA profiling
Forensic fibres analysis
Forensic hair analysis

Forensic chemistry

Fire investigation
Handwriting analysis and forged documents
Shoe prints and footwear mark comparison
Tool and manufacturing marks
Trace evidence

Digital forensics

Audio enhancement
CCTV and imagery analysis
Cell site analysis
Computer forensics
Facial mapping and reconstruction
Lip reading
Mobile phone forensics and networking

Drugs of abuse

Cannabis cultivation
Drug legislation
Drug production and importation
Drug testing and analysis
Drug valuation
Drugs comparisons and purity analysis
Drugs on money
Drugs packaging comparison
Drugs trace detection and detection devices

Fingerprints

Fingerprint evidence
Fingerprint identification
Fingerprinting

Firearms and ballistics

Comparison macroscopy
Crime scene reconstruction
Explosive devices
Firearms and ammunition legislation
Gunshot Blood Pattern Analysis (GBPA)
Gunshot residue (GSR)
Weapons testing

Forensic pathology (Home Office Registered)

Bite mark analysis
Medical reports (including paediatrics)
Second independent post mortems
Specialist pathology (Neuropathology, Osteoarticular pathology, Histopathology)
Suspicious deaths
Violent and sexual crime, including the causation of injuries

Road traffic

Accident investigation
Insurance fraud
Quantitative RTA scene analysis
Speeding offences
Vehicle examination

Forensic toxicology

Drink driving
Drugs driving
Effects of drugs
Serious crime involving drugs or poisons

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Getting the forensic evidence re-examined

How to get to the point;
the process explained

Stage 1 - Send us the case papers for review*

- We are always happy to receive case papers and will review them free of charge, in order to understand all of the implications of the prosecution's evidence.
- At this point, we can also review Counsel's advice and assess the issues that they would like to address, together with any other issues which we feel are relevant to the defence case.

Stage 2 - We will provide you with our initial assessment, early indication and proposed case strategy

- After considering all of the case papers, we will provide you with our initial thoughts and findings and provide you with an early indication as to the chances of establishing a possible forensic defence.
- If we do find cause for concern and believe that an independent review of the evidence should be undertaken, we will provide you with a proposed case strategy which will address all of the issues.
- We will detail the above in an estimate of costs suitable for a legal aid application.

Stage 3 - Submit our estimate of costs for LAA approval (CRM4)

- You can then submit a funding application to the LAA using the online CRM4 form.
- In order to save you time, we will also provide you with guidance on the submission.

Stage 4 - Working together to obtain access to the evidence

- Often a stage which is overlooked, but which, if not addressed early enough, can cause serious delays to you obtaining the required report; many cases require that the CPS grant us access to additional case files and/or photographs, or authorise full access to the evidential exhibits for re-examination purposes.
- When providing you with our estimate of costs and case strategy, we will also provide you with a detailed advice, regarding any further material or access to exhibits which we require.
- At the same time as submitting the LAA application, you should write to the CPS requesting authorisation to access the required items.
- Once we have written confirmation (an email will suffice) from the CPS that access has been granted, we can take it from there and retrieve all of the additional information required and/or arrange our visit to the prosecutions laboratory to re-examine the exhibits.

Stage 5 - We will re-examine the evidence and produce of an independent scientific report

- After having undertaken a thorough and proper examination of the required material and items, we will provide you with a detailed and robust report of our findings.
- Our reports are always of the highest quality and will always withstand even the toughest scrutiny.
- Should timescales to trial necessitate, we can on occasion, prepare a report within 48 hours from receipt of any required CPS authorisation.
- All of our reports are peer reviewed by a second scientist before they are finalised.

Stage 6 - We will appear at court and can assist with cross-examination of the prosecution's witness

- If the prosecution do not agree our evidence, we will attend court and appear for the defence as an expert witness. We can also assist with cross-examination of the prosecution's scientist, if required.

Tip 1 – This will save you hours at the photocopier

- The full case bundle can now be shared with us by using the share button on the DCS
- Click on the update case tab > click on the bundle tab > click on send by secure email > enter simon.franc@forensicequity.cjsm.net into the new window pane > click ok
- Please note that this share-link expires after two hours. It is therefore helpful if you call us or email us at simon.franc@forensicequity.com to let us know that you have shared the bundle with us.

Tip 2 – Need a second post-mortem? We have a team of Home Office pathologists who can assist.