

The Investigator

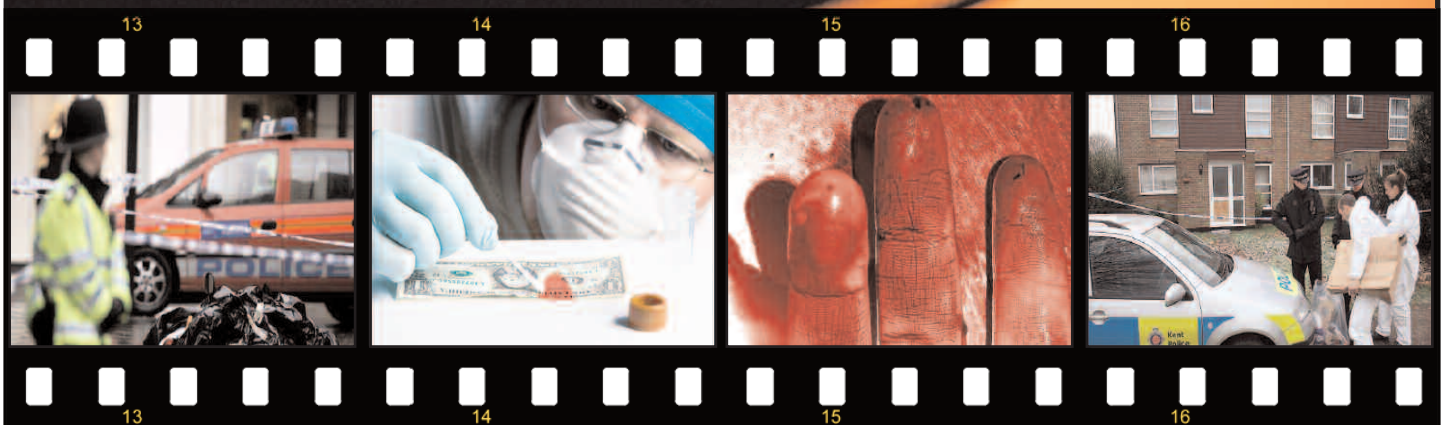
July/August 2009
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ESSENTIAL READING FOR TODAY'S INVESTIGATORS

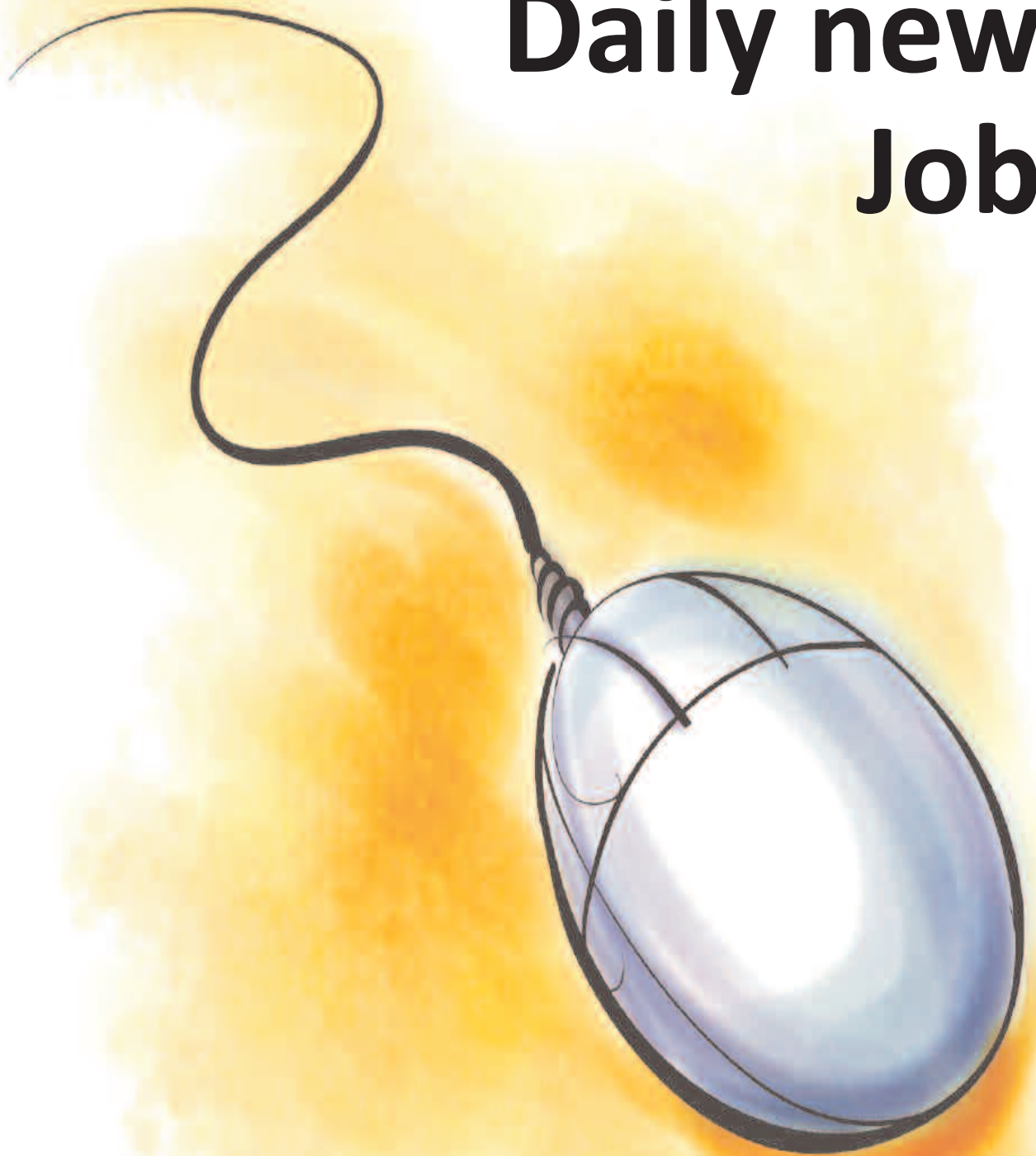


Lights!
Camera!
Action!

'CSI effect' could
harm investigations
Conference special report



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NPIA National Interview Advisor Gary Shaw looks at the dilemmas that have arisen following a change in legislation which means investigative interviews will be used as evidential products.

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A full round up of the debates at the Investigator's Practical Forensics Conference held in Northamptonshire last week.

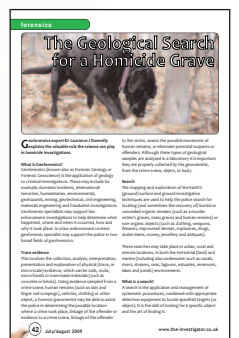
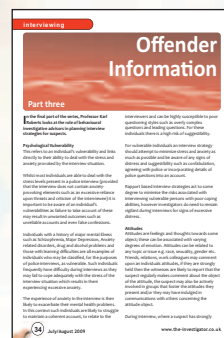
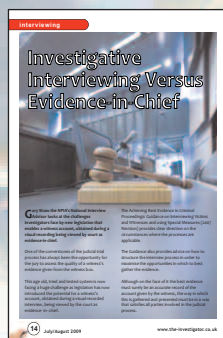
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The final part of our series on behavioural interview advisors and their role in the interview process. Karl Roberts reports.

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Dr Laurance Donnelly explains the role of geoforensics in homicide investigations.

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Specialist Books on Analysis and Policing

Get **15% off** purchases of books on analysis and policing through *The Investigator* plus free postage.

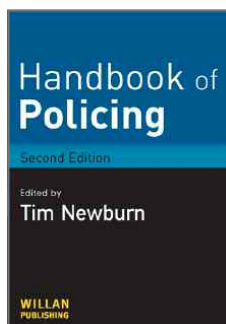
Handbook of Policing (2e)

Edited by **Tim Newburn** (LSE, University of London)

This new edition of the *Handbook of Policing* updates and expands the highly successful first edition, and now includes a completely new chapter on policing and forensics. It provides a comprehensive but highly readable overview of policing in the UK, and is an essential reference point combining the expertise of leading academic experts on policing and policing practitioners themselves.

'A major contribution to the study of policing in the UK ... authoritative, interesting and extremely wide ranging.' - **Sir Ian Blair** (Commissioner, Metropolitan Police)

August 2008 912pp
9781843923237 (Pbk) £34.99 / 9781843925002 (Hbk) £85.00



NEW EDITION

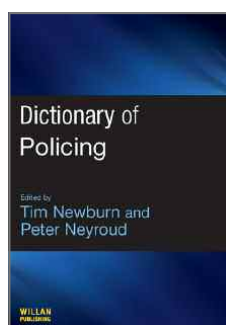
Dictionary of Policing

Edited by **Tim Newburn** (LSE, University of London) and **Peter Neyroud** (Chief Executive, NPIA)

'This is the first time that the body of knowledge about Policing has been brought together in a single volume dictionary accessible to practitioner and member of public alike. It is a really welcome development.' - **Paul Stephenson QPM** (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service)

This dictionary contains approximately 300 entries (of between 500 and 1500 words) on key terms and concepts arranged alphabetically. It is edited by the UK's leading academic expert on policing and the Chief Executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency

April 2008 384pp
9781843922872 (Pbk) £24.99 / 9781843922889 (Hbk) £62.00



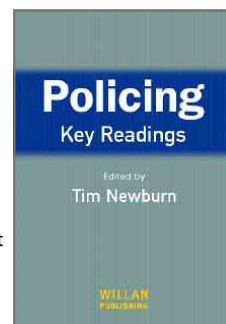
Policing Key Readings

Edited by **Tim Newburn** (LSE, University of London)

This book aims to bring together the key readings which constitute this core of policing studies, setting them within the necessary theoretical, social and political context, and providing an explanatory commentary. It will provide both students and practitioners with key literature and writing on policing.

'A collection of classic and contentious contributions to the literature on policing that will be an indispensable companion to any course on police and policing' - **Professor P. A. J. Waddington** (University of Wolverhampton)

November 2004 848pp
9781843920915 (Pbk) £33.99 / 9781843920922 (Hbk) £87.50

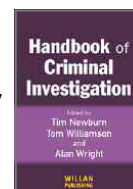


Handbook of Criminal Investigation

Edited by **Tim Newburn** (LSE), **Tom Williamson** (formerly Univ. of Portsmouth) and **Alan Wright** (Keele Univ.)

Handbook of Criminal Investigation is the most comprehensive and authoritative book yet published on the subject of criminal investigation, provides a rigorous and critical approach to not only the process of criminal investigation but also the context in which this takes place, the theory underlying it.

May 2007 728pp
9781843921875 (Pbk) £32.99 / 9781843921882 (Hbk) £85.00



Introduction to Police Work

Edited by **Colin Rogers** (University of Glamorgan) and **Rhobert Lewis** (University of Glamorgan)

This book provides student police officers with a highly readable and up to date introduction to the work of the police, exploring what this currently involves and the directions it may be going in.

'Written by practitioners for practitioners, this book is a comprehensive introduction to the work of policing and will provide a useful insight for anyone, seeking to understand our profession.' - **Peter Neyroud QPM** (Chief Executive, NPIA)

July 2007 312pp 9781843922834 (Pbk) £19.50



Police Work

Principles and practice

Tim John, Rhobert Lewis and Colin Rogers (University of Glamorgan)

This book provides a highly readable account of police work. It builds upon the same authors' *Introduction to Police Work* to provide a comprehensive, in depth and critical understanding of policing in today's diverse society.

It will be especially appropriate for those on probationer training programmes.

Sept 2009 336pp
9781843925316 (Pbk) £20.99 / 9781843925323 (Hbk) £50.00



NEW TITLE

Criminal Investigation

Peter Stelfox (Head of Investigative Practice, National Policing Improvement Agency [NPIA])

This book provides an authoritative and highly readable introduction to criminal investigation, from somebody ideally placed to write about it, focusing on how police practitioners carry out investigations.

It will be essential reading for both student police officers as well as officers taking higher levels of CPD within the police service.

March 2009 256pp
9781843923374 (Pbk) £18.50 / 9781843923381 (Hbk) £50.00



NEW TITLE

Police Corruption

Exploring police deviance and crime

Maurice Punch (LSE)

Policing and corruption are inseparable. This book argues that corruption is not one thing but covers many deviant and criminal practices in policing.

It provides a fresh, accessible overview of this under-researched topic for students, academics, police and criminal justice officials and members of oversight agencies.

March 2009 256pp
9781843924104 (Pbk) £21.99 / 9781843924111 (Hbk) £55.00



NEW TITLE

Police Interviewing

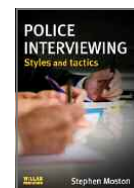
Styles and tactics

Stephen Moston (James Cook University)

Police Interviewing Styles and Tactics aims to describe and critically evaluate a wide range of police interviewing styles and tactics that might be used during the questioning of suspects in criminal investigations.

This book will be essential reading on the subjects for both police practitioners and those studying the subject.

July 2009 224pp
9781843925224 (Pbk) £25.00 / 9781843925217 (Hbk) £55.00



NEW TITLE

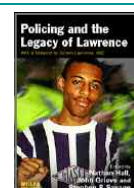
Policing and the Legacy of Lawrence

Edited by **Nathan Hall**, **John Grieve** and **Stephen P. Savage** (University of Portsmouth)

Foreword by **Doreen Lawrence OBE**

February 2009 marks the 10th Anniversary of the publication of the Inquiry into the events surrounding the investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence. This book marks this anniversary and examines various dimensions of the impact of Lawrence on policing policy and practice.

February 2009 304pp
9781843925057 (Pbk) £22.00 / 9781843925064 (Hbk) £50.00



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The need for frontline officers to be able to access the cutting edge work in the area of forensics that is being developed in the UK was evident recently at The Investigator's first conference.

Practical forensics for investigators aims at bringing together best practice cases study supported by cutting edge theory to enable frontline officers and police staff to make maximum use of the techniques in future investigations.

The conference saw experts including Patricia Wiltshire and Professor David Hawksworth give presentations on how their work has benefited past investigations such as the Soham Murders and the Ipswich Murders.

Det Supt Stuart Cundy from the Met, the SIO who led the Sally Anne-Bowman murder also spoke about how forensic evidence played a vital role in solving the case.

Delegates from forces including Devon and Cornwall, Surrey, Lancashire, The Met, West Midlands, West Mercia and Greater Manchester braved a sweltering hot day in Northamptonshire to share in the experience.

The event was proof of the importance of such events and the place they have in spreading best practice and enabling officers working in the investigative field to come together to network and share experiences.

We'd like to thank all the speakers and delegates who made the first conference such a success and we look forward to seeing many more of you in the next few months as we launch our Autumn conference season.

Carol Jenkins

Life for 'cowardly' murderer

A man, who researched killing methods online before beating his lover to death with a fire extinguisher has been jailed for life.

Glenn Rycroft, 33 of Holywell, Clywd, Wales, was found guilty of the murder of Gareth Macdonald, 30, yesterday at the Old Bailey. At the trial the court heard that in the time leading up to his death, Gareth Macdonald had been in a gay relationship with the defendant for several months.

On Friday 14 September 2007, the day before he was murdered, Mr Macdonald and Rycroft set off from North Wales in order to travel to London to visit the defendant's aunt and uncle who were over from Canada for a holiday.

The defendant had owed them £5,000 since December 2003 when he created a bogus investment scheme. When he was facing the likelihood of this fraud being discovered, he claimed that he was suffering from cancer and deceived, friends, family and colleagues into raising money for trips and non-existent medical treatment.

Rycroft booked into The Travelodge at Heston Services at 21:40hrs and then arranged to meet his aunt and the following morning at 07:00hrs. The following morning, at around 07:00hrs the defendant drove off but returned to the hotel about 20 minutes later having told his uncle and aunt he need to get a glucose monitor for his

partner and so would be late.

The defendant made sure the receptionist noticed him returning by asking for the checkout time and then came running back asking for someone to call an ambulance.

The receptionist ran to the room and saw Mr Macdonald lying face down on the bed. He was wearing only his underpants and had severe head injuries from being hit with the fire extinguisher that remained on the floor close to his body.

When officers arrived Rycroft was arrested. In interview he said he had left the room that morning because the victim had asked him to make himself scarce to obtain some money from his brother to give to Rycroft but that Mr Macdonald wanted this to be a secret.

After he had been charged with the murder of Mr Macdonald, the defendant then claimed that Mr Macdonald had asked the defendant if he could leave the hotel room so that Mr Macdonald could have sex with a male prostitute.

The investigation by the Homicide and Serious Crime Command went on to discover the defendants finger prints all over the murder weapon and the victim's blood on the defendants clothes.

He was charged with the murder on 17 September 2007.



ACADEMIC STAFF VACANCIES

CSU is the largest provider of tertiary police education in Australia. It is co-located with the NSW Police College at Goulburn and Australian Graduate School of Policing at Manly in NSW, Australia. The school delivers high quality, vocationally relevant programs to a wide range of law enforcement agencies.

Teaching roles in Law Enforcement and Policing are currently vacant across a range of academic levels. Staff are required to teach in areas of expertise that include, but are not limited to, investigations, intelligence, leadership and management, commercial crime and ethics.

Charles Sturt academic staff are expected to demonstrate a commitment to teaching and contribute to research/professional activities, administration and the wider community. A variety of employment options will be considered including long and short term contracts or secondment.

For further information please contact A/Professor Tracey Green: tgreen@csu.edu.au or visit www.csu.edu.au/jobs

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UK first for senior detective group

LANCASHIRE police has established the first Senior Women Detective's Network (SWDN) in the Country.

The SWDN, which celebrates its first anniversary this month, was borne out of the success of the Lancashire Constabulary Women's Network and was established formally in June 2008 after the need to have an informal support network was identified by female Detective Inspectors within specialist roles.

Historically, there have been difficulties in recruiting women to specialist senior roles, and this network provides the opportunity to share experience, advice and best practice on an informal basis.

Acting DCI Jo Edwards, Deputy Chair of the Network said: "Since the start of the Detective Network, Lancashire Constabulary has seen an increase in the number of female officers being successful in achieving senior positions within detective roles.

The network has offered huge support to many colleagues and seeks to provide role models for other aspiring women and it has been a proven successful source of support and sharing of expertise."

"It was identified during consultation in early 2008 that our colleagues in Cumbria could also benefit from this support network and so membership to the group was opened up to Cumbrian officers, with a view to eventually expand the network to within the North West region by 2010."

The network currently has 15 members, four of which are from Cumbria, ranging from the rank of Inspector up to Chief Superintendent who attend the meetings, and it is also open to colleagues who are currently in acting roles.

All the members have followed different career routes within their force, for example, some officers have worked in traditional detective backgrounds in CID, through the ranks of constable to sergeants, whereas some have limited detective experience and have made the transition later on in their careers, for example if they have come from neighbourhood policing, front line roles and the network provides an opportunity for staff from all backgrounds to share their experiences which has proven to be successful.

Detective Inspector Jill Johnston from the Public Protection Unit at Blackburn said: "The network has been extremely supportive to me, particularly so when I made the transition into an investigative role. Prior to 2007 my career had been predominantly in uniform and when I made the decision to pursue the role of a Detective Inspector I tapped into the contacts I had formed with the Senior Women's Detective Network who provided me with valued advice and guidance along the way."

Chair of the Network, DCI Pauline Lambert said, "The Senior Women's Detective network has been in existence for just over a year now and offers informal support to our senior female detective leaders both in Lancashire and Cumbria.

The network seeks to identify future female detective leaders and develop their skills but it is also a key opportunity to develop a network of professional and social contact's, which will provide a source of information upon progression and promotion within specialist roles and will assist members in development through coaching."

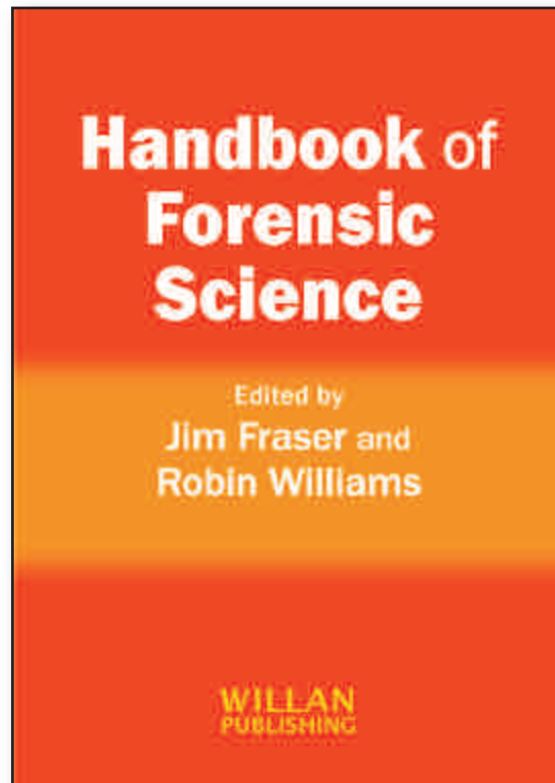


Handbook of Forensic Science released

Forensic science has become increasingly important within contemporary criminal justice, from criminal investigation through to courtroom deliberations, and an increasing number of agencies of individuals are having to engage with its contribution to contemporary justice.

This handbook aims to provide an authoritative map of the landscape of forensic science within the criminal justice system of the UK. It sets out the essential features of the subject, covering the disciplinary, technological, organizational and legislative resources that are brought together to make up

contemporary forensic science practice.



It is the first full-length publication which reviews forensic science in a wider political, economic, social, technological and legal context, identifying emerging themes on the current status and potential future of forensic science as part of the criminal justice system.

With contributions from many of the leading authorities in the field it will be essential reading for both students and practitioners.

www.willanpublishing.co.uk

Competition winners - June 2009 issue

Sarah Hiorns - Hertfordshire Constabulary
Andy Loakes - MET Police
Karen Alexander - Ma'at Investigations

Hazel Picton - Suffolk Constabulary
Linda Wurfel - Forensic Science Centre (Adelaide)
Greta Miller - Hertfordshire Constabulary

Each winner receives a copy of the Handbook of Forensic Science, courtesy of Willan Publishing.



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Solicitor jailed for stolen painting sale

A retired solicitor has been jailed for involvement in attempted sale of stolen painting worth half a million pounds.

Anthony Blok, 72, a solicitor who had been practising for 48 years, was sentenced to four years in prison for money laundering, perjury and perverting the course of justice.

The jury at Croydon Crown Court heard how Blok, aged 72 from Fulham, was the senior partner of Sears Blok Solicitors in Camberwell, London and began practicing as a solicitor back in 1960.

Blok retired from the practice when he was charged by police in November 2006 in relation to their investigation into the theft and attempted sale of a painting worth £500,000.

The Met's Art and Antiques Unit launched a proactive operation to recover the painting without success prior to 2002, but the implementation of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 enabled the Money Laundering Investigation Team to use the strong new legislation to investigate the criminal activities of Blok.

Over a ten year period Blok assisted a client of his, in attempting to sell a painting worth £500,000. The painting was stolen from an elderly lady living alone on the Isle of Man in 1993 and Blok attempted to sell it to art galleries. He continuously abused the

concept of legal professional privilege to hide his client's identity and his involvement in this theft from the authorities.

In 1995 Met officers from the Art and Antiques Unit applied for a court order to obtain his client's personal details, which Blok had previously refused to disclose. The Crown Court Order was eventually quashed in the High Court after Blok lied to the court about the true identity of his client.

Blok even went so far as to give the name of an innocent man in place of his client to hide his involvement in the theft, attempts at selling on the painting and attempts at removing the painting from the 'Arts Lost Register'.

In 2002, Blok paid £75,000 cash for the bail of another of his clients who was arrested for money laundering. Blok stated he had received the cash outside the court from a man he did not know. The Court's CCTV shows Blok receiving the cash inside the court from his client's daughters.

The cash has now been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act and this activity confirmed to police that Blok was heavily corrupt.

Police searched Sears Blok Solicitors' offices in Camberwell in February 2006 and recovered £30,000 cash hidden in Blok's office which has now been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

He was arrested July 2006 and charged in November 2008 and charged on the same day. The painting has not yet been recovered.

Blok was found guilty of: three counts of money laundering, one count of perjury and one count of perverting the course of justice.

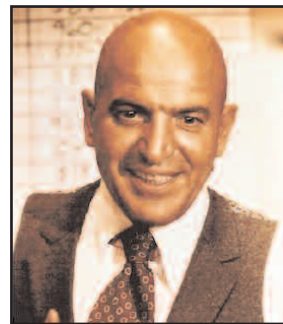


competition

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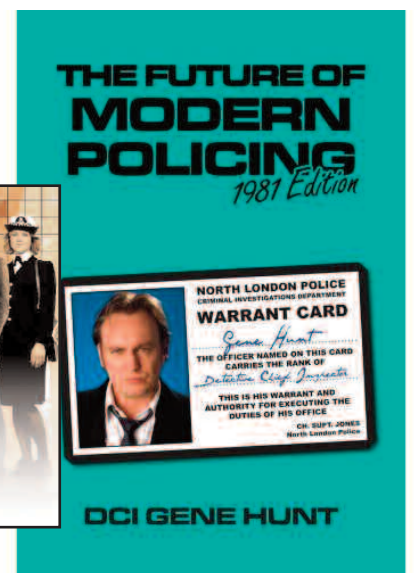
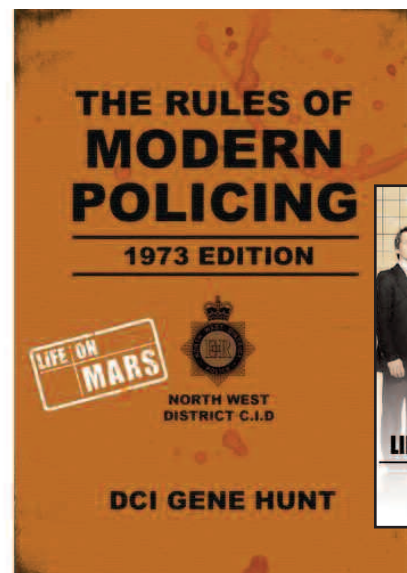
How to enter

To win a pay-as-you-go Samsung SGH-C300 and a copy of The Life on Mars books 'The Rules of Modern Policing' and 'The Future of Modern Policing' simply email the answer to the question below to: info@the-investigator.co.uk



Q. The American TV Detective Kojak was played by which actor?

The closing date for the competition is 31 July 2009. The winner will be drawn at random and notified by email. This is only one prize associated with this competition. The editor's decision is final.



First mental health courts

Problem-solving courts for offenders with mental health problems or learning disabilities, the first of their kind in England and Wales have been launched.

Developed using the successful model already in place for domestic violence courts and drug courts, mental health courts will help the judiciary and magistrates better respond to offenders with mental health problems – helping provide timely access to health services, offering tailored sentences and ultimately reducing reoffending.

Pilots operating in Brighton and Stratford magistrates' courts are currently screening offenders for mental health problems, with 21 offenders currently subject to an order which includes supervision by the Mental Health Team and has an element of mental health support within the supervision plan or specific activity requirements. Visiting the Brighton pilot, Justice Secretary Jack Straw said:

"We know how important it is to ensure people with mental health problems have their needs properly addressed. Mental health courts represent a new and innovative way to deal with the root-causes of offending and so limit reoffending. They operate as either a dedicated session or within the normal case list in a magistrates' court dealing with sentencing of offenders who have mental health problems or learning disabilities."

Drug dealers sentenced to 48 years in prison

An operation targeting a criminal network of drug dealing in the north east Hampshire area has seen 18 people receive custodial sentences totalling more than 48 years.

Operation Kettering was a year long intelligence led operation targeting known drug dealers in Aldershot, Farnborough, Fleet, Farnham,

Camberley, Ash and London.

A total of 23 people have now been dealt with at Winchester Crown Court with most of them receiving prison sentences.

DC John Gilliland, officer in the case for Operation Kettering, said:

"The purpose of this operation was wide-ranging; firstly, to target those transient dealers from London who were taking advantage of our geographical vulnerability by travelling into north east Hampshire to provide dealers in the area with their drugs."

"Secondly, to remove the dealers based within our communities who are supplying the addicts, who in turn commit offences such as burglaries and vehicle crime to fund their habit."

He said that even though some of the sentences may appear light, almost all of the people charged were remanded into custody and spent at least five months in prison before appearing in court.

Surrey Police assisted the operation as part of their continued drive to work with neighbouring forces to target cross-border criminals.

Detective Inspector Martin Goodwin, from Surrey Police, added: *"Drug dealing is an issue that affects the whole country. These results show how forces can successfully work together to target dealers who seek to cause harm in our communities."*

"Through Operation Shield, Surrey Police relishes the opportunity to work with other forces. We've embedded five intelligence officers in neighbouring areas, including one in Aldershot who works full-time with colleagues from Hampshire. This improves the way we share information and allows us to jointly target offenders who travel to commit crime."





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BANK FRAUD MAN JAILED

A man who opened bank accounts with false details across the country and then withdrew funds in Hertfordshire, has been sentenced today, following an investigation by Hertfordshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit.

David Smith received 15 months imprisonment at St Albans Crown Court.

Smith, aged 35, formally of Broadlands Avenue, Enfield, had previously pleaded guilty to eight counts of fraud at an earlier hearing at the court in May.

The court heard how between May and October 2007, Smith managed to open bank accounts at HSBC and Halifax branches across the country with false details. He was then able to withdraw large sums of money from cash points in Broxbourne, Hoddesdon and Enfield, which he spent on his lifestyle. It has been estimated he

defrauded the banks of £13,000.

Smith's accounts were closed six months later, following intelligence passed to the Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit. A warrant was executed at his property, where fraudulent credit cards, debit cards, cheque books and bank statements were seized. He was then arrested and charged with fraud.



Detective Constable Derek Hill of the Economic Crime Unit said: "Smith attempted to deceive the banks of large amounts of money and I am pleased we have been able to stop him taking any more

money to fund his lifestyle. Nobody should benefit from crime, and I hope this sends a strong message out that Hertfordshire Constabulary takes fraud extremely seriously and will deal robustly with offenders."

Communications data seminar

Senior detectives and law enforcement officers from across the North of England attended a seminar hosted by Lancashire police to boost awareness about the use of communications data in crime detection.

The event, held at Lancashire police headquarters in Hutton, Preston, this week, was designed to show the types of communications data available for evidence in a case and how to use this effectively. About 180 people from military police officers, detectives and other law enforcement agencies as well as communications providers attended. Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Gardner, Head of Crime for Lancashire, said: "This is the third such event which has been delivered in partnership with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). Lancashire Constabulary agreed to sponsor and host the event for the North of England."

"Communications data is an ever increasing opportunity for law enforcement to target criminals and detect crime and it's important that the police service keep on foot in relation to this new and emerging technology."

Investigative Interviewing Versus Evidence-in-Chief

Gary Shaw the NPIA's National Interview Advisor looks at the challenges investigators face by new legislation that enables a witness account, obtained during a visual recording being viewed by court as evidence-in-chief.

One of the cornerstones of the judicial trial process has always been the opportunity for the jury to assess the quality of a witness's evidence given from the witness box.

This age old, tried and tested system is now facing a huge challenge as legislation has now introduced the potential for a witness's account, obtained during a visual recorded interview, being viewed by the court as evidence- in- chief.

The Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Guidance on Interviewing Victims and Witnesses and using Special Measures (2007 Revision) provides clear direction on the circumstances where the processes are applicable.

The Guidance also provides advice on how to structure the interview process in order to maximise the opportunities in which to best gather the evidence.

Although on the face of it the best evidence must surely be an accurate record of the account given by the witness, the way in which this is gathered and presented must be in a way that satisfies all parties involved in the judicial process.

It has become apparent that in certain circumstances the way that this is being undertaken is causing considerable problems for the prosecution team preparing the case. The main cause of the problem is that interviewers who are conducting investigative interviews will no longer turn these into written chronological statements, but the actual interview itself becomes the evidential product.

The legal profession are in effect using the “raw data” of the interview, with all its imperfections, something which they have never turned their minds too before.

If these new legislation and guidelines are to be effective then it is vital that all of those tasked with managing and conducting the investigation together with the members of the legal profession understand how each phase impacts on the other.

Although the audio/video taping of key witnesses has existed for the last decade the product of the interview was still the statement so if the interview itself was hard to follow it made little difference, as long as there were no inappropriate questioning techniques for the legal profession to criticise.

In most instances the written statement would be a nice neat chronological account of the background of the interviewee leading up to the matter in issue.

In disputed prosecutions the witness would be expected to attend court to give a verbal account of their evidence.

This made it easier for the reader, however it never showed how the account was given, how long it took, in what order and what questions were asked by the interviewer to assist in the provision of the account.

As the actual interview itself is sometimes the only product that is now being presented the legal

profession are being faced with lengthy accounts which do not always meet up to their expectations of a clear recollection of events in a chronological way.

The way in which the evidence is produced especially in the form of several interview transcripts is raising cause for concern.

As a direct consequence the witness interview process is starting to attract considerable criticism from not only those involved in the defence of suspects but mainly from those involved in prosecuting and also judging the quality of the evidence put before them.

The question has to be asked is this criticism justified or is it the “shock to the system” of the new process and the lack of understanding of what has been happening for decades behind the scenes that has contributed to this view being formed.

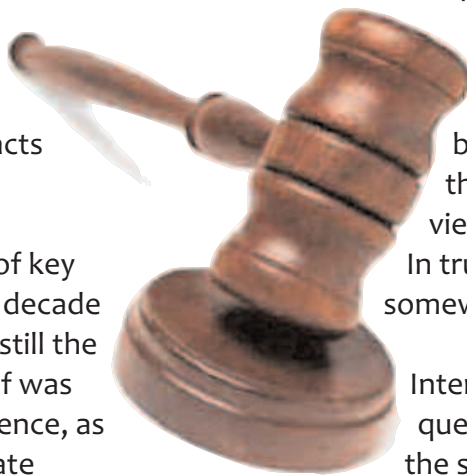
In truth, the answer probably lies somewhere in the middle.

Interviewers must understand that their questioning style and overall approach to the structures and content of investigative interviews needs to meet the evidential standards that are required if they are to be considered suitable for use as evidence-in-chief.

That being said the legal profession must understand that there is a major difference to conducting an investigative interview with a witness and that of producing a witness statement.

The witness statement was the product of an interview and represented the considerable process that went before this in order to produce it.

What is happening now is that for the first time, with adult witnesses, is that the legal profession are being exposed to the whole interview process. Another crucial factor that has to be addressed is how does the interviewer address these two, at times, conflicting demands in the heat of the



investigation.

Training

Since 1993, operational police officers have been trained in the cognitive principles and techniques to enable them to conduct effective investigative interviews during criminal investigations.

In the early stages of the training the practical exercises concentrated on obtaining accounts about the incident from co-operative truthful eye witnesses who were independent of the victim or suspect.

This was understandable as the new PEACE framework was introduced to a sceptical workforce who needed convincing in this new approach, therefore the less complicated the better.

As time has marched on, operational and training staff have come to realise that the cognitive interview in its purest form does not always fit the bill.

Victims and witnesses are not always willing to assist and often they are not independent of the others involved in the event and therefore have a degree of information to provide which can assist in the investigation.

However, the training has not sufficiently addressed the actual structure of the interview in sufficient detail to clarify the difference between the two phases of the incident and the investigative areas.

The training was subsequently amended to ensure that the conversation management approach was also an essential aspect of the witness interviewing approach.

An interviewer was encouraged to utilise whichever interview method was appropriate in the individual circumstances.

However, in the workplace there has been little or no assessment of the interview itself, as seldom were they audio/video recorded and what actually was taking place was unknown.

The scrutiny of the written statement was all that took place with little or no acknowledgement of the process that existed beforehand.

If an interviewer was unstructured in that perhaps they started asking a lot of questions about someone's background instead of concentrating on the event or jumped from topic to topic this went, by and large, unnoticed.

If an interviewer went over certain critical points on several occasions in order to assist the interviewee in remembering this was unseen.

In the majority of cases the product of the interview was the written witness statement.

The training has to reflect the issues that investigators are being faced with on a daily basis during the court process.

Investigation

When investigators are conducting key interviews, they may often not be fully conversant as to what has taken place and the initial interview is essential to obtain a comprehensive picture of the full circumstances.

The investigative interview may not follow a chronological sequence of events as how witnesses remember and recount information may often be sporadic as details of the incident are recalled.

There may well be other factors that are introduced by the witness surrounding the incident which may or may not be relevant.

The witness may have difficulties in providing an accurate and reliable account or be uncooperative or hostile.

It is apparent that at times not enough time and effort is being afforded within investigations to properly structure and plan interviews of essential witnesses, whether they are vulnerable, intimidated or significant.

That is not to say that witnesses are not being dealt with professionally in being afforded what that are entitled to and having any individual needs attended.

However, not enough attention is being given to the aim and objectives of the interview and how the information is to be obtained and then later presented.

The use of interview advisers in supporting both the management team and the actual interview team to develop appropriate and effective interview plans is still the exception rather than the rule.

Information obtained from witnesses in the early stages can either make or break the investigation. This material can assist in proving the case, identifying significant lines of enquiry and contribute to the identification of the offender but the converse can also be true.

Interviewers must realise that they have a major part to play in conducting a structured investigative interview which can meet the needs of both the investigation in the initial stages and stand scrutiny later when decisions are made concerning its use as evidence in chief.

An essential element of ensuring that these twin objectives are achieved is the planning that goes into structuring the

interview.

Considering clearly defined aims and objectives are vital to maximise the chances of achieving best evidence.

Interviewers are being correctly trained and encouraged to probe accounts in order to obtain as much detail as possible to assist in the investigation.

However, interviewers irrespective of the interview model that they subsequently use to obtain and develop an account, must structure the process so that not only does it meet the needs of the victim



allowing them to give an account but also the needs of decision makers in the investigation and the subsequent prosecution team.

Information prior to the Interview

There is a view that it is more productive that the interviewer is given limited information prior to conducting an interview to ensure that they cannot contaminate the interviewees account by introducing facts themselves.

However, this does not mean that the interviewer is not provided with any information at all about the matter.

It would seem obvious that the witness would expect that the interviewer is aware of at least the allegation that is being investigated and other relevant information.

witness previously said, any relevant background information about the witness, what product is to be produced at the conclusion are examples of what should be given to the interviewer.

This will help in the approach and in the structure of the interview.

After the initial phase of obtaining the account as described below the interviewer if not already aware must be briefed fully about what aspects should be covered in the Investigative Areas phase (see below).

Rapport Building

Every situation is different, are as individuals but there is a framework that can assist the interviewer in setting the scene as to what is required.

Interviewers are allowed to speak to interviewees before they conduct the interview often as a matter of professional courtesy and this can greatly assist in rapport building.

The full

explanation of the options that are available to a witness by means of the Achieving Best Evidence guidelines should be provided.

On several occasions the investigator making the initial contact may well conduct the later interview. There may have to be an initial questioning phase to establish what the witness has said in order to assist in the determination of what is to happen next.

This clearly should not go into an in-depth questioning of what has happened but enough to establish the outline of what has taken place.

This will assist in deciding what category the witness is to be interviewed under as this in turn

Interviewers must be aware of certain information prior to the interview however this is not to say that they need to be aware of all aspects of an investigation and exactly what every other witness is saying about the event.

The nature of the matter under investigation, where it occurred, how the person they are to interview has been identified, what category the witness is to be interviewed under, what has the

impacts on what product the interview is to be presented in.

If the interview is to be conducted by a person other than the initial contact person then this information should be provided to them.

If the interview is to be visually/audio recorded, any rapport/discussion that took place previously can be outlined by the interviewer at the outset.

If rapport has been established there seems little point in going into a “false rapport” stage merely to show to others that the interviewer is sticking to the model, as sometimes happens.

In those rare occasions when an interviewer meets a witness for the first time in the interview room they should make a judgement based on what

they have been briefed about as to whether a rapport phase is appropriate.

For example the witness may well be eager to give an account as soon as possible and the rapport building attempt may indeed be unproductive.

Rapport should be seen as the interviewer being professional, in dealing with the witness’s needs and concerns, explaining the process of what is to happen, continuing throughout the entire interview and not be viewed in isolation.

There has to be a purpose behind it which should be to create the best possible working environment to achieve an accurate and reliable account of what the witness has to say.

Introduction

The introductory phase prior to the interview

commencing should be appropriate to the individual that is being interviewed.

The circumstances will be determined by such things as the age of the interviewee, what has taken place prior, the status of the individual concerned and other relevant factors that might be determined by other investigative needs.

Incident

In too many instances, after the initial introductory phase, the interviewer at the start of the interview focuses on the history of the interviewee or the general background to the incident and some seem reluctant to deal with the main reason for the interview.

In the majority of cases the interviewer should ask the witness to concentrate on the matter in issue, the incident which is subject of the investigation. In the situation where a witness has experienced an event either by being a victim themselves or witnessing an event this is what the interviewer should ask the interviewee to recall.

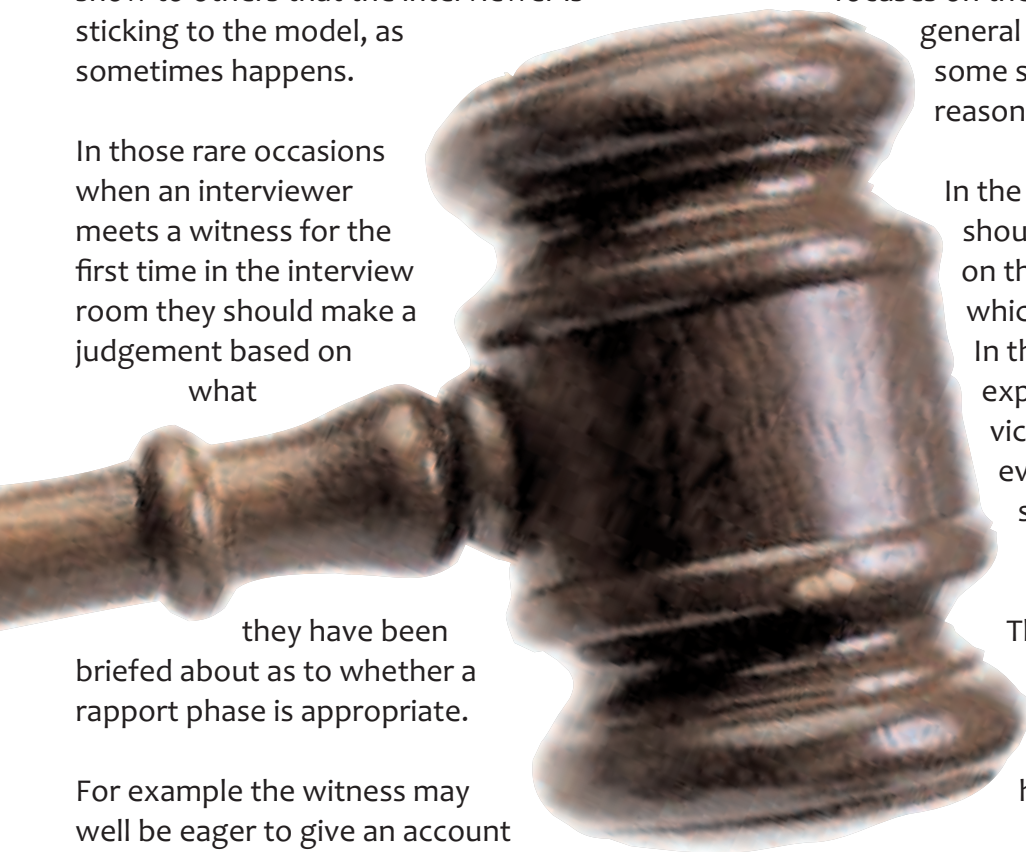
The interviewer should have a clear aim that they after an accurate and reliable detailed account from the witness concerning what happened.

The interview model that the interviewer decides to utilise to focus and expand the account should be based on all of the circumstances.

If an evidence-in-chief application is to be made later this account is the one that is likely to be played in court.

Clearly there maybe areas within it which may have to be edited out but as long as the interviewers style of questioning or interaction is appropriate the majority of what the witness states concerning the incident should be admissible.

The interviewer must not err from the aim and start asking questions and introducing areas that detract



from obtaining the incident detail.

If the witness introduces areas that are not relevant to the incident they can be explored later if considered necessary.

It may be a considerable time later that the interview record is viewed or a transcript is prepared therefore it is important to drive the investigation forward by providing key information to other investigators.

Whilst the investigation is still “live” an urgent “Lines of Enquiry” summary can be provided to allow specific actions to be allocated and investigated.

Once the interview has been completed then a chronological “Investigative” summary can be prepared to assist others involved in the investigation eg those in charge,

suspect interview teams and the enquiry teams to have a clear understanding of what is being said.

Later a Record of the Visual Interview (ROVI) can be prepared for use as a more comprehensive guide through the interview.

The Achieving Best Evidence Guidelines provide a detailed account of what should be included.

Investigative Areas

Once a comprehensive account has been achieved then topic areas which the interviewer feels are relevant to assist in the investigation can be introduced.

This may be around areas such as victimology, background, relationship to others, knowledge of other individuals, discussions with others, mobile phone usage etc, etc.

In many circumstances this section of an interview may contain certain areas which may be inadmissible at court or not even prove relevant later but in the initial stages of an investigation may assist in identifying significant lines of enquiry.

This may ultimately result in the suspect being identified and therefore is a crucial aspect of the witness interview.

However, it should not be mixed together with the incident phase as if the interview is to be used as evidence-in-chief and requires editing it may prove impossible to do so coherently and therefore the possibility of playing the visual record is diminished.

The process as described above in producing the product of the incident phase aspect of the interview can be adopted here too.

Significant evidential omissions or significant evidential inconsistencies

If after having completed the interview, an analysis is made of what was been said and it

appears that there are significant differences to what has been gleaned within the investigation a decision has to be made as to if, when and how these are to be dealt with by way of an additional interview.

The points may be so significant that if they are not addressed then the investigation cannot proceed or need to be addressed so that the enquiry can progress in an alternative direction.

There may be a number of reasons why these may have occurred and careful consideration must be given as to how these should be approached.

Presentation

As decision makers have been operating with written witness statements when deciding on appropriate courses of action there is little wonder that when they are presented with lengthy transcripts or ROVI's which are sometimes difficult to follow that they find this a daunting task.

Interviewers must structure their approach within the interview, taking into account the needs of the interviewee, so that the presentation of the content can be understood as easily as possible.

The use of an accurate chronological "Investigative" summary to go with the ROVI or transcript will help others to have a clear picture of what exactly the evidence is that the witness can give.

This will assist the SIO/IO in the investigation, the suspect interviewers when making decisions around interview plans and pre interview briefings with legal representatives.

It will also assist in early discussions with the CPS as to the most appropriate course of action and any later "special measures" applications.

It should also assist in ensuring that there are no unnecessary later requests from other members of the legal profession to transfer transcripts into written statements.

Early Special Measures Meetings

www.the-investigator.co.uk

The importance of an early special measures meeting to determine whether an application for evidence in chief is appropriate should not be underestimated.

This will ensure that all relevant factors are taken into consideration in deciding whether a written statement would be more suitable.

If this is decided then the transference to statement form should be made as soon as practicable after the recorded interview.

Summary

In the transparent arena in which the police service now operates and the way in which evidence is obtained being open to the highest possible scrutiny it is essential that key witness evidence is recorded accurately.

The service is and will continue to invest financially in acquiring suitable visual recording equipment and the training of investigative interviewers to ensure the best possible service is delivered.

Therefore it is crucial that this investment is not adversely affected by poorly planned or ineffectively conducted interviewing.

It is essential that if the introduction of the use of visually recorded evidence-in-chief is to be successful then the structure of interviews must meet the expectations of the legal profession.

Conversely the legal profession must understand that there will be a considerable difference to using the actual interview as the evidential product instead of the chronological witness statement.

The concerns from the legal profession are often centred on the prosecution of contested cases within the courtroom as clearly this is their focus. However, the quality of investigative interviewing can often determine whether the offender decides not to contest the case and this should not be overlooked either.

Gary Shaw
NPIA National Interview Adviser





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FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE

Warning over 'CSI effect'

A leading professor in forensic science has warned officers not to be seduced by the 'CSI effect'.

Jim Fraser who is director of the University of Strathclyde's Centre for Forensic Science said that while members of the public fell for the 'nonsense' portrayed in the popular TV programme, police officers were also susceptible.



Jim Fraser

"Juries have high expectations because of TV programmes like CSI, but officers do too. Don't get seduced by technology. Don't get caught up in the CSI effect," he said.

He also warned senior officers against 'self-fulfilling prophecies' in investigations.

"It's about an innate desire to find what you want to find. This is a really important issue. You should constantly expect people to challenge your view. Does the evidence stack up? What about are the alternatives? Why haven't you looked at them? Lack of thought is often a bigger issue than lack of knowledge."

Professor Fraser referred to the Shirley McKie fingerprint case where detective constable McKie's fingerprint was identified at a murder scene in 1996, even though she insisted she had never been inside the house. McKie was acquitted of perjury in 1999 after fingerprint experts said the print found in the house did not belong to her. The case has raised concerns about fingerprint evidence.

"Someone decided what they wanted the outcome to be," Professor Fraser said.

He also encouraged officers to seek professional forensic advice, instead of 'asking a mate'. "We each know a little about each other's jobs. In my experience, people go to less than good sources for information.

"Just telephone your scientific support manager. Hundreds of cases are lost because people can't be bothered to ask the right person for advice. Professor Fraser encouraged forces to make better use of the forensics.

"The bottomline is if you can't get an id with DNA or fingerprints, the next step down is toolmarks and shoemarks, but in my experience, they are not used systematically."

Professor Fraser is co-author of a new book out this month called Handbook of Forensic Science. It is available from Willan Publishing.



Past crime solved by latest DNA techniques

Thousands of cold cases are just waiting to be solved, according to Orlando Elmhirst, Head of the Cold Case Review Team at the Forensic Science Service.

Currently 1.5 million cold cases that are at least five years old are held in a national archive many of which contain a wealth of information including submission forms, contemporaneous notes and scientist's statements. Many of them also contain what are known as extracts taken by the forensic scientist at the time of the offence. The extracts were prepared during original examination, to confirm the presence of semen. They are uniquely labelled with an impenetrable seal.



Orlando Elmhirst

With the advent of new scientific techniques, these extracts could now be re-examined and could hold the key to solving the case, Mr Elmhirst said.

Extracts are the remains from previous DNA tests that could now be re-examined as part of a cold case review due to more sensitive DNA testing

methods.

“These cases are quick to review and deliver a high success rate,” said Mr Elmhirst who added that officers were not always aware a case file contained extracts.

“Often they were prepared for a different reason,” he added.

But Mr Elmhirst said that there was evidence that forces were carrying out cold case reviews without the input of a forensic scientist.

He advised forces to generate a list of undetected cases with their forensic science provider, followed by a paper review to establish if there is any scientific potential. All the exhibits should be recovered and an in depth forensic review carried out.

Mr Elmhirst has been involved in a number of operations, including Advance I, II and III to review cold cases. Advance is a national operation led by the Home Office and the then Police and Partnership Standards Unit, which looked at historic sexual offences.

This has led to 40 Convictions with five more suspects awaiting trial. The cases have so far resulted seven life sentences and over 230 years imprisonment.

Botany holds the key to crime scenes

Pollen and fungi could hold the key to solving cases where there is no other evidence, conference delegates heard.

Every crime scene is botanically unique and can play a vital role in crime scene investigation, according to two leading environmental experts.

Patricia Wiltshire who is also an expert ecologist,



Patricia Wiltshire

botanist and palynologist was speaking at The Investigator’s practical forensics conference in Northamptonshire.

She told delegates, including senior police officers, that she could often throw light on a case where there is no DNA or other evidence.

“We are involved in cases where there’s no DNA. It is not an exact science. It is about interpreting the whole of the crime scene. We are like pathologists, we look for symptoms.”

Ms Wiltshire, an expert witness who has been involved in some of the country’s highest profile murder cases, said that by examining surrounding vegetation at a crime scene, including spores and pollen she could often predict the evidence of a body.

“In one case we eliminated four out of five acres of land because we can tell by the environment the areas where a body could be buried and where it can’t,” she said.

Ms Wiltshire said that she could also date how long a body had lain in the ground.

“In one case where a body was recovered, the police wanted to know how long it had been there. We found bind weed growing, so the body had to be dumped in the summer. There were also dead female nettles whose fruit had not matured which also pointed to the summer. I narrowed it down to August. The actual date the body was dumped turned out to be 4 August.”

Ms Wiltshire’s skills also allow her to identify primary deposition sites.

“In another case, bones were found but had been distributed over an area of land as it was a fox run and foxes will move bones around for months on end. I was able to find the primary deposition site which was the skull because foxes find it too heavy to move.”

In the Soham murder case, Ms Wiltshire was also able to identify the path Huntley had taken to the

ditch to dispose of the bodies and the fact they had been there for two weeks which contradicted entomological evidence but was in fact correct. Ms Wiltshire said that she had been examining scenes for 16 years, but some forces were still unaware of her capabilities and potential input into a case.

She also raised concerns that without official support her skills could be lost. Although forensic ecology is not a new science, it is developing all the time, she said.

Ms Wiltshire's colleague, Professor David Hawksworth, a leading mycologist, also spoke at the conference. He agreed there was a lack of awareness among police forces of the potential to use the presence of fungi to establish important facts in a case.

By examining fungi and fungal spores, Professor Hawksworth said he could estimate the time and place of death as well as the possible location of a body.

In the Ipswich prostitute murders, Professor Hawksworth identified the length of time two of the victims had lain in the undergrowth by the fungi growing on their bodies.



Professor David Hawksworth

Officers confused over fingerprint evidence

Officers still do not understand the science of fingerprinting or its role in an investigation, according to the SIO who headed the Sally Anne Bowman murder case.

Discussing the lessons learnt from the case, Met Detective Superintendent Stuart Cundy told delegates at a practical forensics conference, "The vast majority of police officers don't understand how fingerprints work. They think it is like DNA. You put it in and the system spits it out the other end.

"They don't understand that it involves careful review, judgement and expert opinion, with all the associated difficulties this brings."

Det Supt Cundy said that during the case he realised there were serious gaps in his own knowledge and that he learnt a lot from the high profile investigation.

Mark Dixie was convicted of the vicious killing of 18-year-old Sally Anne Bowman in September 2005. Sally Anne was sexually assaulted and repeatedly stabbed outside her house on Blenheim Crescent in Croydon following a night out.

Despite DNA evidence taken from the scene, Dixie eluded the police as the DNA database was introduced after his last known offence and his DNA had never been taken. A finger mark was also recovered from the victim's shoe but due to the quality of the mark failed to come up with a match at that time with Dixie's fingerprints which were on file.

From the outset, officers were sure Sally Ann's murderer was familiar with the area and was in the area immediately after the murder. In fact, Dixie was staying with friends just two streets a way when he carried out the attack. He fled to Holland shortly afterwards, but his friends failed to tell police of his presence that night.



Det Supt Stuart Cundy

The inquiry sparked a UK first when police set up DNA centre in Croydon to eliminate potential male suspects. It enabled officers to eliminate hundreds of men over a two-week period.

Dixie was arrested in a separate incident in Crawley nine months after he murdered Sally Ann. His DNA was taken and matched that found at the murder scene. In 2008, he was convicted of Sally-Ann's murder and sentenced to life.

Det Supt Cundy has made no secret of his view on the benefits of the retention of DNA samples in solving serious crimes.

Joined up approach for forensics and interviews

A leading authority on police interviewing techniques has highlighted the need for investigators to prepare more thoroughly for suspect interviews.

Gary Shaw, National Investigative Interview Advisor, was speaking at a conference organised by The Investigator magazine.



Gary Shaw

Mr Shaw, a former police officer with 30 years service, told delegates, "We are not doing enough around interview planning. We need to paint the right picture. We need the person to admit their responsibility. If you prepare properly it might be enough for the person to put their hands up. It is about closing all those doors so they can't come up with a defence."

He outlined three areas that investigators needed to consider as part of the interview process including a crime scene assessment where investigators should carry out a crime scene assessment, a behavioural assessment as well as liaise with expert witnesses such as forensic experts. Information taken from a crime scene could be better used, said Mr Shaw.

"We don't use forensics enough in investigative interviewing. We have also got to think about how we use the behaviour assessment from a crime scene and how that links into our interview strategy," said Mr Shaw who is the former head of probationer training at Durham.

But Mr Shaw also warned that officers must not over play the evidence.

"If all you have got is a fingerprint at a scene,

there's has got to be a lot of thought about how we use that. Otherwise there is a danger that you will be criticised for misrepresenting the strength of what you have."

Other areas that should be considered as part of an investigative interviewing strategy included a witness interview strategy and a suspect interview strategy.

Guidelines to improving forensic samples

New guidelines ensuring the best forensic samples are taken at a police station is set to be rolled out across the service this September.

The programme - Detainee at Police Station Sampling or DAPPS - aims to boost the quality of samples taken from suspects in the custody suite. Speaking at a conference on practical forensics, Mike Thompson, the NPIA's lead on fingerprint training, stressed the importance of taking samples. "It's essential as it is how the individual is linked to the scene. If samples are not taken properly, such as how clothing is packaged, they could be lost," said Mr Thompson.

Mr Thompson also highlighted other changes to the services approach to forensic science and emphasised the idea that everyone from the call handler to the crime scene manger has a vital role to play.

"We are all investigators from the call handlers through to the CSI's because we are all making decisions after an offence has been committed.

"It is about promoting an investigative mindset and the realisation of forensic potential.



Mike Thompson

"Custody officers for example have a huge amount of information, for example, so it is not just the forensic specialist that has to be aware."

Mr Thompson said there had been a shift away

from one-off courses to ‘a complete learning programme’.

“[It] highlights the importance of forensic investigation from the first officer at the scene to the CSI and senior managers. A lot of damage can be done at the earlier stages. It is no longer a one-stop shop. We have now designed a learning programme that is about good practices that can be developed and shared, then taken back into the workplace to work with a mentor where you are continuously assessed.”

Mr Thompson also revealed that a forensic regulator could be appointed to look at all aspects of forensic practice, including the quality of crime scene managers.

“You have to continue to demonstrate that you are forensic expert. You have to maintain your competence,” he added.

Mike Thompson is head of national fingerprint training with the NPIA. He has worked in fingerprints for over 35 years both operationally as a fingerprint expert and the Head of the North Eastern Fingerprint Bureau.

Database identifies shoes brands from crime scene

A new internet service could help officers identify the brand of a shoe recovered from a crime more quickly.

foster + freeman

The service by Foster and Freeman which has developed a vast database of shoeprints is now available to the police service. It is a pay as you go system where officers can upload their image of a shoe print recovered from a scene and then through a series of descriptors try and match it with a print held on file. The best 10 matches are shown.

The database contains details of over 20,000 shoes from all major manufacturers. Over 700 brand names are represented. The records comprise

mainly sportswear, workwear, and casual wear and include most well-known brands.

“Shoeprints are always left at a crime scene. Our database has been around for a long time, but people are still unaware of it,” said Jane O’Brien, head of footwear at Foster and Freeman.

The shoeprint database is so current it now holds shoe patterns that have not even been released in shops.

Ms O’Brien admitted that most officers want a system where a shoeprint from a crime scene is automatically compared to a database of prints. She revealed that Sheffield University was carrying out work on automatic matching.

“They have made steps in the right direction. It works well on demo sites, but not so well with crime scene data.”

For more information, go to www.crimeshoe.com

Warning over mistakes in fingerprint evidence

Fingerprint evidence still has a strong role to play in criminal investigations as it is rarely contested in court.

In one force, out of 1300 cases where fingerprints identified the suspect, just 3 led to the fingerprint expert giving evidence in court.

Fingerprinting involves the comparison of a crime scene mark against a fingerprint form taken for that offence.

However, David Goodwin, a leading fingerprint expert, warned that mistakes could be made and pointed to two cases where errors had been made. Brandon Mayfield, an American attorney, was erroneously linked to the 2004 Madrid train bombings. On May 6, 2004, the FBI arrested



David Goodwin

Mayfield as a material witness in connection with the Madrid attacks, and held him for over two weeks. Mayfield was never charged, and an FBI internal review later acknowledged serious errors in their investigation. Ensuing lawsuits resulted in a formal apology from the US government, a \$2 million settlement.

Similarly in the UK Andrew Chiori, 21, was acquitted of breaking into Dr Miriam Stoppard's west London home in 1995 and stealing € 41,000 worth of valuables after Chiori's legal successfully challenged fingerprint evidence found at the scene which had incriminated their client.

Communication between investigators and forensic doctors 'vital'.

Investigating officers must brief forensic physicians in order to ensure they take relevant samples, conference delegates were told.

Speaking at a conference organised by The Investigator magazine, Dr Ian Wall, President of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians stressed the importance of communication between investigating officers and forensic doctors, formerly known as police surgeons.



Dr Ian Wall

"I always insist on a briefing from the investigating officer first. Otherwise I am working blind. You need to discuss what samples are going to be taken. I then try and debrief the officer on my findings which could help their investigation."

Dr Wall who has been a forensic physician for more than 25 years said that in time forensic healthcare would be transferred to the NHS and would become a consultant-led, team-based service available to the police service.

The Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of London was formed just three years ago. It aims to promote good practice as well as deliver training in forensic and legal medicine.



FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE

Conference sponsor information

The Forensic Science Service (FSS) is the market leader in the supply of forensic services to police forces in England and Wales and has a global reputation for excellence in the development and deployment of new and advanced techniques. Its heritage and expertise also provide the basis for world-class training services.

The Forensic Science Service pioneered the development and implementation of DNA technologies. It also paved the way for the establishment of the world's first DNA database, launched in April 1995.

Since 2005 FSS has been a 100% Government-owned company, or GovCo. The change in status from a Trading Fund enables it to respond quicker to changes in the forensic science market and compete more effectively with other business in the field.

The drive for innovation continued to yield ground-breaking results, with the introduction of the National Firearms Forensic Database in 2003 and Footwear Intelligence Technology (FIT), the UK's first online footwear coding and detection management system, in 2007.

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Firearms gang jailed for 53 years

Nine men involved in a plot to buy and sell guns have been jailed for a total of 53 years at Manchester Minshull Street Crown Court following an investigation by the Xcalibre Organised Crime Unit.

Some of the men were arrested when armed officers from GMP carried out an armed strike on two vehicles on Chester Road at its junction with the Mancunian Way on Thursday 26 June 2008.

Some others were arrested following a similar strike by armed officers from West Yorkshire Police in Leeds on 29 April 2008.

In total three guns and 18 rounds of ammunition were recovered.

Rainny Pemagbi (25/07/1990) of Orange Hill Road, Burnt Oak, London, was found guilty of conspiracy to possess a firearm following an earlier trial. He was sentenced to three years in a young offenders' institute on Wednesday 9 June 2009.



Shoukat Ali

Shoukat Ali (09/05/66), of Compton View, Leeds and Remy Rowan Parker (25/04/1991), of Melbourne Avenue, Stretford, were found guilty of conspiracy to possess firearms and ammunition following an earlier trial.

case notes

Ali was sentenced to five years in prison on Wednesday 9 June 2009.

Parker is due to be sentenced on a date yet to be fixed.

Jonathan Martins

(18/12/84) of Charlton Road, London, admitted two counts of possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition was sentenced to five years in prison.

Sahr Sundu (28/12/84) of Brett Crescent, London, admitted possession of a firearm and was sentenced to five years

Aaron Nathan Rouse

(21/12/83), of Kings Road, Stretford, Trafford, admitted two counts of possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition and was sentenced to eight years.

Gavin Lee Donald (08/03/1983) Copperfield Place, Cross Green, Leeds, admitted two counts of possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition and was sentenced to nine and a half years.

Marlon Darren Small (11/10/83) Gathorne Terrace, Leeds, admitted two counts of possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition was sentenced to nine-and-a-half years in prison.

Levon Halliday (04/09/83) Manor Grove, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, admitted possession of a firearm and was sentenced to four years in prison.

Gavin Dennis (19/12/81) Greyfriars Avenue, Huddersfield, admitted possession of a firearm and was sentenced to four years in prison.



Sahr Sundu



Remy Parker

Detective Superintendent Darren Shenton, who heads up Xcalibre, said: "This is another fantastic result for the people of Greater Manchester and demonstrates the continued efforts of the staff within Xcalibre to make the communities of Manchester a safer place to live.

"The threats posed to the community and innocent members of the public by those who possess and use firearms is significant and today's result shows how we are committed to tackling those who use firearms.

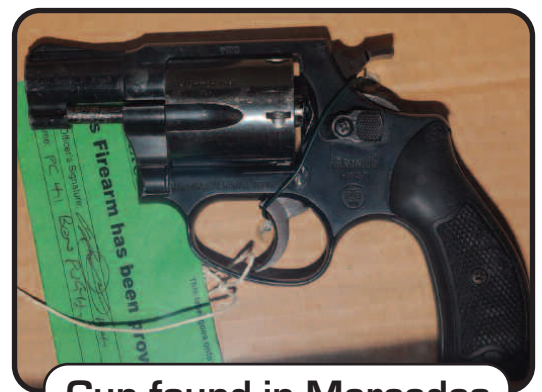
"I urge anyone with information about such criminals to provide it to the police, so that together, we can continue make our communities safer."

BACKGROUND:

On the evening of Monday 28 April 2008, officers from the Xcalibre Organised Crime Unit were parked up near to Rouse's house on Kings Road after receiving intelligence that a firearm could be at the house.

At about 12.20am (Tuesday 29 April 2009) Rouse was seen leaving the house and signalling at a car, a Mercedes C180, which stopped opposite the house. Martins and Sundu got out of the car and walked down the side of the house with Rouse.

After about ten minutes Martins and Sundu left the house, got in the car and drove onto the M60 and M62 towards Leeds.



Gun found in Mercedes

The car was spotted travelling the wrong way down a one-way street in Leeds with its headlights off.

Armed officers then stopped the car.

A search of the Mercedes revealed a .38 calibre revolver pistol to be on the floor in the rear footwell behind the front passenger seat.

On Thursday 26 June 2008, Gavin Donald - who was the subject of an ongoing investigation by officers from the Xcalibre Organised Crime Unit - was seen in the company of Marlon Small, Shoukat Ali, Levon Halliday and Gavin Dennis.

Small was seen driving a silver Ford Fiesta that was being driven in tandem with a silver Nissan Almera, driven by Shoukat Ali.

The cars were seen to leave Huddersfield at about 9.30pm and head towards Manchester.

Halliday and Dennis were in the Fiesta with Small and Donald was in the Almera with Ali.

All five drove to Manchester and parked up on Grange Avenue, Stretford.

A short time later Remy Parker appeared from the direction of Melbourne Avenue carrying a white plastic bag

The bag was passed to Donald, who got into the Fiesta. As he got into the car the interior light was illuminated and several men gathered around, appearing to examine the contents of the white plastic bag.

Donald then passed Parker a small black package before he ran from the area.

All the men got into the two cars and drove off. Shortly before 10.30pm officers from the Tactical Firearms Unit stopped the vehicles on the A56. Dennis ran from the scene and was arrested nearby.

The others were all arrested at the scene.

The Nissan and Ford Fiesta were recovered and examined.

A white plastic bag was found inside the boot of the Nissan. Inside the bag were two blue plastic firearms cases, each containing a Reck Miami 9mm pistol. The guns were neatly packaged with a black silencer and magazine clips. There were nine rounds of .38 calibre ammunition in both weapons.

Each weapon also contained laser sightings.



Gun and silencer

Detective Sergeant David Caulfield, from the Xcalibre Organised Crime Unit, said: "Today's result demonstrates once again the excellent work being done by Xcalibre and GMP to rid our streets of deadly weapons and those prepared to use and sell them.

"It also demonstrates the excellent working relationships we have with other forces, in this case West Yorkshire and the MET.

"All those sentenced today have shown a willingness, for whatever reason, to get hold of these weapons.

"I believe Donald and Rouse were the main facilitators in the sale of guns, with people coming from as far as London to get hold of them. In their own mind I expect they thought they were untouchable so I am delighted we were able to secure the convictions that will see them spend a lengthy period of time behind bars.

"There is no doubt in my mind that had they not been stopped, the weapons would have, at some point, been used."

Offender Information

Part three

In the final part of the series, Professor Karl Roberts looks at the role of behavioural investigative advisors in planning interview strategies for suspects.

Psychological Vulnerability

This refers to an individual's vulnerability and links directly to their ability to deal with the stress and anxiety provoked by the interview situation.

Whilst most individuals are able to deal with the stress levels present in a police interview (provided that the interview does not contain anxiety-provoking elements such as an excessive reliance upon threats and criticism of the interviewee) it is important to be aware of an individual's vulnerabilities as failure to take account of these may result in unwanted outcomes such as unreliable accounts and even false confessions.

Individuals with a history of major mental illness such as Schizophrenia, Major Depression, Anxiety related disorders, drug and alcohol problems and those with learning difficulties are all examples of individuals who may be classified, for the purposes of police interviews, as vulnerable. Such individuals frequently have difficulty during interviews as they may fail to cope adequately with the stress of the interview situation which results in them experiencing excessive anxiety.

The experience of anxiety in the interview is then likely to exacerbate their mental health problems. In this context such individuals are likely to struggle to maintain a coherent account, to relate to the

interviewers and can be highly susceptible to poor questioning styles such as overly complex questions and leading questions. For these individuals there is a high risk of suggestibility.

For vulnerable individuals an interview strategy should attempt to minimize stress and anxiety as much as possible and be aware of any signs of distress and suggestibility such as confabulation, agreeing with police or incorporating details of police questions into an account.

Rapport based interview strategies act to some degree to minimise the risks associated with interviewing vulnerable persons with poor coping abilities, however investigators do need to remain vigilant during interviews for signs of excessive distress.

Attitudes

Attitudes are feelings and thoughts towards some object; these can be associated with varying degrees of emotion. Attitudes can be related to any topic or issue e.g. race, sexuality, gender etc. Friends, relations, work colleagues may comment upon an individual's attitudes, if they are strongly held then the witnesses are likely to report that the suspect regularly makes comment about the object of the attitude, the suspect may also be actively involved in groups that foster the attitudes they present and/or they may have indulged in communications with others concerning the attitude object.

During interview, where a suspect has strongly

held attitudes, individuals may be willing to discuss their views. It is a decision for the interviewers, given the aims of the interview, whether or not they choose to allow the suspect to discuss their views. If unchallenged an individual may make useful disclosures, however it may be important for an interview to closely control when and if an individual is allowed to discuss their views.

Attitudes can be related to an individual's motivation for an offence. For example, for some terrorist offenders their offending behaviour is justified by and associated with their political attitudes. Often the attitudes give individuals 'permission,' to act by suggesting that a particular individual deserves to be attacked or abused.

Attitudes may also impact strongly upon how an individual responds to an interviewer. For example a highly sexist individual may well refuse to speak to a female interviewer. A radical Islamist may refuse to speak to someone who is a 'non-believer'. Knowledge about an individual's attitude may therefore be useful in determining the characteristics of the interview team as well as in deciding on an approach to the suspect.

Needs

Individuals have various needs that they require for their well-being. At a basic level everyone has a need for food, water, shelter etc. (see for example Maslow, 1954).

At a more esoteric level needs can be highly specific. These needs are highly influential upon individuals and have a large impact upon their behaviour. If an individual's personal needs can be identified they are very useful in predicting how the individual will behave as achieving a need means that the individual is likely to experience positive emotions such as happiness whilst when a need is thwarted this may provoke a range of negative emotions such as anger and sadness. In essence, when given an opportunity individuals will behave in a manner that is designed to obtain their personal needs whenever possible. Needs may, like attitudes, form part of the motivation for an act – many rapists for example will describe feeling an immense sense of excitement and happiness when

achieving power and control over a victim – for some individuals the pursuit of such power and control can become one of the main reasons for repeating an offence.

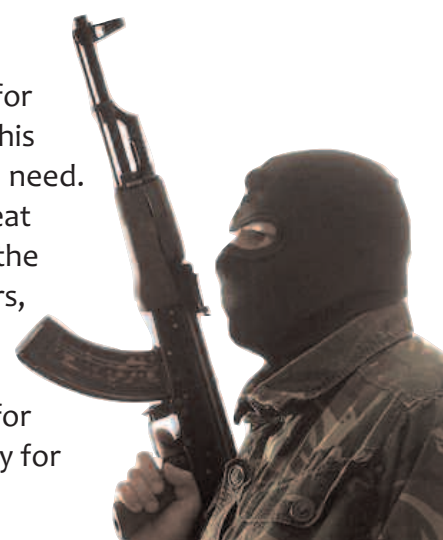
A variety of needs can be identified and it is important for interviewers to be aware of them as the extent to which an individual achieves their particular needs will impact significantly upon an interviewee's sense of well-being. Examples of various needs are detailed below.

Power and control – a basic desire to be dominant over others. This can be seen in day to day interactions with others and in offending behaviour where an individual likes to set the agenda and direct what happens across a range of situations.

Respect – a basic desire to be respected by others. Many offences are motivated by the victim not showing the perpetrator enough respect e.g. honour based violence; a daughter may be murdered for not respecting the wishes of her family. Some gang violence is also related to issues of respect. Again day to day behaviour will demonstrate the importance of respect to the individual.

Attention and love – most individuals have this basic desire, however for some, especially where it is lacking within their life they may develop an overwhelming need for attention and love. Such individuals will constantly seek the attention of others and may become distressed if they fail to obtain it.

Sympathy - again for some individuals this becomes a central need. They will go to great lengths to obtain the sympathy of others, even lying or committing offences in order for others to feel sorry for them.



In interviews it is important where possible to identify these needs as the suspect's interview behaviour will be very much related to the needs in question. It is for interviewers to decide whether or not to allow the need to be realised. It may be that interviewers give sympathy to an individual who needs it in order to make the situation more amenable for them to talk. Again the tactics depend crucially upon the aims of the interview.

Environmental Factors

These are factors that can be readily observed from an investigation into the lifestyle of an individual. These include

Social support: the degree and characteristics of the social contacts an individual has, and what these contacts mean to them. Of relevance here are factors such as Marital status, Friendships and relationships, relationship with family members, Position in community.

Individuals often experience stressors that provoke anxiety within them these include issues such as Financial problems, Relationship problems, Family problems and Threats from others.

Each of these environmental factors serves to impact upon the feelings and behaviours of any individuals. For example position in the community can raise feelings of guilt and remorse or may be a motivation for lack of self-disclosure. These factors will act in conjunction with the personality and behavioural characteristics of the individual to produce interview behaviour.

Suggested approaches towards the suspect
Following the assessment of an individual's characteristics, the interview strategy is based upon the characteristics that have been identified. From the beginning, any interview strategy must take into account the aims and objectives of the interview and it is important that interviewers are clear in what these are. The interview aims and objective do vary through different phases of the PEACE interview process; during the suspect account phase the aim might be to set the conditions where a suspect feels able to speak freely to the interviewers. During the police agenda

phase, the interviewers may be seeking to clarify points from the suspect agenda and/or obtain further information whilst during a challenge phase the interviewers will wish to present information that is contradictory to that provided in the suspect account. Depending upon these aims the strategy may suggest particular courses of action – allowing a suspect to take control over the interview and present their views might be a very useful strategy to obtain a first account during the suspect agenda. However at a stage when interviewers feel that they need to challenge this account it is likely to be of greater value to keep the individual focussed upon the question presented and disallow the suspect taking control.

Suggestions made in Interview Strategies

Each interview strategy is unique depending as it does on the nature of the offence, the aims of the interview and the characteristics of the interviewee. In what follows we will look briefly at some of the suggestions that might be made by a BIA. It is important to note that any behaviour by the police that is directed towards an interviewee, either before, during or after an interview can have an effect upon them, the likelihood that they will provide an account and the reliability of their account. As such the entire experience of an individual from first to last contact with the police can be influential and may be subject to the strategy.

For any interview issues such as the timing, location, and the characteristics of the first meeting between the interviewer and interviewee can be important. In the case of a suspect interview the first contact between police and suspect is often the arrest. An arrest can be carried out in a range of ways, from an arranged meeting at a police station through to an arrest at an individual's home and in extremis an arrest by armed police. Interviewers are advised to consider what affect the arrest characteristics will have on the interviewee.

It may be that the arrest characteristics can be planned – it may suit the purposes of the strategy that the interviewers carry out the arrest and transport the suspect to the Police station to

enable them to begin to build up rapport, in other cases this may be inadvisable so that interviewers can be separated from the arrest process.

Whilst a suspect is in custody the impact of the behaviour of other individuals who come into contact with them should be considered. A draconian approach from a custody officer or a misplaced comment may undermine rapport that interviewers have worked to build up.

In planning any interview there are likely to be a variety of topics of interest. Some of these may be highly emotive for example an individual's family relationships where there is a history of domestic violence. Similarly some topics may cause the interviewee embarrassment or even anger.



It is important therefore to consider which topics need to be covered, in what order and in what depth. As a rule of thumb emotive topics should, where possible, be approached later in an interview when some degree of trust and rapport has been built up otherwise the topics may result in a breakdown of communication due to the emotional state of the interviewee. Some topics, where they are not central to an inquiry, could be avoided as they may be so loaded with emotion that their inclusion could jeopardise any rapport and communication with the interviewee.

For example, the author consulted on a murder inquiry in which the suspect had difficulties with his sexuality. This was a source of great anger to him and any suggestion that he was Gay provoked a violent response. Whilst this topic if explored would demonstrate the degree of anger and violence the suspect was capable of, it would also have served as a barrier to communication and its

inclusion, in the author's view, would have been counter productive.

The characteristics of interviewers may have an impact upon the suspect. Issues such as physical build, gender, age, accent, and clothing can all have different impacts that depend upon the characteristics of the suspect.

Who should do the interview is closely linked to characteristics of the interviewee – an individual whose only experience of men is of abuse and violence is going to struggle to build up trust or rapport with male interviewers; an individual who has a distrust and hatred of women may not communicate with a female interviewer. Of course the characteristics of an interviewer may be

used to elicit certain responses, if it is the aim of the interview to demonstrate the hostility of an individual to a particular race or gender then an interviewer with these characteristics could be used, however this will be a strong barrier to communication and will probably serve to limit an individual's disclosure.

The layout of an interview room can have a strong impact upon a suspect. Consider the position of the lead interviewer relative to the suspect, being too close may impact negatively upon an individual with low self esteem for example. Similarly being physically close to some individuals may provoke anger or discomfort.

The duration of interviews can have an effect especially if a suspect has experienced police interview before. They may be aware that a tape lasts only 45 minutes and so may know that interviews are often defined by the number of tapes used. Variation in the planned length of interviews, including short interviews may be useful in challenging a suspects expectations and

taking them away from their comfort zone if that is applicable. Similarly for some vulnerable suspects, lengthy interviews may be counter-productive as they may struggle to maintain their concentration and focus upon the questions.

Non-verbal communication can be used to signal many things such as interest, disinterest, sympathy etc. Readers are invited to consider the impact of the following, Eye contact, Use of verbal reassurance 'mm; yes; uh-hu,' Nodding, Interruption. Each of these can be used to change the suspects experience during the interview. However as with any interview behaviour care must be taken to ensure that it complies with relevant legislation.

How an interviewer addresses an interviewee can have a strong impact. If an individual has a strong need for respect for example they may be angered if referred to by their first name, especially if the interviewers have not asked how the interviewee wishes to be addressed. Likewise a professional might expect to be called Doctor; not doing this can challenge expectations. Use of a first name induces familiarity and this may serve to make an individual feel more comfortable especially if the first names of everyone present are used.

Here one is attempting to close the emotional distance between the suspect and interviewers by creating an unchallenging atmosphere. A different effect is produced if one uses the first name of the suspect and the interviewers refer to themselves by rank e.g. DS Smith. Here one is creating emotional distance between the suspect and the interviewers which can be threatening to some individuals.

The wording of questions can serve to impact upon suspects, sometimes in unintended ways. Consider questions such as, Did you kill him? or, How might this have happened? The second question is much more neutral and does not imply a particular view, although it is indirect. Similarly the way in which interviewers refer to certain behaviours or actions can be very impactful. For example, the author consulted on a case where an individual had, following a rape, spent some time talking to the

victim as if she were a lover, asking her if she enjoyed the experience and complementing her. He even asked for a date with her. In this case it was very likely that the individual did not regard what he was doing as a 'rape' and is likely to have regarded the offence as an interaction with a girl friend. As such the use of terminology by interviewers was highly significant.

To the individual he was not a, 'rapist,' and in trying to obtain a first account interviewers were advised to avoid, where possible, the use of the term rape as this would have been likely to have caused him distress and concern limiting his self-disclosure.

Sometimes props can be useful in interviews from the perspective of the impact that they have upon an interviewee. Photographs of a victim, a location, clothing worn by significant individuals, maps of areas can all serve as a reminder to help recreate persons situations and events for interviewees when these objects are viewed.

This may produce reactions within them that could be used during the interview. This can be particular useful when investigating so called cold cases when events may have happened many years previously. By way of an example, the author consulted on a case where an individual was suspected of murdering his wife thirty years previously. He had had that time to distance himself from the events and to try and cope with his involvement. I was suggested that interviewers present objects such as photographs of his wife, their wedding and examples of the clothes she may have worn to him to try to recreate her as a person and to tap into any residual feelings he may have had about the event.

It is important to note here that the author is not advocating the use of crime scene photographs as this is very likely to be counter productive and is likely to cause extreme distress on the part of any individual.

This is likely to act as a barrier to communication and result in limited disclosure. Also in the case of a suspect interview, there is a possibility that the suspect is indeed innocent and there are therefore

profound ethical problems in exposing such an individual to this material.

Management

Most BIAs are not trained police interviewers and they tend to interview individuals in very different contexts to the police such as during therapeutic sessions. As such some BIAs may have limited knowledge and experience of the legislative framework that the police work within. It is also important therefore for investigators to note that any interview suggestions made by a BIA should be considered in the light of the overall aims of the interview and with regard to relevant legislation e.g. PACE (police and Criminal Evidence Act). The implication of this is that there may be suggestions made by a BIA that are incompatible with legislation.

To take account of this issue and to minimise the risks of this to the integrity of police investigations new guidelines have been created by the NPIA that govern the way in which BIAs should be managed when advising upon interview strategies.

Essentially the guidelines recommend that primacy for the design and management of the interview strategy rests with the Police through a professionally competent Interview Advisor rather than with the BIA and that the BIA's input should be carefully considered and assessed by the Interview Advisor prior to any incorporation of the advice into the interview strategy.

Certainly, it is advised that the interview advisor meet with the BIA to discuss the BIA's suggestions, to clear up any questions or misunderstandings and to explore how the strategy can fit into their own ideas about how to interview the suspect.

Whilst BIAs can and do provide some very useful advice and insights into interviewees, BIAs should not be allowed to dictate how the interviews proceed and interviewers should be free to challenge the advice and adapt it to their particular interview style. If this does not happen there is a risk that the interview becomes very artificial with interviewers attempting to interview in a manner in which they are not comfortable.

Summary

This paper has covered the role of the Behavioural Investigative Advisor in the design of a suspect interview strategy and has identified some of the important characteristics of individuals that influence their interview behaviour and that can be identified from consideration of material in a police inquiry.

The central message here is that any time spent assessing an individual prior to interview, considering their lifestyle and behavioural characteristics – no matter how limited the time or information available - is likely to pay high dividends in the interview as it allows for the design of strategies that will maximise the information obtained during any interview and minimise the risk of unwanted outcomes.

To summarise the central points detailed above. When an individual is subject to a police interview, the interview situation interacts with the characteristics of the individual to produce their behaviour during the interview. As Interviewers are part of the individual's environment during the interview, the interviewer's behaviour will have an effect upon them.

An Interview Strategy makes use of this by suggesting the best combination of interviewer characteristics and behaviours, in the light of the personality and behavioural characteristics of the person to be interviewed, in order to achieve the aims of the interview.

An interview strategy has to be considered in the light of the aims of the interview and the strategy may be modified with different aims eg a first account verses a challenge to an account. Ultimately the aim of an interview strategy is to maximise and improve the quality of the information provided by a suspect.

If you have missed parts one and two, just visit [www.the-investigator](http://www.the-investigator.co.uk) to download the May and June issues of The Investigator.



Making waves

Red Box Recorders offer flexible solutions to voice recording, storage and retrieval. The Investigator quizzes them on how their technology can assist police forces with investigations.

Q1. How does Redbox technology help investigators conduct more efficient investigations?

A voice recording system like Redbox Recorders provides a record of what happened at what exact time and also provides context such as the way in which things were said and the emotion portrayed. As a result voice recordings are a vital tool for investigators, providing timely information that can be correlated with other parts of the investigation.

For example all calls taken in the control rooms are recorded and this information can help investigators to piece together what has happened in the early stages of an incident. When there is a mugging on a busy street a control room may receive a number of 999 calls about the same incident and each call can provide different information and a different viewpoint. It is also a definitive record that is not reliant on old memories.

In the custody suite voice recording plays a different role enabling information to be shared

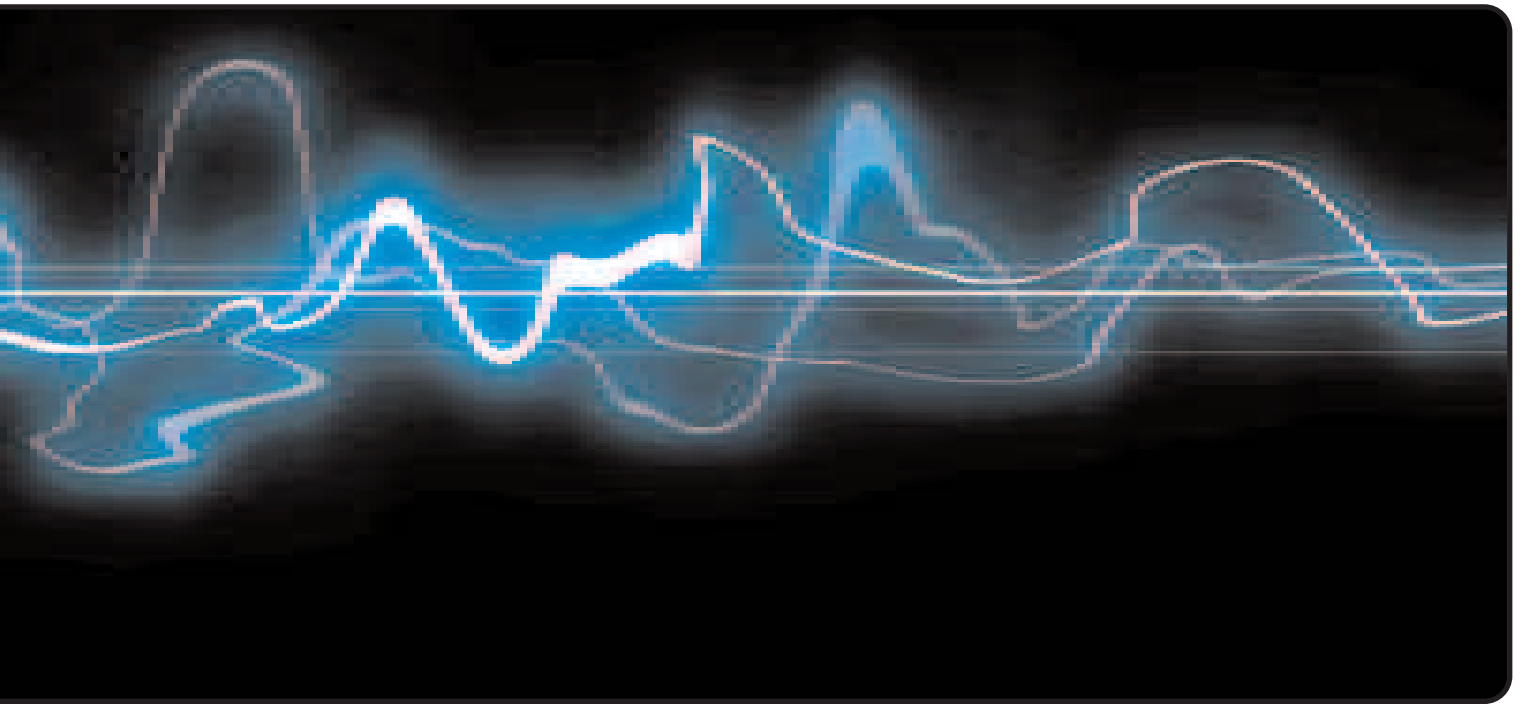
quickly and efficiently with other parties throughout the investigation. Finally covert voice recording can provide vital evidence for a variety of crimes from fraud to terrorism.

Q2. How important do you think the custody process is in the investigatory process?

It is probably the most important part of the investigatory process and can make or break a case. From a recording perspective the custody process is where you get the most information and this needs to be captured reliably and securely so it can be used in a court of law.

Q3. Do you have any tips to help investigators make best use of the technology?

Stay up to date with the latest commercial technology and be aware of what it can do for you. Also be realistic – programmes like CSI Miami show technology delivering spectacular results but these systems have cost several million dollars – slightly more than the budget enjoyed by most investigators! Focus on what you are trying to



achieve and then talk to the leading suppliers and get them to work with you to address your needs rather than just chasing technology.

4. How important do you think it is for industry to work alongside police to develop technology rather than merely provide them with a ready-made solution?

It is absolutely essential. Generally publicly funded organisations have to show value to the public and the only way to get the technology they need at a price they can afford is to work with industry to change their technical roadmaps. By working together they can ensure that their requirements are built in as standard at an early stage.

Q5. Is there any change/recent developments in the way the police service engages with key technology providers?

We are finding organisations much more open in

talking to us about their requirements. There is an acknowledgement that their limited budgets need to be maximized and that this can best be done by more collaboration with industry.

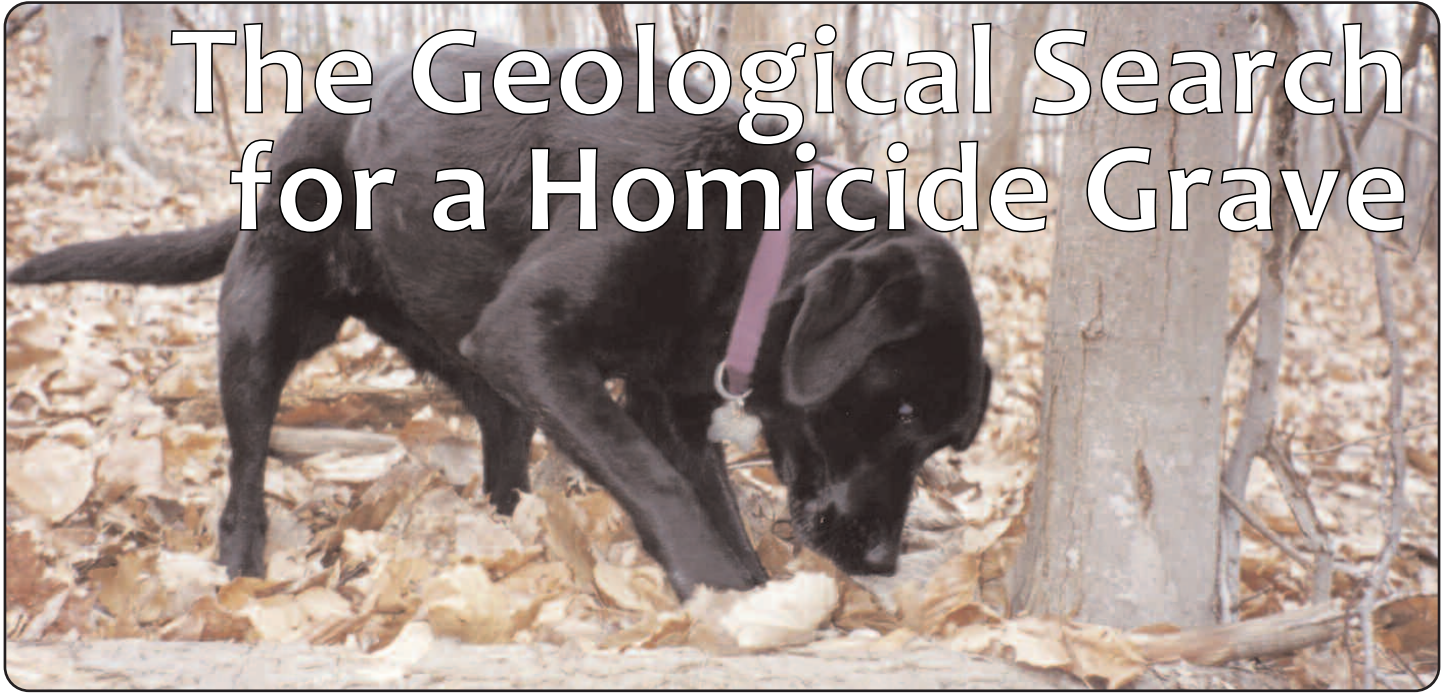
Q6. How do you hope to develop Redbox technology in the coming years? Are you planning any new solutions/products that answer a specific operational issue?

We are a software development house and are always looking for opportunities to work with organisations to deliver specific requirements and make our solutions better. We are about to release the next generation of our products which is faster to access with a more simple usability making integration with other data sources quicker and easier. It is a mass customisable solution that can be easily amended to meet the individual needs of each customer.

For further information visit: www.redboxrecorders.com



The Geological Search for a Homicide Grave



Geoforensics expert Dr Laurance J Donnelly explains the valuable role the science can play in homicide investigations.

What is Geoforensics?

Geoforensics (known also as Forensic Geology or Forensic Geoscience) is the application of geology to criminal investigations. These may include for example; domestic incidents, international terrorism, humanitarian, environmental, geohazards, mining, geotechnical, civil engineering, materials engineering and fraudulent investigations. Geoforensic specialists may support law enforcement investigations to help determine what happened, where and when it occurred, how and why it took place. In a law enforcement context geoforensic specialist may support the police in two broad fields of geoforensics:

Trace evidence

This involves the collection, analysis, interpretation, presentation and explanation of physical (trace, or micro-scale) evidence, which can be soils, rocks, micro-fossils or man-made materials (such as concrete or bricks). Using evidence sampled from a crime scene, human remains (such as skin and finger nail scrapings), vehicles, clothing or other object, a forensic geoscientist may be able to assist the police in determining the possible location where a crime took place, linkage of the offender or evidence to a crime scene, linkage of the offender

to the victim, assess the possible movement of human remains, or eliminate potential suspects or offenders. Although these types of geological samples are analysed in a laboratory it is important they are properly collected by the geoscientist, from the crime scene, object, or body.

Search

The mapping and exploration of the Earth's (ground) surface and ground investigative techniques are used to help the police search for locating (and sometimes the recovery of) buried or concealed organic remains (such as a murder victim's graves, mass graves and human remains) or non-organic objects (such as clothing, weapons, firearms, improvised devices, explosives, drugs, stolen items, money, jewellery and antiques).

These searches may take place in urban, rural and remote locations, in both the terrestrial (land) and marine (including also underwater such as canals, rivers, streams, seas, lagoons, estuaries, reservoirs, lakes and ponds) environments.

What is a search?

A search is the application and management of systematic procedures, combined with appropriate detection equipment to locate specified targets (or object). It is the skill of looking for a specific object and the art of finding it.

What is the aim of a search?

A search may be conducted to; obtain evidence for prosecution, gain intelligence, deprive criminals of their resources and opportunities, locate vulnerable persons, protect potential targets, search for homicide graves and associated buried items or objects.

History and development of search

Traditional police methods of finding graves often involves large-scale gridded areas with personnel 'finger-tip/line searches' and 'trial-and-error' excavations. These may be inefficient, labour intensive, may destroy evidence and ignore subtle ground disturbances possibly related to a burial. They may be supported by non-specialists, such as public volunteers and local interest groups. However, the effectiveness of large numbers of public volunteers, or military infantry forming large lines and walking through large gridded areas of open land or woodland, must be considered with respect to whether such groups will successfully locate a highly concealed sub-surface burial.

What are the types of search?

An offensive search is used to locate a specific item sought obtain evidence or to restrict an individual's room to manoeuvre and their operation. A defensive search is used to maintain freedom of action and movement for the public.

What are the types of search?

These include; person search, missing person search, building searches, vehicle searches, motorway and road searches, mass fatality searches, search 'for' and 'of' crime scene searches (water and land based). Geologists mainly will be involved with the latter.

Search philosophy

In order to find a grave we must first understand what we are looking for? The search for a grave is a pragmatic balance between a minimum acceptable standard and minimal expenditure. It is the search for rather than of a crime scene.

Search considerations

What are the choices of search assets, what is the equipment availability and limiting factors, what are the financial, logistical and technical constraints, is the search measurable, cost-effective and proportionate, can the search achieve a minimum standard resolution for a high probability of success, what is the exit strategy?

What are the external factors that may influence a search?

Weather conditions, type of terrain, press & media, psychics, the public and communities, victims family members and friends, time frames involved search area.



Forensic geologist conduct a search for a murder victim's grave in a remote, mountainous part of Eastern Europe.

What are the different search categories?**Search and rescue**

The person is lost and active in their self discovery. This is based on 'area searching' and an the assumption that a person, or persons, will travel a maximum given

distance within a set time, if mobile. These searches may cover geographically large areas. The search is subjective and based on assumed actions of missing or lost persons.

Scenario based

This uses behavioural profiling of the offender(s), geographical profiling and victimology assessment so the victim. It requires the investigator to generate a hypothesis. There is no correlation of distance with time. The search is objective and is based on known facts and the victim's last movements.

Feature based

Based on the identification of primary, secondary and tertiary physical (geological) markers which may have been consciously or sub-consciously used by the offender to locate the grave site. In other

words this involved decoding the offender's modus operandi?

Intelligence led

All law enforcement searches should be intelligence led based on facts and intelligence that enables a hypothesis to be generated.

Systematic Operational Procedure

A SOP should be applied to all searches. This provides an assurance of search consistency and enables peer and independent reviews. This should be in written format and forms part of the search documentation.

Predictive models

Databases and 'models' may facilitate a search and include for example; offender profiling or geographic profiling, missing person, suicide, weapon, drug concealment and body deposition models.

Offender behavioural characteristics

Offenders who dispose of victims may consider:

The principal of least effort

That is, choose the easiest option to dig a grave.

'We go where we know'

Choose a location he/she is familiar with, previously visited by the offender so he/she can; have an explanation for his/her presence if disturbed or arrested, facilitate ease of access and egress, can find his/her way in darkness, contains familiar landmark features.

Concealment

Low witness potential, act of concealment/burial is under cover.

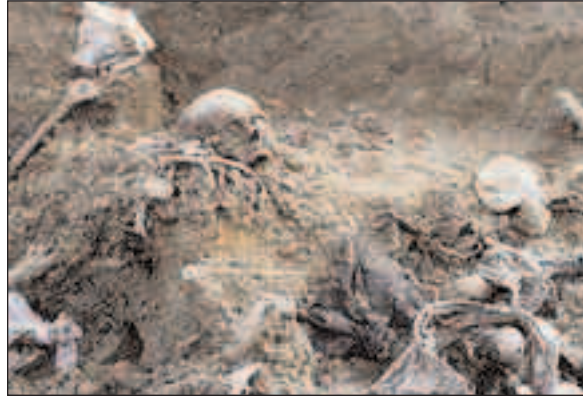
The Conceptual Geological Model for a Grave

As a completely concealed burial takes place in the ground a reconnaissance visit to the crime scene/search area must be conducted, by the forensic geologist and law enforcement officer, so a conceptual geological model may be developed. This will enable an estimation of the graves conditions and this in turn will pre-determine the

most likely choice of search assets to locate the grave. A conceptual model of a potential burial site gives an estimate of what is likely to be found and the condition of the target. Conceptual geological models are developed at the beginning of a search. It is a model to be tested, revised and tested again until it can be verified (at discovery) or proven

otherwise and therefore abandoned.

A conceptual model is often based on the individual geologist's experience from conducting geological investigations in comparable geological settings.



Human remains found at a crime scene, in Europe.

High quality geological information (such as published geological maps, memoirs, papers and technical reports) will support a search effort with a high level of assurance, but a weak geological model for the grave site will introduce uncertainty into the search, now matter how precise and accurate the subsequent exploration (search) techniques.

The development of a geological model for a victim of homicide, or a grave, requires a specific understanding of the natural (geological) ground conditions and how these have been influenced by the activities of the offender (eg digging, and subsequent reinstatement of the disturbed ground).

At any one location there are likely to be a number of interactive, dynamic, active surface geological processes, which have affected the rocks, soil, groundwater and topography. These processes were active long before burial took place and are likely to have continued in the time which has passed since. No single geological model suits all types of search areas and there is no single approach to producing a geological model, as each homicide case and search area will have unique characteristics.

This is one of the primary roles for the geoscientist, which will vary from case to case. The most valuable contribution a geologist can give a law enforcement (police) officer (or search strategist), is to 'get the geology right'!

Geological factors

The development of a conceptual geological model must consider; the geological setting, hydrology and hydrogeology (groundwater), principal soil types and superficial deposits, nature of the bedrock interface, principal lithologies, engineering and physical properties of the underlying strata (rocks), mineralogy, geological structure, ancient & active geomorphological processes which may have changed the grave since it was originally dug, past and current land use, geological hazards, weathering and erosion, preservations and decomposition of human remains, weather and local climate.



Searching for a grave

Anthropogenic (man's) influences

Man's activities may also influence the search for a grave as these can change the ground conditions and include for example; mining, construction, building works, waste disposal or farming.

Digability and excavability surveys

Body disposal mainly takes place in soil, superficial deposits, or softer rocks (such as some shales and mud rocks). The ease of which the soil can be dug (ie. its digability) and placed back into grave (or reinstated) is of critical importance.

The offender is likely to choose a site where the soil is sufficiently thick, and can be quickly dug then reinstated, preferably with no or little surface indication that digging has taken. The digability of soil depends on its geological properties such as; intact strength, bulk density, groundwater regime, depth, weathering, proximity of the underlying bedrock interface, slope angle, vegetation cover, stability of the walls upon excavation, bulking and swelling of the soil and the method of digging and

choice of digging implements.

There is no generally accepted quantitative measure of digability. This can only be determined by in situ 'trial and error' testing. In situ digability tests may be easily performed, before the main phase of the detailed survey (usually at the reconnaissance stage), involving either probing or digging using tools similar to those to which the offender is believed to have had access. This also provides the opportunity to inspect the soil

structure and/or weathered bedrock and associated superficial deposits to determine whether it is granular (sand rich), cohesive (clay rich) or organic (peat).

These observations are important as they have critical implications on the efficiency of burial and the preservation or decomposition of human

remains depending on the time elapsed since burial. A digability survey will; provide geological information on the soil processes, groundwater and rock types, demonstrate the level of difficulty or ease, and time required, for a shallow grave to be dug, and the effective depth which can be achieved, demonstrate how effectively the soil can be reinstated and what visible topographical features may exist, to indicate the possible presence of the grave and provide a prediction of the length of time it would take an offender to dispose of the body.

What is being searched for?

Objects or items associated with the victim's body should be considered as these may increase the probabilities of locating the grave.

These may include for example; weapons like firearms or a knife possibly used during the murder, clothing containing ferrous or non-ferrous metal components such as zips, studs and buckles, drugs, money and coinage, leachate plumes associated with decomposition and skeletonisation of human remains, gas/odours/scent being emitted from decomposition of human remains and is there a grave cut (ie. the boundary or contact between disturbed and insitu geology)?

Geological search assets, methods and techniques

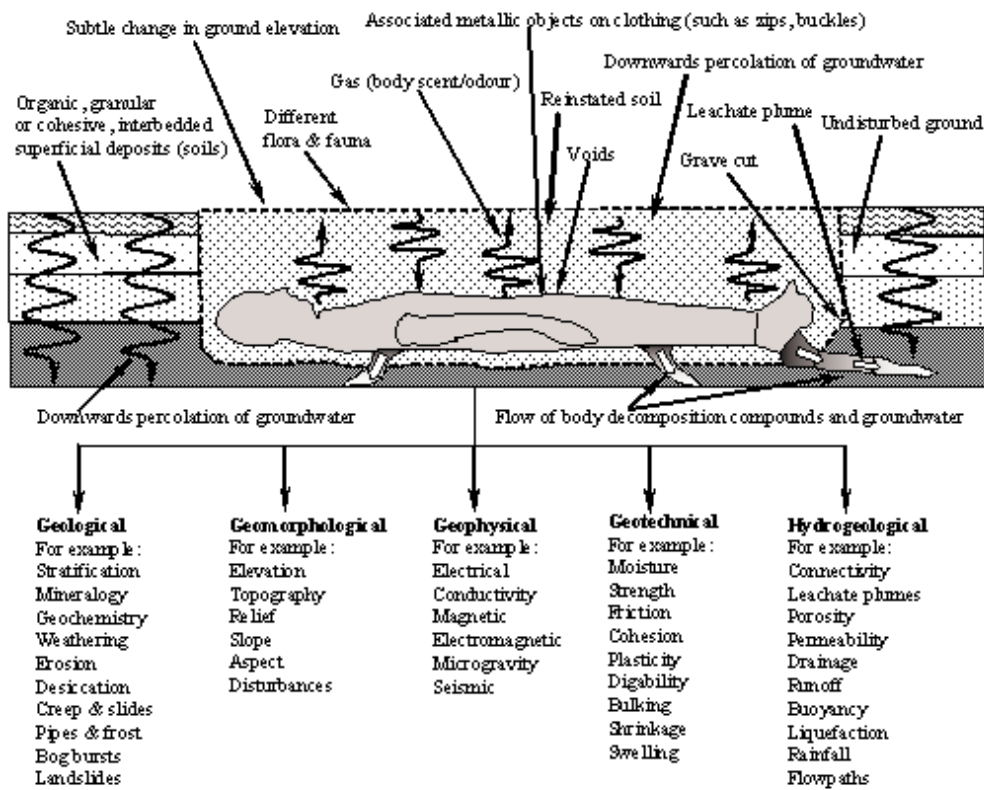
Geological exploration and prospecting methods conventionally used to explore the ground in mineral exploration and geotechnical site investigations are adaptable and applicable to searches for homicide graves.

The type of survey, methodology and interpretation of data acquired depends upon several complex factors including; types of target buried (such as

for a grave may include for example:

Remote sensing

There is now available a variety of remote sensing techniques that may facilitate with the search for a grave. Where large complex data sets are obtained they may be managed and analysed using spatial location and geographic information systems (GIS) and geostatistics.



Typical and remote sensing methods include for example; infrared photography, elevation modelling, satellite modelling, hyperspectral and multispectral imaging, laser scanning, long distance LiDAR, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and interferometry, X-ray imagery and tomography, neutron activation, field portable x-ray fluorescence and thermal imagery.

Analysis of high resolution air photographs

Conventional aerial photography (vertical and oblique) may often be used in association with geological mapping. This may be particularly useful if the photographs are taken as stereo pairs to exaggerate any ground disturbances.

An idealised conceptual geological model for a shallow homicide grave. The geological, geomorphological, geophysical, geotechnical and hydrogeology properties of the body, reinstated ground and undisturbed ground may change after burial. This type of model may assist in determining the most suitable suite of assets for conducting a search. This may include for example the deployment of geophysical surveys and specially trained cadaver dogs.

human remains, money, explosives, weapons); geological conditions, anticipated depth of burial, age of burial and experience and skill of the individual geoscientist(s).

Geological surveys can be carried out by one person, or a team, they may be non-invasive or invasive. They are usually conducted from the macro-scale (cover many tens of square metres) to the micro-scale (covering just a few square metres of ground) and may take hours to weeks (sometimes years) to complete. Typical geological assets and methods which may be used to search

Ground based geological and geomorphological mapping

This may enable ground disturbances to be identified, analysed and interpreted as being associated with natural geological processes, the activities of man (such as mining and construction) or digging.

Geophysics

Geophysical investigations rarely require any contact with the ground surface (i.e. they are non-invasive) for their operation and therefore adhere

to the law enforcement preference of moving proportionately from the non-invasive to the invasive in forensic searches, thus minimising evidential contamination and damage to crime scenes.

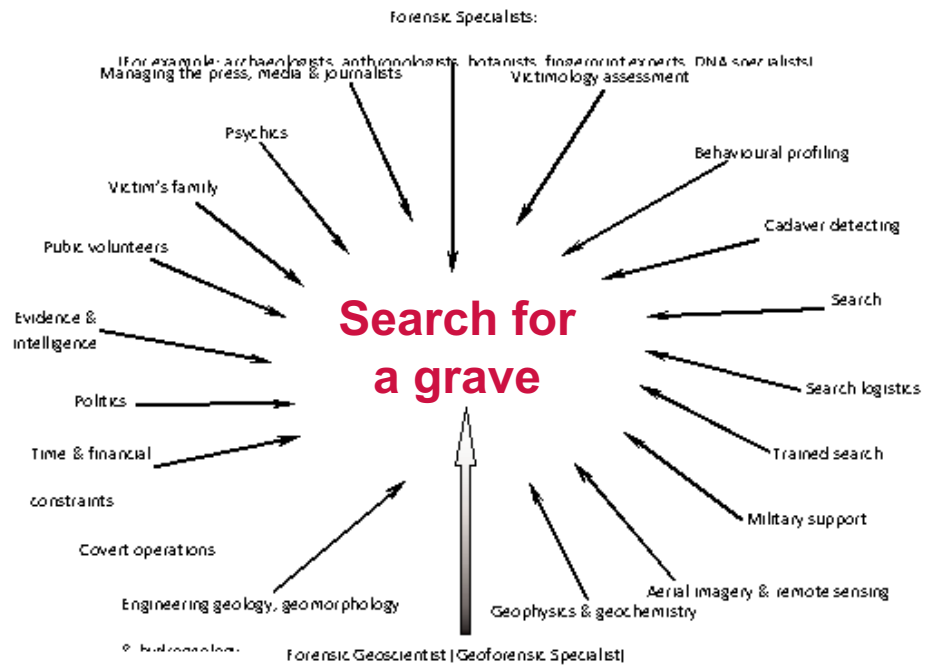
The data obtained provides measures of the vertical and lateral variation of the physical properties of the ground. These data can only be interpreted in the light of knowledge of the likely ground conditions, from the conceptual geological model.

Typical geophysical techniques that may be suitable to search for graves may include; magnetic, resistivity, induced polarisation, self potential, electromagnetic (conductivity), ground penetrating radar (GPR), metal detectors, seismic, microgravity, air borne geophysical surveys, geophysical exploration platforms (multiple geophysical sensors which may be simultaneous deployed to provide a faster and more effective way to survey large areas of land, usually towed behind a 4x4 vehicle or tractor).

Hydrochemistry and geochemistry

An understanding of the hydrogeology in the vicinity of a grave site is necessary as it influences; surface flow paths and run-off groundwater flows, decomposition or preservation of human remains generation of leachate plumes from decomposing human remains, migration of body scent (gas/vapour) and the deployment of the most suitable non-invasive geophysical and geochemical techniques. Leachate plumes may also increase the aerial footprint of geochemical and geophysical signatures and therefore enhance the possibility for detection.

The direction and distance of the plume will depend on several factors such as ground permeability,



The introduction of a geologist to an already established police search team must be carefully co-ordinated and properly managed. The geologist must be able to effectively communicate with the other subject matter experts, be aware of his/her limitations and understand the role and capabilities of other experts (modified after Donnelly 2002, based on an idea from B. Simpson, published in; Donnelly 2008, Harrison & Donnelly 2008).

geological structures, lithology, rainfall and time elapsed since burial.

By comparison with exploration geophysical methods, hydrochemical and geochemical search techniques are less well developed. Carbon-13 and strontium-87 isotope analysis of bone or teeth respectively may also be used to identify the geographic provenance of human remains.

Geological analysis of police intelligence

Written statements, crime scene photographs and body disposal plans, when analysed from a geological perspective may provide information to assist with a search.

Probing

Soil probes when used during a 'line search' at close spacing are an effective means to search for a grave.

Trenching

Hand held digging implements (such as spades, picks and mattocks) may be used to dig exploratory 'trial pits' or 'inspection pits', often to verify a



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geophysical anomaly or positive dog indication.

Police dogs

Often known as 'cadaver dogs', 'victim recovery dogs (VRD)', or 'human remains dogs (HRD)' are an essential assets for any search and are reliable in most, but not all, geological conditions.

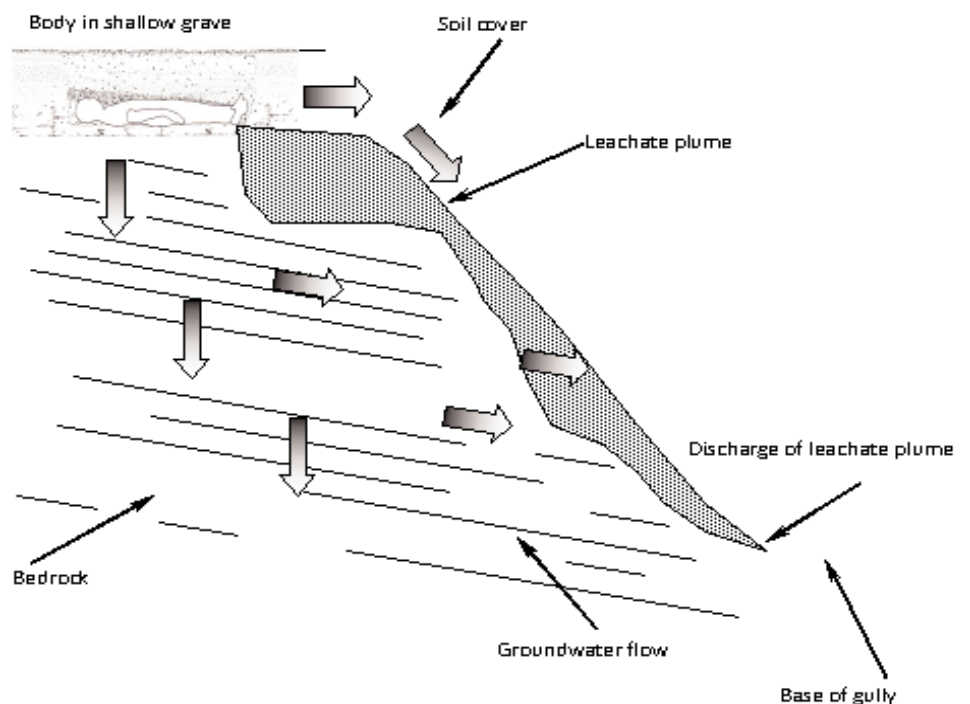
The science which underpins the deployment of police dogs is not yet fully understood or explainable.

Communication between forensic geologists' and the Police

Searches for graves may involve teams of multi-disciplinary experts such as; geologists, anthropologists, botanists, victim recovery dog handlers, remote sensing aerial assets, behavioural profilers, clinical psychologists and the military personnel. These searches are usually co-ordinated and managed by a senior investigating officer (SIO), Police Search Adviser (POLSA) or search strategist.

To successfully carry out the above search, the main challenges are not technical but communication. The forensic geologist conveys all of the above technical information to the SIO and other experts. The police officer may have already a team of multi-disciplinary technical, subject matter specialists. How does the geologist fit into this system?

At what stage does the geologist approach the crime scene to reduce the risks of any cross contamination? How can the geologist begin to understand crime scene management and crime scene investigation and what are the strict police protocols involved? The SIO, already possibly overloaded with a range of specialists, now finds that he/she has to deal with yet another specialist, the geologist. This may potentially be problematic if the process is not carefully planned and communicated.



Schematic model to illustrate leachate plumes generated from decomposing human remains. The presence of a leachate plume may increase the target area

About the author

Dr Laurance Donnelly has been applying his knowledge and training in applied geology to criminal investigations for the past 14 years, and has conducted numerous searches and advised the police on searches throughout the UK, USA, Australia and Europe.



He began this work in 1994. 'At this time', he explains, 'geologists rarely formally supported police investigations, apart from a few occasional instances where soil, rock or manmade materials on clothing were analysed'.

There were no formal courses or research which specifically focused on Geoforensics.

Security Cleared Investigations and Intelligence Staff

As crime across the UK has become more complex, criminal and civil investigation has become an everyday operation. Investigations and intelligence gathering can take place within a number of different organisations and departments such as; the police forces, NHS local counter fraud departments, central government and from within the compliance and professional standards units of private organisations.

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Methods of delivery

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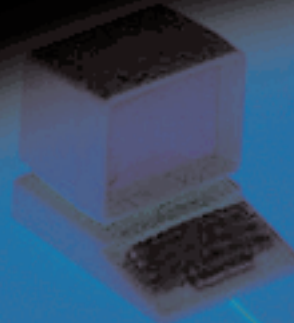


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Information Security



DST Investigative Consultancy Services Ltd continue to bring together a highly experienced team of experts who will work together with managers and employees to make them much more aware of their individual and joint responsibility in protecting a business and organisations assets.

Brian Dunn from DST believes that a large number of businesses and organisations are well overdue a “health check”. He said that the vast majority of information is now stored electronically and data protection and security is vital to business success and whilst there are those who have developed and invested in sophisticated measures to protect data there are those who have not.

He said: “it can be a very costly experience to wait for an incident to take place before calling in the experts, we have in investigation terms a period which is known as the “golden hour”, a period of time when it is vital that the correct procedures are carried out to recover evidence and reduce the overall impact of the incident on a company’s reputation”.

Doug Cleasby from SmartConsult-IT said, “In recent years we have seen several high profile cases in the media detailing the misplacement and theft of sensitive information from private companies and Government offices alike. As a result, board corporate governance requirements have become increasingly more defined and specific.”

Information technology:

As information technology has become pervasive, underpinning and supporting almost every aspect of the organisation, manipulating and storing the information on which the organisation depends for its survival, so the role of IT in corporate governance has become more clearly defined and IT governance is increasingly recognised as a specific area for board and corporate attention. A fundamental aspect of IT governance is the protection of the information – its availability, confidentiality and integrity – on which everything else depends. In parallel, international standards related to information security have emerged and have become one of the cornerstones of an effective IT governance framework.

The ISO 27001 standard:

The ISO 27001 standard was published in October 2005, essentially replacing the old BS7799-2 standard. It is the specification for an ISMS, (Information Security Management System). The objective of the standard itself is to “provide a model for establishing, implementing, operating, monitoring, reviewing, maintaining, and improving an Information Security Management System”. It was developed to integrate with other existing management systems such as ISO 9001: 2008 QMS and BS 25999 business continuity management.

Information security and technology:

Most people think of information security as a technology issue. They think that anything to do with securing data or protecting computers from

INVESTIGATOR TRAINING-EVENTS-CONFERENCES

threats is something that only technology people – and specifically computer security people – can deal with. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The reality is that it is the computer user who should make decisions about which threats to be protected from and what trade-offs between security and flexibility he or she is prepared to accept. Yes, once these decisions have been made, the computer security expert should design and implement a technological solution that delivers these results.

In an organisational environment, those decisions should be made by the management team, not by the IT team. An ISMS overtly and specifically recognises that decision-making responsibility should sit with the organisation's board and management, and that the ISMS should reflect their choices and provide evidence as to the effectiveness with which they have been carried out.

As a result, it is not necessary for an ISMS project to be led by a technology expert. In fact, there are many circumstances in which that could be counter-productive. These projects are, often, led by quality managers, general managers, executives and more increasingly by an external body, who is in a position to develop something that has organization-wide influence and importance.

Credibility:

Along with the obvious benefits of improved security, management assurance, diligence and benchmarking, the ISO 27001 standard brings the added advantage to an organisation of being in a

position to promote their fully documented and auditable processes and systems.

This in turn gives confidence to potential customers, knowing that their information remains both secure and confidential as well as allowing the organisation to tick the boxes on that major contract tender.

It is fact that more and more companies are setting such measures as a prerequisite to offering contracts, not an option.

In Brief:

Unprotected systems are vulnerable to computer assisted fraud, sabotage and viruses. Breaches in information security can allow vital information to be accessed, stolen corrupted or lost.

An organisation needs to be confident that it has the appropriate controls and procedures in place to avoid such incidents. Operating a system such as 27001 not only reduces business risk, but in the event of an incident may be used as mitigation.

Using their many years of experience, DST Investigative Consultancy Services Ltd, along with their associate partners, SmartConsult-IT are working together with organisations to implement ISO 27001 into their businesses so that they can reap the benefits that an internationally recognised standard can offer.

For more details contact: Brian Dunn or Harry Stephenson at info@dstics.co.uk. Doug Cleasby at doug@smartconsultit.co.uk



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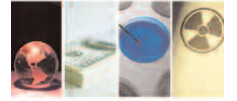
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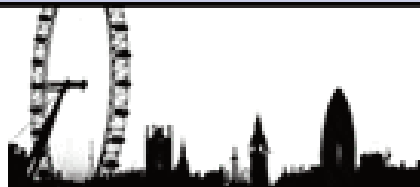
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On 9th July 1996, three bodies were found in a little leafy copse beside a country lane in Chillenden, Kent. Mother, Dr Lin Russell, 45, and her two daughters, Megan, six and Josie, nine, had all suffered brutal head injuries caused by a blunt instrument. The Investigator looks back at a crime that shocked a nation.

They had been tied up and their family dog, Lucy, was also found dead nearby. The head injuries looked so bad that Lin's husband and the girls' father, Dr Shaun Russell, was initially told that they had all died. Unbelievably, Josie was still alive, albeit barely.

She was transferred immediately to King's College hospital in London, where she was saved. In years to come, she made an even more miraculous recovery.

The three Russells had been returning on foot from a swimming gala at about 4:20 pm along the country lane, when a car passed them. Josie even recalled waving to the driver in the car.

As they walked further down the lane, the car was parked across the track, and its driver, a man, got out of the car with a hammer. He demanded money from them.

Lin had left her money and purse at home but offered to go back to the house with him to get him the money, which he refused. Lin then told Josie to run to the nearest house to get help.

The man grabbed Josie and hit her on the head with a hammer but inflicted only a slight injury. He then walked the three of them and the dog off the track into a dense copse, where he tied them up with strips torn from Josie's blue swimming towel, a bootlace and a pair of tights.

He then hit Lin on the head at least 15 times, causing severe head trauma and killing her. Josie's skull was smashed; brain tissue was protruding from a wound behind her left ear and there were several lacerations to her skull.

There was extensive tearing to the covering of her brain. Megan had been hit at least seven times, suffering massive skull fractures with exposed brain tissue.

After the attack, the man got into his car and drove back along the way he had come. About half an hour after the murders had taken place, a man was spotted a mile away from the murder scene in an agitated state.

The string bag containing bloodied towel strips was dropped in a hedgerow and the man then left the vicinity.

Key figures

Victims:

Dr Lin Russell - 45 (killed), Megan Russell - 6 (killed), Josie Russell - 9 (injured)

Accused:

Michael Stone, born 1960

Police:

DCI Dave Stevens

Prosecution:

Nigel Sweeney QC

Defence:

William Clegg QC, Derek Hayward, Solicitor

The Investigation

Over the course of the next year, pressure mounted on the police to find the perpetrator of the brutal murders, as they interviewed 9000 people, taking 1000 statements, taking in a number of suspects and arresting at least one person, who was later released without charge, but nothing emerged.



Michael Stone

Josie and her father Shaun had moved from Kent to start a new life in the Nantile Valley in north Wales in December 1996.

Her injuries had left her with speech problems, and she had little to no memory of the attack. On 1st May 1997, she had recovered enough to give an interview to the police. However, leads were unpromising, non-existent or going nowhere.

The Arrest

Exactly a year after the murders, on 9th July 1997, the desperate police allowed the case to air on Crimewatch, a popular television show in the United Kingdom that shows reconstructions of

hitherto unsolved or ongoing crimes, with the aim of gaining information from the public.

The move seemed to have worked, as the police received a call from a Dr Philip Sugarman, a psychiatrist, who told them about his patient, Michael Stone. Sugarman revealed that Stone had nightmarish fantasies that corresponded to the murders.

A week later, Stone, 37, was arrested and held in Canterbury jail. On 6th October 1998, he went on trial for the murders of Lin and Megan Russell and the attempted murder of Josie Russell, at Maidstone Crown Court.

The Trail



At first instance, the prosecution's case rested on three main planks. Firstly, a number of sightings by local witnesses; secondly, forensic evidence tying him to the scene of the crime; and thirdly, three 'confessions' made by Stone to prison inmates whilst detained and awaiting trial.

The first plank saw varying descriptions of the man they saw that afternoon. At 4:30 pm Isobel Cole saw a clean-shaven man of medium build wearing a dark blue baseball cap and carrying a hammer. Half an hour later, Anthony Rayfield saw a beige car, parked with the boot open.

The man standing next to the car was small, light-haired and wiry, aged 35 to 40, and appeared agitated. Nicola Burchill saw a beige car at 4:45 pm, its driver was round-faced with chubby cheeks. Pauline Wilkinson saw two men near the murder scene; one had short blonde hair, while the other had darker hair.

Josie herself recalled that the car was brown or red, clean and driven by a single man. He was blonde, clean-shaven, about 25-years-old and the same height as her father, around 6 feet.

Zodiac Killer



Most serial killers are the product of a deranged Hollywood screenwriter, but the Zodiac Killer was the real deal. In a killing spree that started no later than 1968 and ended no earlier than 1972, the Zodiac Killer murdered at least seven people, but in letters to San Francisco newspapers and criminal attorney Melvin Belli, he claimed the total was much higher – it was just that the authorities hadn't identified all of his victims. One of Zodiac's last letters claimed 37 kills; some estimates go higher than 50.

Zodiac played an extremely public cat-and-mouse game with the police, sending letters and postcards, some encoded in elaborate ciphers. Nobody really knows exactly when Zodiac launched his killing spree, because you can't find four out of five experts who agree on who the first victim was.

The earliest estimates point back to a 1963 murder, but the "official" first victims were David Faraday and Betty Lou Jensen, two Vallejo teenagers who were shot while parked in a secluded spot on December 20, 1968. The killer used a small caliber pistol and left no incriminating evidence behind. The killing had some unusual features, or rather it lacked the usual features associated with murder --

there was no sign of robbery, no trace of sexual assault, no particular mayhem beyond what typically results from a shooting.

Although this was the first attack that is conclusively linked to Zodiac, there were earlier killings which matched the M.O. to a greater or lesser extent. In 1963, two teenagers had been shot to death in Santa Barbara, several hundred miles to the south, with a small-caliber rifle. In 1968, a Riverside teen was stabbed to death by a killer who subsequently sent taunting letters to local police and newspapers.

Neither case has been conclusively tied to the Zodiac Killer, but there would eventually be ample reason to think they should. The letters sent in Riverside certainly showed many elements of Zodiac's later style, although there were differences as well. A desktop in Riverside was found with a burst of poetic inspiration scratched on its surface, entitled "Sick of living/unwilling to die", which some investigators attribute to Zodiac.

Whether or not the earlier cases were connected, the Zodiac was certainly building a portfolio back in 1969. On July 4, two more victims were shot in

months stretched on, the story began to cool when no new victims surfaced. A woman claimed that she and her baby were kidnapped by Zodiac, but her story was full of holes. Zodiac later claimed credit for the attack, but he neglected to provide the sort of confirming details that he had offered in previous attacks.

Although the bodies had stopped visibly accumulating, the letters continued to come. In April of 1970, Zodiac sent out a new cipher which he claimed contained his name. The cipher was never cracked. Subsequent letters repeated the school bus threat, with an added twist. The killer claimed he would cancel the bus bombing if the people of San Francisco wore buttons with his crossed-circle emblem.

When San Franciscans failed to comply with his request, he sent a follow-up letter in June that claimed to have shot a man as punishment (noting the number "12" as the apparent tally of his victims so far). The murder, if it happened, was never discovered. He would have blown up a school bus, he explained, but school was out for the summer.

The letters continued, and the content became crankier and more overtly insane. In July, he wrote to the Chronicle that included a parody of the Mikado:

As someday it may happen that a victom must be found. I've got a little list. I've got a little list, of society offenders who might well be underground who would never be missed who would never be missed. There is the pestulentual nucences who whrite for autographs, all people who have flabby hands and irritating laughs. All children who are up in dates and implore you with im platt. All people who are shaking hands shake hands like that. And all third persons who with unspoiling take thos who insist. They'd none of them be missed. They'd none of them be missed.



It went on for several more verses, mostly proving that Zodiac was a more gifted killer than he was a poet. The letter contained more threats of torture and mayhem, but most of these were directed at his "slaves" in "paradise," i.e., victims he had already killed, whom he planned to torment in the afterlife. Since the afterlife was outside the jurisdiction of the SFPD, no preventative action was taken.

Without specific claims of responsibility, the Zodiac's continuing "rampage" was difficult to verify. A Halloween card sent to a Chronicle reporter upped the victim tally to 14, and a subsequent letter to the L.A. Times in March of 1971 claimed 17. Around the end of 1970, the Chronicle received a letter suggesting they look into the 1968 Riverside murder, with its collection of letters and taunts.

Initially, investigators seized on the new case as part of the Zodiac canon, but they later backtracked. Police and many of the "Zodiac hobbyists" lurking on the Web and elsewhere now believe that the Riverside killings were not an authentic Zodiac case, but the similarities are hard to dismiss.

After the letter to the L.A. Times (which some have assailed as a forgery), Zodiac went completely silent, for reasons unknown. In 1974, he inexplicably

resurfaced with a movie review of The Exorcist, which he described as the best "satirical comedy" he had ever seen. At the bottom of the letter, he recorded a score "ME -- 37, SFPD -- 0."

The letter was not signed with the crossed circle, nor opened with the trademark phrase, "This is the Zodiac speaking," but it was authenticated by handwriting experts. After the receipt of this letter, a spate of follow-ups emerged, but none could be

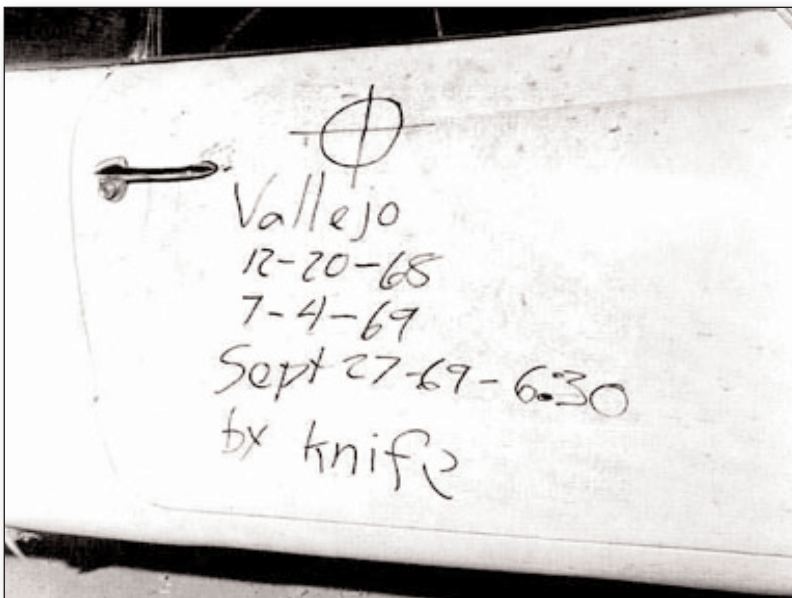
authenticated, and none of them seemed to reflect the earlier subject matter. Some of the letters had similar handwriting characteristics but omitted the spelling errors, which suggested to some that

investigated Allen, and any given person's view of the investigation's completeness is highly dependent on whether that person believes Allen was the killer.

There's ample evidence that the investigation left much to be desired, but Allen was finally eliminated as a suspect based on two facts which are difficult to get around – the most definitive Zodiac fingerprints, taken from the bloody cab in San Francisco, did not match Allen's fingerprints, and Allen's DNA did not match the DNA of whomever licked Zodiac's stamps. While these are not quite infallible indicators, they are fairly compelling, particularly the fingerprints.

It's also possible to imagine scenarios in which Allen was somehow involved in the Zodiac killings without actually committing the murders, or not all of them at least. For instance, Allen may have committed some (but not all) of the murders attributed to Zodiac. He might have been working with an accomplice, or he may have simply written the letters on behalf of the real killer.

For reasons clear only to them, police have long since closed the books on the Allen investigation. But there are other suspects as well, some relatively



anonymous figures who are compelling for one reason or another, including one of the lesser known members of the Manson family. Other suspects were extremely well-known but somewhat far-fetched.

The most infamous Zodiac suspect was Theodore Kaczynski, better known by his supervillain name, the Unabomber. Both were homicidal Bay Area residents, and both had a tendency to seek out front page news coverage. However, this is generally considered a long shot, and forensic testing has reportedly ruled out everyone's favorite serial bomber as a Zodiac suspect. Another notorious serial killer, Ted Bundy, was considered a suspect in at least one of the Zodiac killings, but was similarly cleared.

After all these years, the question of Zodiac's identity might seem academic. After all, the killer would likely be in his 70s by now, if he's even alive, and no one has heard a peep from him in decades. Furthermore, the killer may already be in prison for some other crime, which no one has happened to connect with Zodiac's spree.

The question certainly seemed academic to the San Francisco Police Department, which closed its Zodiac investigation in April of 2004, under pressure to turn its attention to the city's burgeoning gang problem.

Of course, the decision may have been premature. In March 2004, the Zodiac-influenced "BTK" killer suddenly resurfaced in Kansas with a letter to the media.

As if on cue, in August 2004, police found a young couple shot to death on a Sonoma County beach, just 100 miles from the original Zodiac rampage. They had been shot and killed at close range. There was no sign of robbery or sexual assault -- just what you might expect from a serial killer whose ego had been bruised by police indifference and a copycat grabbing all the headlines.

On the other hand, Zodiac would be about 70 now, and you don't see too many 70-year-old serial killers on the post office walls. And if the killing really represents an ego-driven comeback by the one and only, it's hard to imagine Zodiac would not dash off a letter announcing his triumphant return. Who knows? Serial killers are an inscrutable lot, but none more so than the Zodiac.



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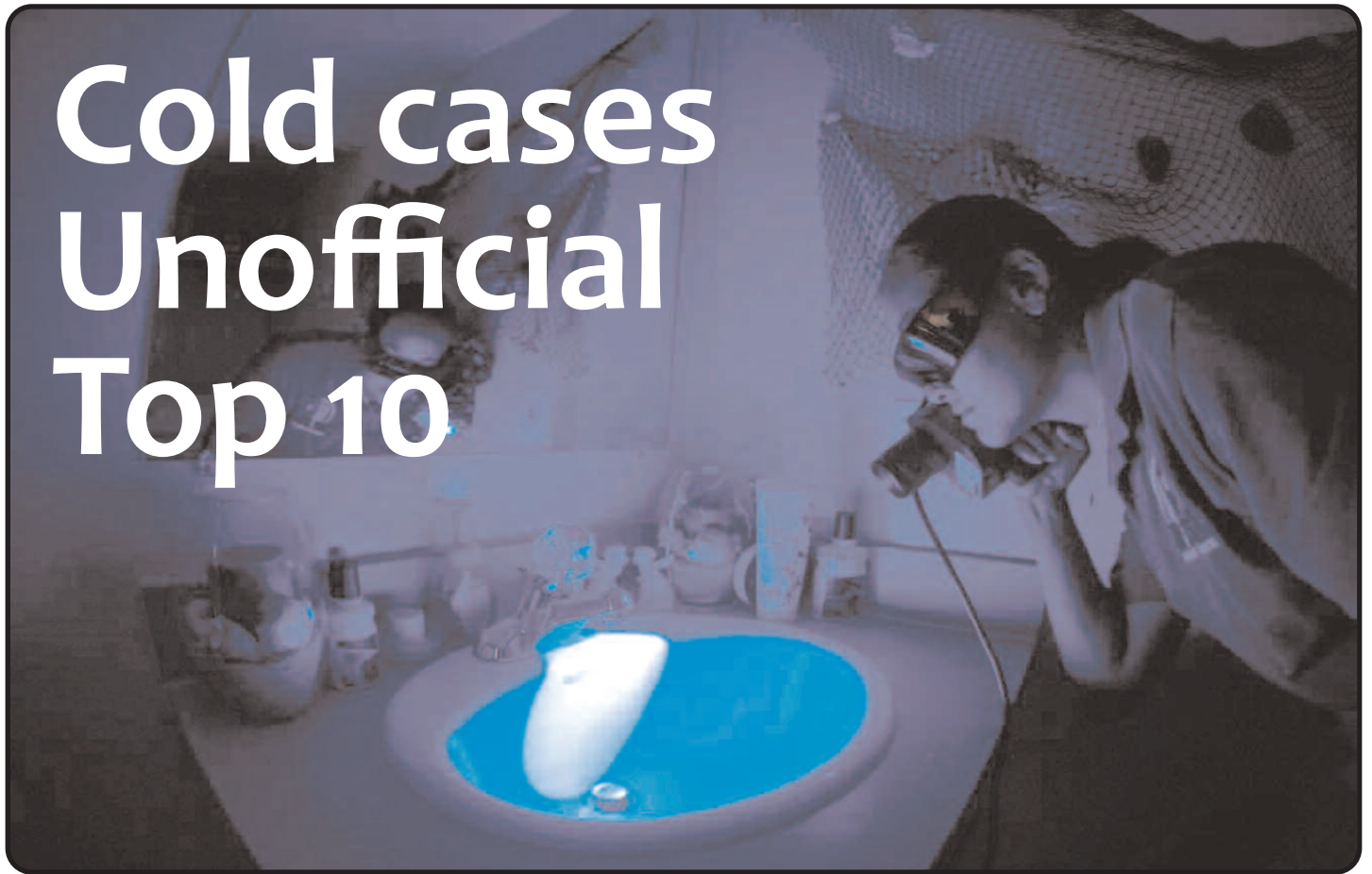
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FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE

Cold cases Unofficial Top 10



1. Jack the Ripper

1888 was a bad year to be a prostitute. Between August 7 and November 10 of that year, five women were killed in the Whitechapel district of London's East End, their throats slashed and their bodies mutilated in a way that indicated they all met their fates at the hands of the same person.

One victim's kidney was even mailed to the police, along with a series of taunting notes penned by someone calling himself Jack the Ripper. Serial murder was a relatively new phenomenon and the attacks were highly publicized. The law's failure to identify the killer led to such an outcry that both the home secretary and London police commissioner resigned in disgrace.



Jack the Ripper, whoever he was, has been the subject of hundreds of books and articles. The theories surrounding his identity vary from a covert Masonic plot to a member of the royal family. Here are the most likely suspects:

- Montague Druiitt, a barrister with knowledge of human anatomy. Rumored to be insane, he disappeared after the last murder; his body was later found floating in the River Thames.
- George Chapman, a barber who lived in Whitechapel during the time of the murders and who was later found guilty of poisoning three of his wives.
- Aaron Kosminski, a Whitechapel resident known for his affinity for prostitutes. He was hospitalized in an asylum several months after the last murder.

an hour later. He died. That night, Janus' younger brother and sister-in-law, grief-stricken and aching, popped a few of Adam's Tylenol pills.

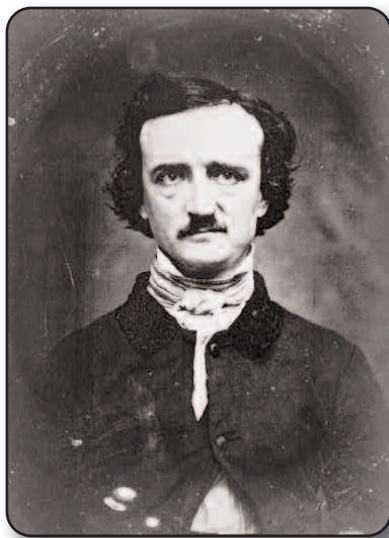
They died. A 12-year old girl with a cold took some Extra-Strength Tylenol on account of a cold. Dead. All in all, seven were felled by the poisoned pills. Hysteria followed. A 1982 TIME story reports, "Police cruisers, rolling through Chicago streets Thursday afternoon and evening, blared warnings over loudspeakers."

The drug was removed from shelves. Vague copycat incidents such as pins and needles discovered in candy bars, led several communities to ban Halloween trick-or-treating.



A gentleman was arrested after trying to extort Johnson & Johnson for \$100,000, though he was never charged with the murders. Tamper-proof seals became the norm.

5. The Death of Edgar Allen Poe



The Raven author left New York City in 1849 bound for Richmond, but only made it as far as Baltimore, where a passer-by noticed the delirious and incoherent writer slouched in front of a bar on October 3. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died four days later.

The local newspaper attributed his death to "congestion of the brain," then a common euphemism for alcohol poisoning.

But scholars later discovered that rumors of his drug and alcohol abuse were greatly exaggerated, especially by vindictive literary critics like Rufus Wilmot Griswold. The death certificate, if it ever existed, cannot be found.

Some historians believe Poe may have suffered from rabies, cholera or syphilis.

But because he turned up on the streets the same day as a citywide election, others argue that Poe fell victim to "cooping," a fairly common practice back then in which corrupt politicians paid thugs to kidnap men (especially the homeless), drug them, disguise them, and drag them to polls all over the city or state. This may at least explain why Poe turned up in Baltimore wearing clothes that weren't his.

6. The Nicole Brown/Ron Goldman Double Murder

Your objection is noted and overruled.

Yes, you might have a hunch who killed O.J. Simpson's ex-wife and her lover on June 12, 1994 in Los Angeles. We all do.



But though the court of public opinion has long pinned this crime on "The Juice," the law says otherwise. With circumstantial evidence piled up against him, from forensics to the slowest, most riveting high-speed chase in history to the dubious decision to pen a book called *If I Did It*. Simpson, the former All-Star running back and B-list actor, assembled a dream team of lawyers who convinced jurors that since the glove didn't fit, they had to acquit. And to the disbelief of a transfixed nation, on Oct. 3, 1995, they did.

Though Simpson was found liable for the deaths in a related civil suit, the criminal matter remains unsolved.

7. The Case of the Disembodied Feet

Since August 2007, five human feet have washed ashore near Vancouver, British Columbia.

No bodies, no heads, no clothes, just feet (4 left, 1 right), nearly all still clad in sneakers. Canadian

authorities have yet to determine how the feet ended up there or why, though DNA tests matched one of the severed feet to a man who'd been missing for several months.



A number of theories have been tossed around, including the possibility of foul play (though coroners familiar with the case say ocean currents and decomposition could have naturally separated the feet from their owners). Others speculate the remains might belong to four unrecovered victims of a 2005 plane crash off Quadra Island.

In June, a prankster spooked local authorities by planting a gruesome surprise for one unwitting beachgoer, a rotting animal paw stuffed inside an Adidas shoe.

The most recent discovery was made in November, when another foot turned up in Washington, less than 50 miles south of the U.S.-Canadian border.

As to why there have been so few leads, police spokesperson Sharlene Brooks told CNN, "We suffer from the 'CSI' effect: People think we can do things faster than we can."

But a Vancouver panhandler told Bloomberg News he's already cracked the case: "I'll bet you it was murder. You just don't find feet lying around."

8. JonBenet Ramsey

It was Dec. 26, 1996, when John Ramsey, a wealthy software executive, found his 6-year-old daughter JonBenet dead in the basement of their Boulder, Colorado home.

Eight hours prior, his wife Patsy had found a ransom note demanding \$118,000 for their daughter's safe return. No call ever came from a kidnapper. So unraveled the saga of the young beauty queen whose murder has put a cloud over her entire family, the Boulder Police Department and the District Attorney in charge of solving the case.

Investigators in Boulder who were dealing with the city's first murder that year, failed to conduct a proper search of the house and even allowed friends of the family to walk in and out of the crime scene as the family and police waited for a ransom call.

While John's two adult children from a previous marriage were cleared of the murder early on, suspicion remained on the three people who were the only ones known to be home when JonBenet was killed, her 9-year-old brother Burke and her parents.

Almost three years after the murder, Burke, now 12, was questioned by a grand jury, but never charged. John and Patsy published *The Death of Innocence* in 2000 detailing their story even as they remained suspects in the case.

In June of 2006, Patsy died of ovarian cancer, just two months before the arrest of John Mark



Karr, an American man who had admitted to killing JonBenet, only to have the case dropped against him two weeks later when DNA tests showed he could not have been at the crime scene.

This past summer, prosecutors were finally able to conclude that John and Patsy were not responsible for their daughter's murder, but that DNA points to an "unexplained third party." John Ramsey still retains hope that evidence will track down his

daughter's killer and finally rid his family of the stain that continues to make its mark.

9. The Black Dahlia

Hollywood's most famous murder case unfolded on January 15, 1947 when the raven-haired, 22-year-old actress Elizabeth Short was found dead on Norton Avenue between 39th and Coliseum streets in Los Angeles.

Her body had been cut in half and appeared to have been drained of blood with precision. The murderer had also cut 3-inch gashes into each corner of her mouth, creating a spooky clownesque smile.



Short's murder quickly became a sensation, not only because of its location in the show biz capital, but also because the police worked in tandem with the press to disseminate clues in hopes of locating a suspect.

Several people confessed, only to be later released for lack of evidence. Much speculation surrounded the details of Short's life. Grieving after the death of a man she fell in love with, she reportedly befriended many men while frequenting jazz clubs, making it nearly impossible to pin down who she could have been with before she died.

Her unsolved murder has spawned several movies, television specials, and books. One such account was written by Steve Hodel who implicated his own father, a Los Angeles doctor, as the Black Dahlia murderer. No charges were ever filed.

10. The Women of Ciudad Juárez

Sometimes called the City of the Lost Girls, Juárez is a poor, Mexican border town where hundreds (some say thousands) of women have been raped, tortured and then killed over the past decade.



Many of these women work in the town's numerous factories or live there because it is close to the U.S. border, which they can cross for jobs. Amnesty International has urged Mexican authorities to make finding perpetrators a priority.

But with an ever-intensifying drug war taking place in the country's poor neighborhoods and a government rife with corruption, little has been done to stop the assault on the women of Ciudad Juárez.

Marisela Ortiz, the coordinator of the non-governmental organization *Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa* (roughly translating to: "May Our Daughters Return Home"), told the Latin American Herald Tribune on Dec. 14 that the murders are largely a result of the "toll of an internal war between the drug trafficking mafias who are fighting to conquer the territory."



Pink crosses mark the site where women's bodies were found in the dusty ground of a hill overlooking a shanty town in Juárez. (Photo by Kari Lydersen)

The date ticker on the group's website reads: "Today is (site visiting date) and that doesn't solve anything."