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TALKING HEADS: Two SIOs talk to Carol Jenkins about how the new registration scheme has impacted their work.

8

EXTREME MEASURES: Karl Roberts looks at the challenges facing investigators when interviewing terror suspects.

14

LOSING THE DETECTIVES: CID numbers are declining at an alarming rate. Tina Orr-Munro assesses the situations and looks at how to address the problem.

25

SMELL OF DEATH: Forensic scientists in the US are carrying out research into use of the first portable device for detecting human bodies buried in disasters and at crime scenes. Daniel Dexter reports.

38



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SIO's Registration - Forensics - Case studies - Conferences

| | | | |
|----|-------------|----|---------------|
| 6 | News | 44 | Economics |
| 10 | Competition | 48 | Events diary |
| 13 | Witnesses | 52 | Crime History |
| 32 | Tech Q&A | 54 | In this Week |
| 43 | Training | 56 | Recruitment |

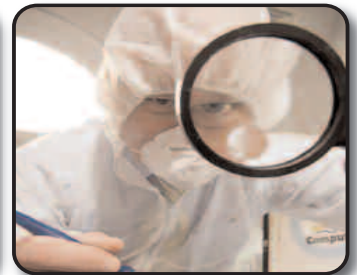
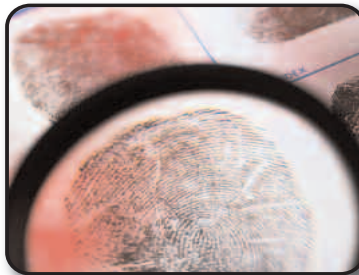
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21 October - Investigative Interviewing

22 - October - Investigating Volume Crime

Tel: 0844 660 8707

E: info@the-investigator.co.uk

**EDITORIAL**

Editor: Carol Jenkins
Tel: +44 (0) 844 660 8702
 carol@the-investigator.co.uk

ANALYSIS

Sophie Harrison
Tel: 0844 660 8702
 sophie@the-investigator.co.uk

FORENSICS

Daniel Dexter
Tel: 0844 660 8702
 daniel@the-investigator.co.uk

CONSULTANT

Gary Shaw
Tel: 0844 660 8702
 gary@the-investigator.co.uk

SENIOR REPORTER

Tina Orr-Munro
Tel: 0844 660 8702
 info@the-investigator.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Dale Hazell
Tel: 0844 660 8707
 sales@the-investigator.co.uk

CONFERENCES

Tel: 0844 660 8707
 info@the-investigator.co.uk

PRODUCTION

Tel: 0844 660 8707
 snoops@the-investigator.co.uk

CIRCULATION

circulation@the-investigator.co.uk
Tel: 0844 660 8707

PUBLISHING

The Investigator
 1 Barnshaw House
 Coxhill Way
 Aylesbury
 Bucks, HP21 8FH
Tel: +44 (0)844 660 8707
Fax: +44 (0)844 660 8701

info@the-investigator.co.uk
www.the-investigator.co.uk

Our article 'Losing the detectives' paints a grim picture of the future of CID in England and Wales - with one Police Federation representative predicting that within ten years there will be no detectives left.

This is shocking news and a damning indictment on the state of policing in England and Wales given that an experienced, highly trained and motivated CID should be the cornerstone of policing. The way the investigation process is conducted is one of the most critical aspects of policing in that it can often be the difference between a successful and unsuccessful prosecution.

History has taught us that public confidence in the police is determined by conviction rates and the number of offenders who are brought to justice.

Our article cites one of the reasons for this sharp decline is that the status of the CID officer is falling and that officers are opting to remain in uniform posts because of their desire for greater work/life balance.

As a result, untrained detectives are now being expected to deal with serious crime and are becoming overworked and stressed. The Police Federation suggests rotating officers from uniform to CID - a measure that proved unpopular in the 90s as critics claimed it diluted detective skills. The old tenure system was also criticised for being too rigid and inflexible.

Forces now need to accept that rotating officers from uniform to CID in the short term may well be the only way to fill the vacant posts. Hopefully they will have learnt lessons from the tenure policy of the 90s and operate a more flexible policy that takes into account an individuals needs and skills as well as those of the force. Surely a responsive and innovative HR policy is the key to addressing this very real and serious issue?

In the long-term the move by the NPIA to professionalise the investigative process through PIP will go a long way to ensuring CID is seen as a profession rather than an unpopular job. The Investigator hopes that it can continue to play a part in this process and help give CID officers the recognition and status they deserve.

Carol Jenkins

Bad Medicine

A Lancashire man has been given a 350 day sentence suspended for two years and an eighteen month supervision order after admitting poisoning his ex-wife by administering a mercury compound over an unknown period of time.

Heartbroken William Dowling was so distraught at the prospect of the end of his marriage that he decided to take drastic action. He appeared at Preston Crown Court recently for sentencing after pleading guilty to administering poison with intent to injure.

The court heard how Dowling put tablespoons of mercury in cups of tea given to his wife over a period of time which resulted in her displaying unexplained illness and seeking medical attention.

It was claimed the defendant could not come to terms with the end of his marriage to the victim. Sentencing, Judge Robert Brown said:

“After 28 years of marriage your wife Maureen decided to separate from you.”



“It seems to me having read the papers that the main reason was that she had become fed up with what she regarded as your controlling attitude towards her.”

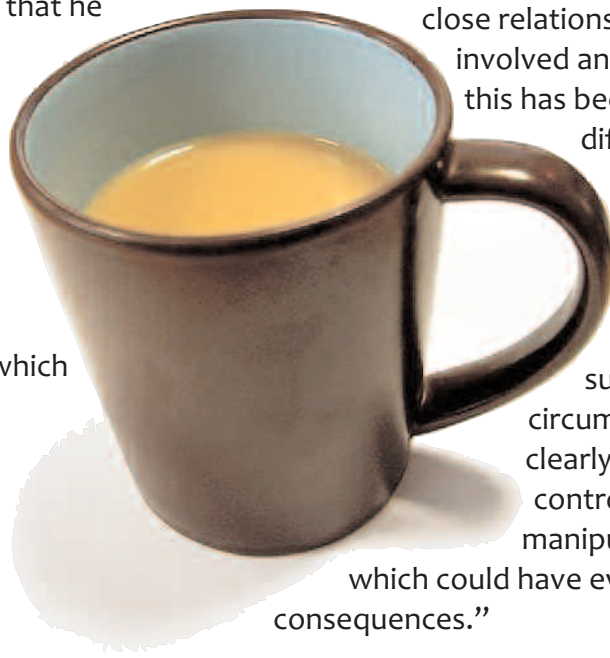
“There is no question here of her becoming involved with any other person, but you were not

satisfied with your situation and you decided to engineer her return to live with you.

“The way that you went about it was to administer to her a series of doses of mercury mixed with her cups of tea.”

“That was not only a wicked way to treat your wife, it was also potentially fatal. Fortunately your plan was discovered before any serious harm had been caused.”

Detective Sergeant Charles Haynes, who led the investigation, said: “From the outset this was a difficult and sensitive case to investigate due to the close relationships of the people involved and I appreciate that this has been an incredibly difficult period of time for the victim.”



He continued: “This case was extremely unusual given the surrounding circumstances. Dowling clearly demonstrated controlling and manipulative behaviour, which could have eventually had fatal consequences.”

“Given the highly toxic nature of mercury, Mrs Dowling has been left very poorly and is still receiving medical attention. It is unlikely that she will be able to put this ordeal behind her for some time owing to her continued medical care.”

He said that Mrs Dowling has demonstrated bravery throughout the investigation and judicial proceedings.

“I hope that in time her quality of life will improve with the right support.”

DS Haynes added: “Thankfully incidents of poisoning are extremely rare but this case illustrates that due to advances in medical and forensic science the perpetrators of such crimes will be brought before the courts for punishment.”

The Clone Rangers

Two men who committed card cloning offences have been jailed following an investigation by Hertfordshire Police.

When Nelu Onica, 33 and Ragnar Szabo, 20 were jailed for a total of five years for their part in a sophisticated card cloning operation – the judge described Onica as a “major player in a substantial criminal enterprise.”

The pair pleaded to conspiracy to steal from the UK clearing bank between March 17 and April 17 this year.

They were arrested in the early hours of Friday April 17 after an ANPR hit on their vehicle. Officers found an ATM entrapment device in their vehicle on Smith Street in Watford. They also recovered about £350 in cash from Szabo, believed to have just been withdrawn from an ATM using a stolen card.

A subsequent search of Onica’s address revealed a significant amount of articles used to make card skimming devices as well as 466 cloned cards.

Judge Michael Baker told St Albans Crown Court gave Szabo seven months imprisonment, £300 to pay in compensation, £45 in costs and a deportation

order to his home country of Romania upon completion of the sentence.

Onica was given four and a half years imprisonment and £710 to pay in costs.

DC Archi Bagworth, who investigated the case said he hoped the case would send out a strong message that card cloning offences are dealt with seriously by police.

“I hope it reassures members of the public who have been a victim of card fraud that, even though it may seem like a faceless crime, we do catch those responsible and they are dealt with robustly.

“Fortunately, this kind of crime is on the decrease in the county.”



July/August Competition

The winner of the mobile phone and Ashes to Ashes books was DC Gail Smart from West Mercia Constabulary.

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Talking Heads



NPIA
National Policing
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Following on from our article on the introduction of the SIOs register designed to make senior officers more accountable for their performance, two SIOs talk to The Investigator about how the change has affected them. Carol Jenkins reports.

Working on the Met's murder command for the past seven years has proved to be both a testing and rewarding experience for DCI Simon Moring. During his time on the command, he has been involved in the investigation of many high profile murders that have given him the opportunity to develop his experience and skills.

Among the high profile cases he has worked on include the fatal stabbing of teenager Stephen Lewis recently; as well as the stabbing of a young woman as she slept in bed four years ago. He was also part of the team that helped Warwickshire Police investigate the murder of a man who was set on fire close to the M45 motorway. He worked alongside Warwickshire officers before the murder was ultimately transferred to the MPS and allocated to his team.

Despite his obvious experience for the role, Simon has had to demonstrate his suitability by undergoing a programme of assessment that has ensured he is now entered onto a national register

to prove he has reached the required standard to work as an SIO.

Introduced as part of PIP Level 3, the registration will, for the first time, put the onus on forces and individuals to ensure SIOs are given the opportunity to develop their professional skills to a standard that is deemed suitable for them to perform in this major role.

"I've managed to complete my registration retrospectively by reviewing the jobs I've been involved in over the last five or six years," he explained.

"When you actually go back through the work you've been involved in over the course of just one year – it's amazing just what you've done."

Despite the fact he has completed his registration retrospectively, Simon advises all new SIOs to make a record of their competencies as they go along and to keep a diary of their caseload.

"It's so much easier if you complete the necessary paperwork as you go along and it really focuses the mind on the sort of competencies you are required to demonstrate in order to qualify for registration."

Simon also advises colleagues not to go through the process in isolation and to speak to colleagues who have gone through the registration process to ask for their help and advice.

“Gaining the experience of others and having mentors to help you on your way is really important – I have learnt a lot from those I have worked with.” He believes that SIOs are broadly supportive of the new registration process.

“It has formalised what we already do and I think it will bring benefits for SIOs because it will demonstrate to both those inside and outside of the police service just what a professional job we do.”

Det Supt Steve Carey an SIO with Devon and Cornwall has served for 22 years with the police service and has also been involved in many high profile investigations.

He has also recently undergone the registration process.

“I think it’s a good idea and I would support anything that highlights the professionalism of the SIO,” he said.

“There are a lot of people that don’t really understand what the role of the SIO entails and how complex it is.”

During his time in the role he has had to excavate bodies; investigate the murder of a tribal chief who only recently arrived in the country as well as deal with a complex kidnapping case to name but a few. “As an SIO you are required to react quickly to a constantly changing situation.”

Like Simon, Steve had to undergo the registration process retrospectively and had evidence of investigating 20 murders to draw on.

He advises SIOs not to just see the process as something they are required to complete but to

learn from it and make it meaningful to their everyday lives.

“I would advise officers to look at what’s behind the questions and gain something from it.”

One of the aims of the new process is to make officers publicly accountable for their performance – something which Steve describes as a “double edged sword”.

“I was recently asked at an inquest what my qualifications were and luckily I was able to say that I am nationally accredited but I felt the question was asked to expose me. I question where that leaves SIOs who aren’t qualified and how exposed that will leave them.”

Both officers reject suggestions that the process is too

bureaucratic and that it can be completed alongside your day job.

The NPIA appointed registrar Steve Maher to oversee the process and provide help and guidance to officers on how to complete the process.

Steve is a former SIO who worked in the Met’s murder command where he worked on a number of major investigations where he has witnessed at first hand the pressures and issues that SIOs face in today’s complex policing environment.

He has worked for 32 years’ in the job and during



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Simply identify the make and model of the pictured police car and email your answer to:
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Terms and conditions

The editor's decision is final. No cash alternative is available. The competition prize is one delegate place at the Investigating Volume Crime conference only. Travel and accommodation are not included and will not be offered. The winner can transfer the delegate place within their force/organisation only. The winner will be drawn at random. The competition closes on 8th October 2009 and the winner will be notified by email.

that time has seen the accountability of the police has increase.

“It is no longer good enough to rely on the fact you’ve been a CID officer for 15 years. Defence lawyers will be quizzing SIOs in the box in more detail about what qualifies them to deal with this level of serious crime,” he told the Investigator recently.

Registration recap

An officer who decides to follow a career in investigation, usually within CID, will be developed in-force. Senior officers will then decide if they demonstrate the potential to become an SIO and send them on a three-week senior investigators programme followed by a week in hydra-training.

“This gives them the first building block. Once they have achieved this and providing their force supports them, they will submit a registration form to me and they will get registered on a national database as ‘under assessment.’”

While under assessment, the officer then has to gather evidence to prove they are fit for role – one of these examples must illustrate that they have led a homicide investigation as the SIO.

When it has been decided that their portfolio of evidence is satisfactory by the head of crime, he or she will then sign them off as competent. Their status on the database is registered to PIP Level 3 and they get a certificate to prove they are qualified as SIOs.

The same protocol exists for serving SIOs – who are allowed to rely on evidence gathered over the past year or two. An experienced SIO should be able to qualify for registration in three months.

Qualification for the register is only just the beginning of the process though. SIOs must continue to demonstrate they are fit for role throughout their careers by completing a minimum of 20 hours’ professional development each year.

Steve explains this could mean attending a seminar on new forensic techniques, data

telecommunications or other issues that are important for SIOs to use and understand when investigating serious crime.

“SIOs need to think laterally about how they will achieve the 20 hours’ professional development,” he said.

“I am responsible for signing 99 per cent of CPD activity, so if an SIO is reliant on CPD for registration and is attending an event or activity, then they should speak to me to make sure it is relevant and that they are going to be rewarded for it.”

He accepts that as the system becomes more established, it will be easier for SIOs to decide which are the most relevant and appropriate activities.

For help with the registration process or for further information you can email Steve at: steve.maher@npia.pnn.police.uk

SIO Register

The SIO Professional Register for Senior Investigating Officers incorporating CPD (Proof of Concept Project)

This project aims to deliver a proof of concept, computerised register, for competent Senior Investigating Officers who operate at Level 3 of PIP.

It contains a registration system and process capable of recording the details of all existing competent SIO's. It will also include details of the Continuing Professional Development activities which SIO's have undertaken to maintain their professional competence and status on the register.

The NPJA project team are working in close conjunction with the ACPO Homicide Working Group to design the registration and CPD processes, which will be uploaded to this page when available.

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Witness Testimony

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) now has responsibility for a specialist unit to support witnesses to give evidence in investigations. Carol Jenkins reports.

It is now well established that witness evidence can often make or break an investigation. The criminal justice system as a whole recognises the need to put witnesses at the heart of everything it does.

In line with this a specialist unit that helps vulnerable witnesses to assist police investigations and criminal prosecutions has now joined the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA).

The Witness Intermediaries Scheme, which matches communication specialists to the special needs of witnesses, will be part of the NPIA's Specialist Operations Centre.

It offers support to witnesses who need help to communicate their evidence, including children under 17, and people with a mental disorder or learning disability, or with a physical disability or physical disorder.

Tom McArthur, NPIA Director of Operations explained the how important it is to make witnesses feel confident in coming forward to give evidence and that they receive the necessary support in doing so.

“Intermediaries play an important role in improving access to justice for some of the most vulnerable people in society, giving them a voice within the criminal justice process,” he said.

“They help children and adults who have communication difficulties to understand the questions that are put to them and to have their answers understood, enabling them to achieve their best evidence for police and the courts.”

Crime detection

In some cases the work of the intermediary can be crucial in successfully detecting and prosecuting a crime said Mr McArthur.

“The transfer of the Witness Intermediaries Scheme is recognition of the valuable contribution that the NPIA is playing in supporting the police service in tackling crime and increasing public safety,” he said.

Transferring the Witness Intermediaries Scheme into the NPIA's Specialist Operations Centre will allow the NPIA to enhance the operational support provided to policing.

The National Vulnerable Witness and Intermediary Adviser will oversee the scheme and provide support to police officers dealing with vulnerable witnesses, especially with their interview strategies.

Vulnerable support

The Witness Intermediaries Scheme receives an average of 120 requests per month for support, with around 75 per cent coming from the police service. It has supported more than 3,000 vulnerable people to date.

Registered intermediaries are selected for their specialist skills and experience as speech and language therapists, psychologists, teachers, health professionals and social workers.

An intermediary played an important role in helping a 16-year-old rape victim with a learning disability to give compelling evidence about her ordeal that led to three London men, Rogel McMorris, Jason Brew and Hector Muaimba, being jailed earlier this year.

The matching service of the Witness Intermediaries Scheme transfers from the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). The recruitment and registration process which ensures that intermediaries are qualified and vetted will continue to be managed by OCJR.

Investigative interviewing and Islamic extremism

The case of public safety interviews

Karl Roberts looks at the implications of legislation that states that where there is a perceived threat to public safety and/or to the integrity of an investigation, interviews with terrorist suspects may take place without notification, without legal representation and in non-designated detention centres.

The aim of this article is to consider the psychological implications of urgent interviews under the England and Wales Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT) and Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) code H. It will briefly introduce the law as it relates to urgent interviews, consider the context of urgent interviews with terrorist suspects, identify some of the relevant psychological issues and provide recommendations from a psychological perspective as to how various risks to the investigative process may be avoided.

The Law: Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) Code H police investigations in England and Wales are governed by a range of legislation including PACE, the Regulation of Investigative Powers act (RIPA), and the European convention on Human Rights (ECHR) amongst others.

Particularly relevant to police interviews with suspects is PACE, this covers all aspects of the detention, treatment and questioning by police officers of individuals. Section 41 of the Terrorism Act and code H of PACE deal with police interviews with individuals detained under the terrorism act.

In very general terms, the legislation provides all

detained individuals with the right to have their arrest notified to another individual, the right to legal advice, and the right to be interviewed at a location designated for detention without unnecessary delay.

Legislation exists however to suspend some of these rights under certain circumstances. The relevant legislation is Annex B Code H of PACE - Delays to interview under TACT Schedule 8. This legislation allows that police may delay notification of arrest and/or access to legal advice and to carry out an interview in a non designated place if the person detained has not yet been charged with an offence and if an officer of superintendent rank or above has reasonable grounds for believing the exercise of the above suspect rights may result in one or more of the following:

- Interference or harm to persons and/or evidence
- Serious loss or damage to property
- Alerting others
- Hinder recovery of property
- Interference with the gathering of information
- Risk of legal advisor passing information

In these circumstances the police may carry out a so-called urgent interview. These interviews must, however, cease once the relevant risk has been averted and/or the necessary questions have been put in an attempt to avert the risk.

The practical upshot of this legislation is that where there is a perceived threat to public safety and/or to

the integrity of an investigation, interviews with terrorist suspects may take place without notification, without legal representation and in non designated detention centres. The legislation requires that a record be made of the interview, where possible this should be in the form of a tape recording or contemporaneous notes, however where this is not possible it is allowable that notes made during the interview may be written up by the interviewer as soon as practically possible following the interview.

In the circumstances when an urgent interview is allowable, without the benefit of legal representation for the suspect, much of the onus to protect the rights of the suspect is in the hands of the interviewer. For the interviewer this may be a difficult situation, especially given the context in which these interviews take place.

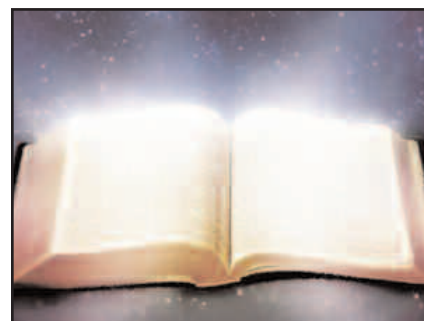
The urgent interview context

Terrorism is designed to achieve some political change by using fear as a weapon (e.g. Burleigh, 2008). Terrorist atrocities produce a wide range of emotions in those who observe them including fear, grief, anger, frustration, sadness, a sense of powerlessness, a desire for revenge and a strong desire to do something (e.g. Silke, 2003). As human beings, police officers involved in counter terrorism work are not immune from these emotions; indeed for police officers, as a result of their investigative duties these emotions might be exacerbated.

For example, police officers are typically exposed to details about a terrorist act way beyond the experience of most members of the public (e.g. precise details about victim injuries), police officers may be a focus of great political and media pressure to obtain 'results' in the aftermath of a terrorist act and there is frequently fear that the terrorists are plotting another atrocity. Finally, there can be, in some quarters, little sympathy for a 'terrorist,' suspect and a belief amongst some members of society that terrorists by dint of their actions forfeit their human rights (Burleigh, 2008). It is in this context that urgent interviews with terrorist suspects are carried out.

Urgent interview by definition are done when there

is a need for information to be obtained from an individual very quickly. This need for urgency, when considered in the psychological context described previously, may lead to a number of potential risks to the interview process. Anger, fear, feelings of powerlessness and a desire for revenge are powerful emotions that in the context of urgency may make the use tactics not normally associated with police interviewing such as threats, overt aggression and even, in extremis, torture seem more acceptable and even desirable to some. For example, some commentators have argued for the limited use of torture and other extreme approaches to terrorist interviewing (e.g. Levin, 1982). Levin's argument is particularly applicable to urgent interviews.



Levin cites a so-called 'ticking bomb' scenario in which the need to save lives in the face of a possible atrocity outweigh any of the human rights that would normally be accorded to an individual, thus arguing that investigators can and should use any means at their disposal to elicit information (e.g. Levin, 1982).

Threats and overt aggression all work on the basis that raising an individual's discomfort is likely to make them more compliant as regards providing information, essentially the suspect is encouraged to trade information in return for an end to their discomfort (e.g. Rejali, 2007). However, such tactics frequently fail to obtain reliable information from suspects (e.g. Gudjonsson, 2001) and often do much damage to community and international relations (e.g. Rejali, 2007). This is not withstanding the fact that some individuals who may have been considered suspects and who may be subjected to such treatment are innocent of any involvement in terrorism (e.g. Stafford-Smith, 2007; Sands, 2008).

From a psychological perspective, so-called 'robust,' interview techniques, by dint of increasing an individual's fear and anxiety, run the risk of

increasing the vulnerability of the individual so that much of the material collected may be unreliable and potentially misleading. Threats and aggression increase anxiety, one of the effects of which is to increase an individual's uncertainty and doubt about events they have experienced. In this state individuals are frequently very sensitive to the reactions of the interviewer - they are often looking for signals from the interviewer that their responses are acceptable and that their discomfort is coming to an end - and so are prone to tailor their answers to questions in order to obtain a favourable reaction from the interviewer.

Ultimately, the creation of high levels of anxiety and fear in an individual may serve to increase their suggestibility making it more likely that they will begin to accept information provided by the interviewer and to confabulate accounts of events based upon information provided by the interviewer leading to the production of unreliable information and potentially false confessions (e.g. Gudjonsson, 2001). These psychological responses of the interviewee may be compounded as an urgent interview is likely to take place very soon after an arrest when the suspect may be already be in a state of high anxiety brought on by their fear of being arrested and the trauma of the arrest itself - arrests of terrorist suspects may involve large numbers of police officers and even armed police due to the need to protect police officers from potential threats.

Another problem with the use of 'robust' interview methods is that of the response of the community to the individual's experience.

Should an individual eventually be released from Police custody, they may take these negative experiences and emotions experienced back into the community from which they came, perhaps describing their experiences to friends, family and other members of their community, even the press.

This can lead to damage to the public perception of Law enforcement and damage to community relations which may ultimately be counter productive to the Police attempts to obtain intelligence about terror groups from these very

communities. It is also possible that a suspect's negative experiences may be seized upon by those who would make political capital out of them and may be used as a means of recruiting others to a terrorist cause (e.g. Sands, 2008).

Ultimately then, the emotive nature of the situation in which urgent interviews are carried out both for the interviewer and the suspect may increase the risk of interviewers utilizing robust interview approaches in their legitimate desire to obtain information quickly. As stated the use of such interview tactics is not without risks to the reliability of the information that can be obtained, to the welfare of the suspect and ultimately to the perception of the police by the community. The next section will consider potential solutions to the problems raised above, ultimately can psychology suggest ways of carrying out urgent interview that balance the legitimate needs of police to obtain information quickly with minimizing the risk of unreliable information?

Interview issues

Urgent interviews in the context of counter terrorism are arguably one of the most difficult situations a police interviewer may find him or herself in. Given the issues described above it is probably true to say that urgent interviews represent a powerful test of an individual police officers professionalism and integrity. If urgent interviews are carried out inappropriately there are many risks to the integrity of police investigations and to the rights of suspects. Ultimately urgent interviews inappropriately carried out could give rise to miscarriages of justice. In what follows various suggestions are made concerning how these interviews should be carried out.

Interview planning

As with any investigative interview, planning the urgent interview is essential. Relevant to planning the interview are issues such as who should carry out the interview e.g. gender, age, level of skill and experience, what topic areas need to be covered and the general approach of interviewers towards the suspect.

Underpinning all of this it is essential that the aims

and objectives of the urgent interview are clearly identified and communicated to the interviewers.

Due to the urgency of the interview situation there is a risk that urgent interviews can be carried out with limited planning, and limited consideration of the aims and objectives of the interview. When carrying out any interview, the interviewers need to be aware of what they are trying to achieve in order to judge the relative success of the interview. In the absence of these or if the aims and objectives are unclear or obscure, the interviewers are in a situation of great uncertainty. In addition, limited planning leads to a possibility that those selected to carry out the interview may not be well equipped to carry it out in terms of their skills and experience and in their knowledge of the suspect and the situation.

Ultimately the major risk here is that when faced with uncertainty and given the pressures of the interview situation those interviewers who may be ill-prepared and even ill equipped to carry out the interview may be more likely to become frustrated in this situation and perhaps rely upon aggressive approaches if they perceive that the interview is not achieving any results.

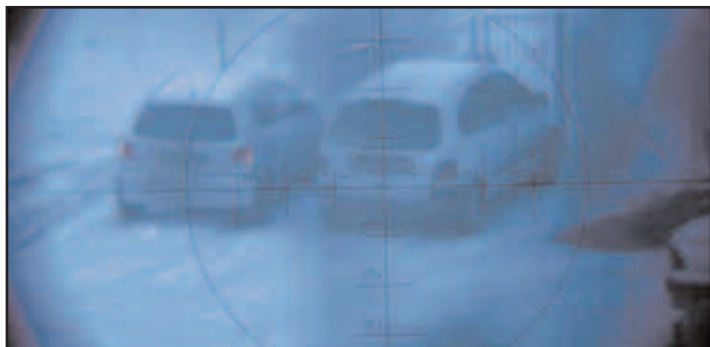
It is important to stress that clearly stated aims and objectives are the only way to reliably assess the success of the interview by providing a yardstick against which the product of the interview can be measured. This is not a trivial point as without a statement of what the interview needs to achieve it is not clear when urgent interviews should cease or when an urgent interview ceases to be an urgent interview as defined by PACE and moves into being a suspect interview. PACE clearly states that urgent interviews should cease when the relevant risk has been averted (see above) or where all relevant

questions designed to avert that risk have been put to the suspect. Importantly PACE prohibits interviewing about matters unrelated to averting the risk.

Without clear aims and objectives there is a possibility that interviewers, unsure of what they need to achieve, might continue to interview or carry out multiple interviews when the justification for them is unclear and/or interviewers may begin to ask questions of marginal relevance to averting the risk. For example questioning could stray into discussion of the suspect's involvement in an offence or issues concerning his or her background and lifestyle, which are more properly covered in a full suspect interview, under caution and in the presence of a suspect's legal representative. Within the terms of the relevant PACE codes it would appear to be difficult to justify long periods of urgent interviewing – can interviews be legitimately argued to be urgent if they have proceeded for four or five hours or if there were several urgent interviews carried out with the same person?

Also when multiple interviews or long periods of interviewing are used there is a risk of inappropriate and irrelevant questioning as defined by PACE.

Within planning the urgent interviews it is also important for the interviewers to be clear as to what broad questions they wish to put to the suspect so that time is not wasted during the interview and a clear end point to the interview can be discerned i.e. when the suspect has or has not answered the relevant questions. This means that planning needs to consider which questions are relevant and to identify topic and question areas that need to be avoided to keep the interview within the terms of PACE.



Interview personnel

Selection of personnel to carry out an urgent interview is important. To begin with, it is argued that urgent interviews should be carried out whenever possible by police officers who are the most well trained interviewers and who have the most experienced in carrying out counter terrorism interviews.

Such individuals are most likely to be well equipped to deal with the pressure of the situation. It is suggested that, where possible, the interviewers should be trained to advanced suspect interviewers (Tier 3) level as this training generally provides interviewers with advanced knowledge of interview methods, rapport building and knowledge of relevant psychological processes such as responses of suspects to anxiety, suggestibility and the impact of interviewer behaviour upon suspects.

There is a related training issue relevant for those who have to carry out interviews in a counter terrorism context. It is advised that interviewers would benefit from training in recognising and dealing with their own responses to trauma and anxiety as these emotions are likely to be the motivators for the more 'robust' interview

approaches described above and managing individual emotions may mitigate against their use.

Where possible it is suggested that in planning urgent interviews, investigators give consideration as to who is best suited to carry out the interview i.e. what interviewer characteristics do they consider will be most productive with a particular suspect. Some individuals might relate much better to a man or a woman or indeed to a younger or older interviewer. The racial characteristics of the interviewer may be relevant as may be their regional accent, religion or physical appearance. Where investigators feel that such issues are relevant selecting an interviewer with the preferred characteristics might be beneficial in terms of building rapport and trust with the suspect.

Suspect characteristics

In planning an urgent interview, it is advised that interviewers should spend some time familiarizing themselves with everything that is known about the suspect prior to the interview, this includes issues such as their background, interests and any particular vulnerabilities such as mental health status, fears, anxieties etc. This will allow interviewers to begin to predict likely behavioural responses from the suspect during the interview and to consider possible interview approaches towards them.

Essentially the argument here is that interviewers should tailor their approach to the specific characteristics of the suspect, to maximize the possibility that they can build rapport with them in order to maximize the amount of information obtained (e.g. Gelles et al, 2006; Roberts, 2008, 2009). It is acknowledged that this is more likely when an arrest is planned or when an interviewer is privy to intelligence and other information prior to an arrest. Clearly the amount of information about different individuals will vary and there is likely to be some individuals for whom limited information is available prior to an arrest.

The behaviour of the suspect during the interview should also be observed and recorded, as this is likely to inform interviewers as to the suspect's attitude towards the police, attitude towards

terrorism, their beliefs and feelings and to their attitude to being a suspect. This can help interviewers to further tailor their interview behaviour towards the suspect and may help planning for any subsequent interviews.

Interviewer behaviour

A large body of literature within the behavioural sciences points to the utility of so called rapport based interview approaches over those involving threats in obtaining reliable accounts from suspects



during police interviews (e.g. Ord, Shaw & Green, 2008; Milne & Bull, 2003). However, one obvious question is how can one develop rapport

with an individual in the context of an urgent interview?

The answer to this question is not easy or straightforward as this interview context is probably one of the most demanding upon the professionalism of police interviewers.

Some suggestions present themselves, certainly following what is likely to be a traumatic arrest it is argued that the interviewer should not be perceived to have been part of the arrest team. The suggestion here is that the individual responsible for the urgent interview should not carry out the arrest nor should they be involved in searches of the suspect or their property, or other activities that appear part of the arrest process.

Threats or aggressive approaches towards the suspect as described above are generally counter-productive and do not enhance the likelihood of obtaining reliable information so these should be avoided. It is accepted that some suspects are likely to be hostile to the police, but adopting an aggressive approach to such individuals will only serve to increase their hostility.

An approach that aims to minimize the individual's distress and that provides as supportive an

environment as is possible is most likely to engender rapport with the suspect. Another possible pay off for the interviewer if they can affect a supportive environment for the urgent interview is that in all likelihood the suspect will be subjected to an interview under PACE later on and steps to develop rapport at the urgent interview stage are likely to make rapport easier to achieve during the full suspect interviews.

When developing rapport interviewers should attempt to consider what are the legitimate needs of the suspect during the urgent interview. They may well be fearful and uncertain, some individuals may have limited experience of law enforcement and others may come from other cultures in which Policing is not rooted in liberal democratic values, and so their lives or expect that they will be subject to torture. Attempts to reassure them during the urgent interview are likely to help engender trust as these may allay some of these fears. In the case of Islamist extremists, taking some steps to be respectful of their religious needs, for example reassuring them that in police custody they will be accorded the rights to pray may help. Asking suspects how they feel and if they need anything is useful as again this shows some attention to them as individuals.

Importantly rapport building should not be the sole activity and it is important that interviewers ask legitimate questions during the urgent interview. Essentially these questions need to be focused upon the immediate situation and the need to alleviate risks as defined by PACE. It is advised that suspects be informed of the purpose of the interview and that direct questions concerning what they may know should be asked. Direct questions will illustrate the urgency of the situation, however suspects should be given time to answer the questions as quickly firing questions at the suspect and/or repeating the same question will increase anxiety and may be counter productive.

Interviewers should maintain a calm demeanor when addressing the suspect, as displays of anger and frustration are unlikely to result in a free flow of information. Instead calm reasoning is most likely to be production. If the interviewer can build rapport

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with the suspect and can show him or herself to be a warm human being it may be possible to present the suspect with a calm rationale as to why they should provide information, potentially if rapport building is successful the suspect may wish to work with the interviewer to protect others.

It is noteworthy that for many would-be terrorists, rather like sexual offenders, they often do not subject their attitudes and fantasies of terrorist violence, martyrdom and the impact of the activities on others to any real reality testing and they frequently suspend critical thinking in the context of the planning of a terrorist atrocity (e.g. Horgan, 2005; Rogers et al, 2007).

Essentially thinking patterns that serve to minimize the suffering of others and justify the atrocity emerge from these individuals. These thinking patterns remain unchallenged by their colleagues until police apprehends these individuals when the would-be terrorist is frequently asked to account for himself or herself.

When apprehended by police, some individuals they are now faced with an uncomfortable reality where the likely consequences of their actions become available to them.

Fear and possibly guilt and remorse may be experienced by some of these individuals in the face of this reality and a rapport-based supportive approach from interviewers may provide the conditions in which these individuals are most likely to share information.

Any other approach is likely to reduce the likelihood of this. In contrast, it is acknowledged that there are likely to be individuals who are focused upon their terrorist activities and who will, regardless of what approach is taken with them during the interview, not provide any information to the police.

However a priori, interviewers will not necessarily know who these individuals are and, through the use of a rapport based approach, where the suspect is given every opportunity to speak; the urgent interview may allow investigators the opportunity

to identify such an individual.

Conclusions

The relevant legislation, PACE code H, allows for urgent interviews of terrorist suspects but is specific as to the purpose of the urgent interview, in particular that the interviews should cease when all questions relevant to ending a specific risk have been put to a suspect. Urgent interviews do not accord the suspect the same rights normally available to them in terms of legal representation and so the onus is on the police interviewer to protect the rights and wellbeing of the suspect.

Urgent interviews, however, are not without risks which are related to the context of the interview – one of fear, uncertainty and even anger following a terrorist atrocity, in which interviewers may find themselves under a great deal of pressure from others to obtain results.

Threatening and otherwise oppressive interview tactics are a risk in these contexts with the problem that such approaches may lead to unreliable information, damage to the well being of the suspect and damage to the reputation of the police. In this context adequate planning of the urgent interview is vital and clear aims and objectives for the interview need to be identified.

A consideration of the characteristics of the suspect, selection of persons to carry out the interview, the approach they should take towards the suspect – one that is focused upon rapport and supporting the legitimate needs of the suspect – and the topics and questions that need to be covered form an important part of this planning process.

Ultimately, even in the high pressure context of urgent interviews the principles of good investigative interviewing apply and it is with reference to these that investigators can hope to obtain the maximum amount of information from the interview and minimize the risks to the integrity of the police investigation.

Karl Roberts - Charles Sturt University

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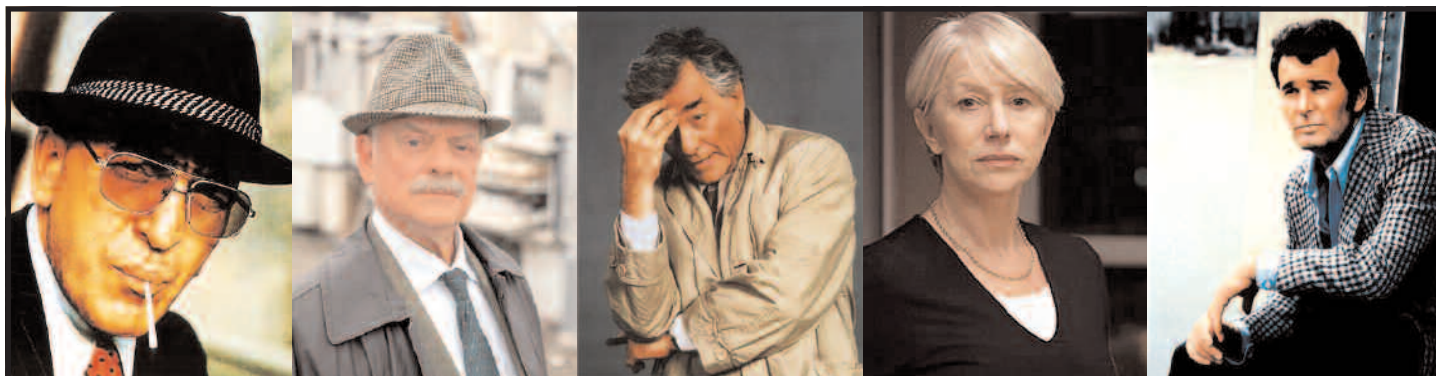
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FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE



Losing the detectives

Inspector Morse, DCI Jane Tennison, DI Jack Frost, the list of famous detectives is endless proving that, in the public's mind at least, CID is seen as the glamorous side of policing. Recent figures released suggest police officers in the UK have a very different view of detective work. Tina Orr-Munro report.

The Police Federation believes that there is currently a shortfall of 5,000 detectives across the country suggesting officers' career aspirations lie firmly towards Dixon of Dock Green and not DCI Gene Hunt.

At this year's annual police federation conference, DS Alicia Moore of Hertfordshire Constabulary said many officers were shunning the role of the detective resulting in unfilled vacancies, severe staff shortages and the rise of the untrained detective who is now expected to deal with serious crimes.

Dr Mike Chatterton in his 2008 report – Losing the Detectives- called the decline 'alarming'. He and his researchers found in every one of the nine forces they examined, all of them had a shortfall in detectives.

As one detective noted wryly, "My team is depleted all the time. We should call our duty slate the visitor's book. If I had all six of them in at once I would take a team photo."

Researchers were also told of places where CID offices were closed for lengthy periods because there were no detectives on duty or the few that

were available were working on other incidents. In other areas, staff shortages were so acute, that the remaining detectives were banned from transferring out of CID.

Brian Stockham, chair of the Federation's, National Detectives Forum, says the situation is so bad that in ten years there will be no detectives.

"Some forces are having to pay retired detectives to come back and carry on working investigations. Some are forces hiring civilian investigators, which means that some crimes are not even being investigated by police officers. Not only does that highlight the problem, it frustrates other guys in CID who are saying to themselves 'this job is being ruined'.

"Detectives cannot operate in a system where performance is not recognised and only outcomes are measured. ACPO together with the NPJA are helping the government to shelve detectives," says Mr Stockham.

All of which begs the question, where have all the detectives gone? The answer is they've remained in uniform and the reasons for this are manifold. Despite their glamorous portrayal on television, officers believe the status of CID has fallen considerably in recent years with the emphasis firmly placed on neighbourhood policing. Shift patterns for uniform officers have also improved allowing them to achieve something nearer to a work-life balance.



As one detective who was interviewed by researchers says, “Attractions of uniform are the 12 hour shift pattern – four days on then four days off and SPPs. So it costs them to transfer to CID. The unfavourable shift pattern puts off women from applying in particular – we regularly have to work 16 hours at a time – and the belief they will be lumbered with all sexual offences is a disincentive.”

The result is less and less officers want to become detectives. When once there were four applicants for every vacancy. Now, some departments with ten vacancies and consider themselves fortunate if they get six candidates.

This constant shortage of detectives has meant that CID officers are seriously overworked. “Their workloads and the long hours they are required to work on a regular basis are a constant sources of stress,” says Dr Chatterton.

There is also mounting evidence that untrained detectives often outnumbered seasoned investigators. In one area, researchers found that just five per cent of detectives in a CID office were fully trained.

Another officer said, “To appreciate the real problem you’ve got to look at experience and skills as well as numbers. What counts as a detective to some people does not fit my definition. In our area, we’re said to have something like 53 DC’s. In fact, we haven’t. We’ve only got 16 detectives. The rest of them are trainees and PCs on attachment.”

Dr Chatterton says that all this raises important questions about the quality of service CID departments are able to provide to victims and witnesses.

Although his report, which was published last year, paints a worrying picture of the state of CID offices, there is some evidence that forces have taken on board his findings and are trying to find ways to encourage more officers into CID, as well as retain their current pool of detectives.

In March this year, the Met launched its detective career management programme.

Its aim, according to Acting Assistant Commissioner Janet Williams, who in charge of the Specialist Crime Directorate, which oversees the programme is to ‘give people the right skills and the right experience so that we are able to provide the best possible detective response to all level of investigations in the Met’.

As part of the programme, detectives rotate from the many specialist departments within the Met back onto the boroughs where they serve a period of time before returning to a specialist squad, an approach firmly supported by the Metropolitan Police Federation.

Peter Smyth, Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, says this policy of rotation is vital to ensuring clear career opportunities for all detectives and encouraging younger officers to seek a career in the CID.

The idea is that detectives will serve five to seven years in a specialist group or squad before moving onto one of the borough CIDs where they can then share their skills and experience that will to help nurture the next generation of detectives.

Moving detectives around is a potentially controversial move, as seen with the deeply

unpopular tenure system. An anti-corruption measure which all forces were advised to adopt by HMIC in 1993, tenure returned those in specialist roles, including detectives, to uniform after a specified period of time.

It has been blamed for diluting detective skills, as well as damaging morale. However, under the new detective career management programme, officers will remain detectives as they rotate through specialist groups to borough CIDs.

Dennis Weeks, a detective constable on borough and a Federation representative, says he expects officers' response to the initiative to be mixed. "Some will be ambivalent, some will be keen, and some won't see it as the right step for them."

Either way, he says, rotating detectives is vital to the programme as it ensures that investigative experience and skills are more evenly spread throughout the force.

"Moving detectives in this way will refresh and vitalise borough CID's as well as specialist groups. Experienced detectives will be able to show new recruits how it's done and what can be achieved." Plus, says Mr Weeks, there are benefits to working on borough.

"I've worked in specialist groups and boroughs for most of my career. Crimes on borough may not be as serious as those investigated by squads and we may not have the resources that the specialist groups have, but you have much more individual responsibility and you are involved in a whole spectrum of cases."

The success of rotation also depends on how it is managed, says Mr Weeks.

"Officers coming out of specialist command must be properly trained and properly resourced. They will be moving onto boroughs where, for example, different systems may have been introduced since they were last there."

Other changes include appointing a 'head of profession' for detectives, providing them with 'a voice' at senior levels.

"This is something we strongly welcome. We are not represented at a senior level. With a head of profession, detectives can seek guidance and know they will be listened to," says Mr Weeks.

The Met Federation is hopeful its programme will boost detective numbers as well as spread vital experience throughout the force, although Mr Weeks adds that it must be seen as an ongoing project.

"With the introduction of the programme, senior officers may be tempted to see this as a problem solved and move onto the next issue. But this is a medium to long-term issue that needs constant monitoring and adjusting."

It is too early to say how successful the detective career management programme will be, but Met Federation chairman, Peter Smyth, says its purpose is to ensure that 'the term Scotland Yard detective continues to be recognised as a symbol of excellence'.



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Integrated Operational Systems



Niche Technology is involved in the delivery of integrated operational policing systems to police services on three continents - North America, Europe and Australia. The Investigator quizzes John James from Niche on how the technology can assist police forces with investigations.

1. How does NICHE technology help investigators conduct more efficient investigations?

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Users can prepare a full court file and, through the links to the courts and CPS, see adjournment dates and any advice from prosecutors. One of the primary benefits of Niche RMS is the

concept of entering data only once and then reusing it many times for example North Wales Police report a 42% reduction in case file preparation time from the use of Niche RMS.

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

Crucial - it is in the custody process where all investigative effort comes together to enable the suspect to be questioned, challenged and provide explanations for key evidence.

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

Firstly make sure that you understand exactly what technology can do for you. There has been a massive increase in technology solutions to support policing in the last ten years and knowing how to use it effectively will provide better policing

outcomes. The advances in DNA technology are an obvious example that every one can relate to but many software solutions can also aid investigators.

The second tip is based on my experience of delivering new technology into policing - the quality of the information that users get from systems is only as good as that provided by their colleagues. Poor data quality will completely undermine any advantage that new systems offer to do things better. So my tip is plain and simple, care about every piece of information you submit or record in your systems as it might just make the difference in solving some of the most serious crimes in the future.

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 vital and at Niche every aspect of the continuing development of Niche RMS is done with our customers. They help us understand their specific policing requirement and work with us to develop the specifications for the software that will support that policing need.

This highly collaborative process means that we deliver new software that is developed with real users and speeds up the process of new requirements going into production to support a new policing need.

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

In the UK, and in fact in other commonwealth countries where Niche RMS is deployed, there is an increasing realisation that the variance between forces in terms of how they deliver policing is actually quite small.

The practical impact of these small variations is that users can come together to develop new requirements and be confident that new functionality will meet a wider need than just a single force's needs. The end result is a much more

efficient and quicker process for delivering software enhancements.

Typically we develop about 50% of new system requirements with the 11 UK forces using Niche RMS and they can all choose whether or not to use those new developments. In fact there are many examples of new requirements from other countries, Canada and Australia for example, being taken up by UK forces. A simple but hugely important example of better engagement with suppliers to deliver benefits for policing.

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

We plan to continue to develop Niche RMS in two key areas. The first is to continue to develop the system in relation to what users see in response to new requirements from policing.

A good example is the work we are currently doing with UK users and the Crown Prosecution Service to develop a two way exchange of information between the police and prosecutors which is a major benefit to both forces and the CPS.

The second area for continuous development is the technical infrastructure that supports the system. Continuous technical refreshing of a system means forces will for example be better able to support mobile working, use our system like any other web based system and better interact with other force systems like mapping applications.

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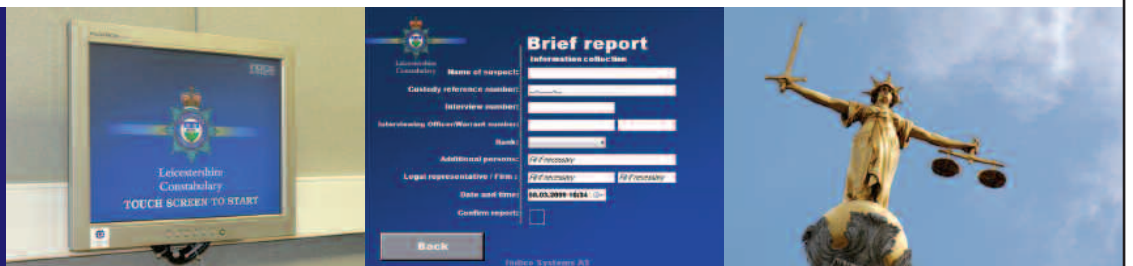
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The Smell of Death



A number of scientists are carrying out projects that are advancing towards the first portable device for detecting human bodies buried in disasters and at crime scenes. A profile of the chemicals released from decomposing bodies could also lead to a valuable new addition to the forensic toolkit - an electronic device that could determine the time elapsed since death quickly, accurately and onsite. Daniel Dexter looks at the work that hopes to achieve this goal.

Recovering bodies and solving crimes by analysing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted from dead bodies was a topic of discussion at last month's 238th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS).

At the event, Professor Dan Sykes, director of physical chemistry and lecturer in forensics, Penn State University, and graduate student Sarah Jones from the university's Eberly College of Science, reported to delegates the early results from a project to establish the 'chemical fingerprint' of death. Prof Sykes and Ms Jones said a profile of the chemicals released from decomposing bodies may become a valuable tool for police investigators.

"Today, cadaver dogs are the gold standard for detecting and recovering bodies in earthquakes,

tornadoes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters," said Prof Sykes.

"These dogs are highly effective, but it takes lots of time, expense and manpower to train them. If there were to be a device that was as effective for a fraction of the cost, that would be something worth pursuing."

To develop such a device, scientists must identify what gases are released as bodies decompose under a variety of natural environmental conditions. In addition, they must detail the time sequence in which those odorant chemicals are released in the hours and days after death.

The scientific purpose of the project is to use a solvent-less collection technique, solid phase micro extraction (SPME), to collect VOCs released during the early stages of decomposition. The compounds contained on the fibres are identified and quantified using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS).

"What we're looking for is the profile of what gases are released when we die, as well as how the environment and the manner in which we die affects this profile," said Ms Jones.

Decomposing bodies release more than 30 compounds. Some, like the aptly-named 'putrescine' and 'cadaverine', develop early in the decomposition process. Past studies used donated human bodies that were two to three days old. As a result, these studies were unable to detect putrescine, cadaverine, and other compounds that appear very early in the decomposition process.

Prof Sykes and Ms Jones have avoided that problem by using pigs euthanised under humane conditions to study decomposition immediately after death.

"Pigs are good models for this research, as they go through the same phases of decomposition as humans, as well as the same number of stages, and those stages last about as long in pigs as they do in humans before complete decomposition occurs and only the bones remain," said Ms Jones.

The scientists placed dead pigs in specially designed odour-collecting units to minimize environmental insult on decomposition. Each scenario took into account different environmental factors such as humidity, temperature, and rainfall which could have possibly affected the decomposition process and ultimately the release of VOCs.

Above each specimen were affixed special sensors - SPME fibres - to capture the gases. Three types of SPME fibres are used in the study: polydimethylsiloxane/divinylbenzene (PDMS/DVB), polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) and polyacrylate.

"These specially-coated fibres are widely used to sample chemical composition of air and we collected odour data every six to 12 hours over the course of a week," said Ms Jones.

Early signs are promising. After only one week's worth of data a clear chemical profile emerged. "In days one through three, we found precursors to indole, which is a really good sign; according to current literature, the VOCs that are released during this process occur most often up to three days after death. The pig carcass was monitored at varying time intervals," said Ms Jones.

"On day three, we found indole and putrescine, the

main compounds that we were trying to detect. We are now capturing gases released in a variety of other scenarios to reconstruct the different ways human bodies could decompose, creating a more complete picture of decomposition."

The project remains in its early stages and Prof Sykes and Ms Jones are currently working on developing a correlation between a chemical profile present during certain stages of decomposition.

Ms Jones said the overall outcome of the project is to develop a portable field device that can capture the chemicals being released when a corpse is found and analysing those compounds to determine a more concrete interval/time since death.

"The identification/analysis of the gases that humans release during decomposition are used in such applications as victim recovery in mass disasters, discovery of clandestine burial sites and mass grave sites. The application and ultimate goal of this project is to determine a more concrete/definitive interval since death based on a certain chemical profile present."

Ms Jones said after the collection of the VOCs released by the specimens and the analysis of the SPME fibres used for collection a preliminary conclusion was able to be made. During the first three days of decomposition the majority of VOCs released were acids and indole precursors. The VOCs released during days three through to seven showed the main compounds involved in decomposition present such as indole and putrescine and also an increased amount of acids, amines, and ketones were present.

"This preliminary study has showed a consistent pattern of compounds present and will allow for further studying of decomposition and quantification of the compounds present," said Ms Jones.

Micro-organisms can give a forensic time of death

A group of scientists at the University of Granada in Spain has developed a new technique of forensic

The project at a glance

The identification of the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are released from decomposing organisms provides field investigators with important forensic information. Studies have been done to measure the accumulation of VOCs that are produced during the early stages of human decomposition. The identification of these gases has been utilised for purposes such as victim recovery in earthquakes and the discovery of clandestine burial sites and mass grave sites.

Human decomposition is a very complex process and has not been well studied at the chemical level. Therefore studying the development of VOCs over a certain period of time using pig carcasses as an alternative to human bodies could possibly provide important information about the unknown chemical composition of death.

The results of this project could possibly discover a new method in determining interval since death. The results of this research will be used to develop a portable device that can be used to determine interval since death based on a chemical profile present.

Dead Giveaway

The odours released from corpses also formed the basis of an earlier project carried out at Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Biosciences Division in Tennessee.

A team led by Doctor Arpad Vass started by identifying 478 specific volatile compounds associated with burial decomposition and narrowed these down to the top 30 in order of perceived importance for finding buried bodies. The project began six years ago in a bid to identify the 'odour signature' unique to human burial decomposition and could lead to a portable instrument that could help locate human remains.

The research, performed with assistance from the University of Tennessee's Department of Anthropology and the Anthropological Research Facility, has been funded by the FBI's Counterterrorism and Forensic Science Research Unit.

Based on a decompositional odour analysis (DOA) database that has been developed, the team obtained funding to develop an 'electronic nose' which can be used to locate clandestine graves.

Built as an electronic sniffing tool, the light-weight analyser for buried remains and decomposition odor recognition (LABRADOR) locates and identifies buried human remains based on their chemical signature.

"The LABRADOR 'sniffs' the volatile compounds generated from these buried remains, and rather than barking, the instrument responds with visual and auditory cues to help pinpoint the hidden grave," said Dr Vass.

This sniffer is designed to be used in locating human remains from acts of terrorism, genocide, accidents and natural disasters, but the LABRADOR's capabilities are not limited to clandestine grave detection; the instrument also shows promise in detecting narcotics, accelerants used in arsons, and explosives.

If law enforcement agents find a body within 12 to 24 hours, forensics experts have techniques to determine time since death. It becomes more complicated if a body is found several days later. In warm climates or during the summer, a body can be reduced to bones in just 30 days.

In developing one of their models, Dr Vass and his team focused on tissue analysis to determine which organ provides the best indication of how long a person has been dead. Lungs are the first to decay.

"As a body decomposes, proteins break down

into amino acids and progressively smaller molecules,” he said.

“By studying whether there is a constant rate at which the large molecules of the body break down, we have developed a computer program that correlates the percentage of larger molecules to small ones with a number of days.”

Dr Vass’ research is also aimed at telling whether the body has been moved from where death occurred.

“We can tell if a body has been moved by looking at volatile fatty acids in the soil or whatever is under the body. If these fluids, or even traces, aren’t present, the body didn’t decay there.”

dating based on thermo-microbiology.

The project aims to determine more accurately the time of a death and could become a valuable forensic tool to frontline investigators.

This new system establishes correspondences between the parameters of micro-organic growth on cadaverous remains and dates the time of death of such remains, as well as their relation with their temperature.

The study has been carried out by Professor Isabel Fernández Corcobado and supervised by professors Miguel Botella López, of the Laboratory of Anthropology at the University of Granada, and Eulogio Bedmar Gómez of the Zaidín Experimental Station (CSIC).

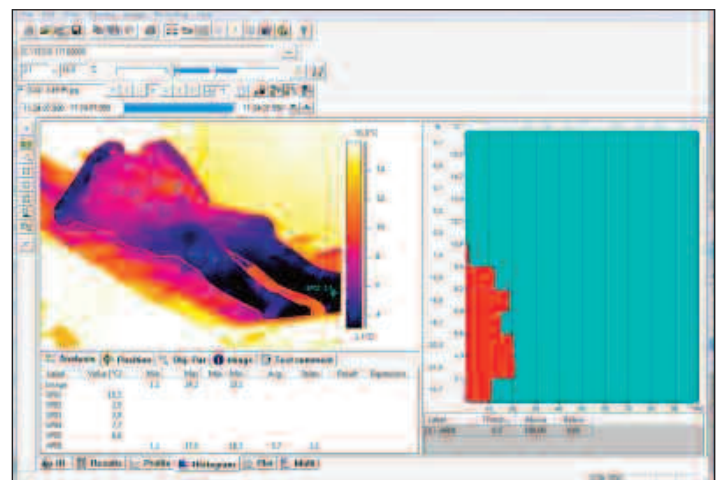
Prof Fernández Corcobado said the purpose of the project was to “establish the initial methodological basis to create a protocol of general application in the field of forensic thermography and microbiology in order to provide new complementary tools to existing criminalistic techniques”.

Such protocol would provide a new criminalistic approach to the traditional techniques already used in the microbiological analysis of samples of all

kinds.

To carry out this work, the project team analysed around 240 micro-organic samples taken from bodies from the Institute of Legal Medicine of Granada and 352 from living donors.

According to Prof Fernández Corcobado, the aim of the research work is to bring criminal investigation techniques closer to the analysis of the phenomena caused during the stages of cadaverous decomposition and putrefaction, in order to reach a better approach to the estimate of the time of death.



The results of infrared thermography of a corpse

They have used new thermographical and weather measurement tools and have applied traditional microbiological methods with a new approach.

“The purpose of the study is to improve the analysis of the stages of cadaverous decomposition and putrefaction, connecting them to a model of growth/death of the micro-organisms, responsible for the post-mortem alterations,” said Prof Fernández Corcobado.

“In short, the aim of the project is to establish a microbiological indicator to determine the time of death. We are attempting to develop an alternative method of approach to the estimated time of death in order to reduce the present margin of error in the application of other different methods and limit to the maximum the moment of death.”

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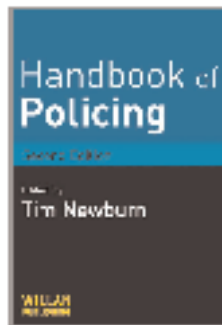
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The Role of the Forensic Accountant

In the July/Aug issue of The Investigator, Brian Dunn a Director of DST Investigative Consultancy Services Ltd identified how they were bringing together a unique team of experts to provide a one stop shop of experts to assist clients in the protection of their valuable assets.

In this issue another member of the team explains the role of the "Forensic Accountant" and how they can add valuable experience and expertise to the team and ultimately to the client.

Brian said that the role is very much misunderstood and there is a lack of knowledge of how important this role is. By bringing together senior police investigators and the forensic accountant you have a formidable team in place to conduct "in depth" investigations.

Michael Grayson a forensic accountant with DST explains the role, his experience and how he believes the team can assist, Police Economic Crime Units, Fraud Investigation Teams, companies and organisations, in fact anyone who is concerned that they do not have appropriate protection in place or have been the subject of a Theft/Fraud.

The most popular question that I am ever asked is, what is a forensic Accountant?

Forensic accounting is the specialty practice area of accountancy that describes engagements that result from actual or anticipated disputes or litigation. "Forensic" means "suitable for use in a court of law", and it is to that standard and potential outcome that forensic accountants

generally have to work. Forensic accountants, also referred to as forensic auditors or investigative auditors, often have to give expert evidence at the eventual trial. All of the larger accounting firms, as well as many medium-sized and boutique firms have specialist forensic accounting departments.

Forensic accounting may also be described as being the integration of an individual's accounting and auditing knowledge with investigative skills that have been gained from years of practical experience.

It is the means by which the forensic accountant will review instructions given by a client, usually through a solicitor, thoroughly investigate those instructions and the underlying circumstances, examine the financial information and any relevant contracts and other agreements, obtain appropriate evidence, prepare any appropriate calculations, form a conclusion and publish the whole in the form of a report suitable for presentation to the court.

Forensic accounting often involves examining and commenting on a report prepared by an opposing expert. The forensic accountant should also expect to be required to assist those instructing him in preparing questions to be addressed to the other principals in the case, as well as the other expert, both prior to any hearing as well as in court.

The same skills, including those gained from attendance in court, may well lead the forensic accountant to consider undertaking further training

in mediation and arbitration procedures so as to become involved in dispute resolution.

A Forensic Accountant is often involved in the following:

- Investigating and analysing financial evidence;
- Developing computerised applications to assist in the analysis and presentation of financial evidence;
- Communicating their findings in the form of reports, exhibits and collections of documents; and
- Assisting in legal proceedings, including testifying in court as an expert witness and preparing visual aids to support trial evidence.

In order to properly perform these services a Forensic Accountant must be familiar with legal concepts and procedures. In addition, a Forensic Accountant must be able to identify substance over form when dealing with an issue.

Life as a Forensic Accountant

Michael Grayson is a Forensic Accountant, his investigations have led to him catching a company director who wildly embellished his expenses while working for a multi-million-pound company, and saving a client £300,000 when he proved a sub-contractor was overcharging for the work he was carrying out. He saved another client (who was buying a multi-million pound kitchen and bathroom business) a staggering \$25m after investigating the company's final accounts and suggesting an

adjustment of the figures.

He has worked for national banks, major airlines, local authorities, hospitals, FTSE 100 companies and assessed the assets of divorcing couples. And his job has taken him across the world – although there have been less glamorous environments too.

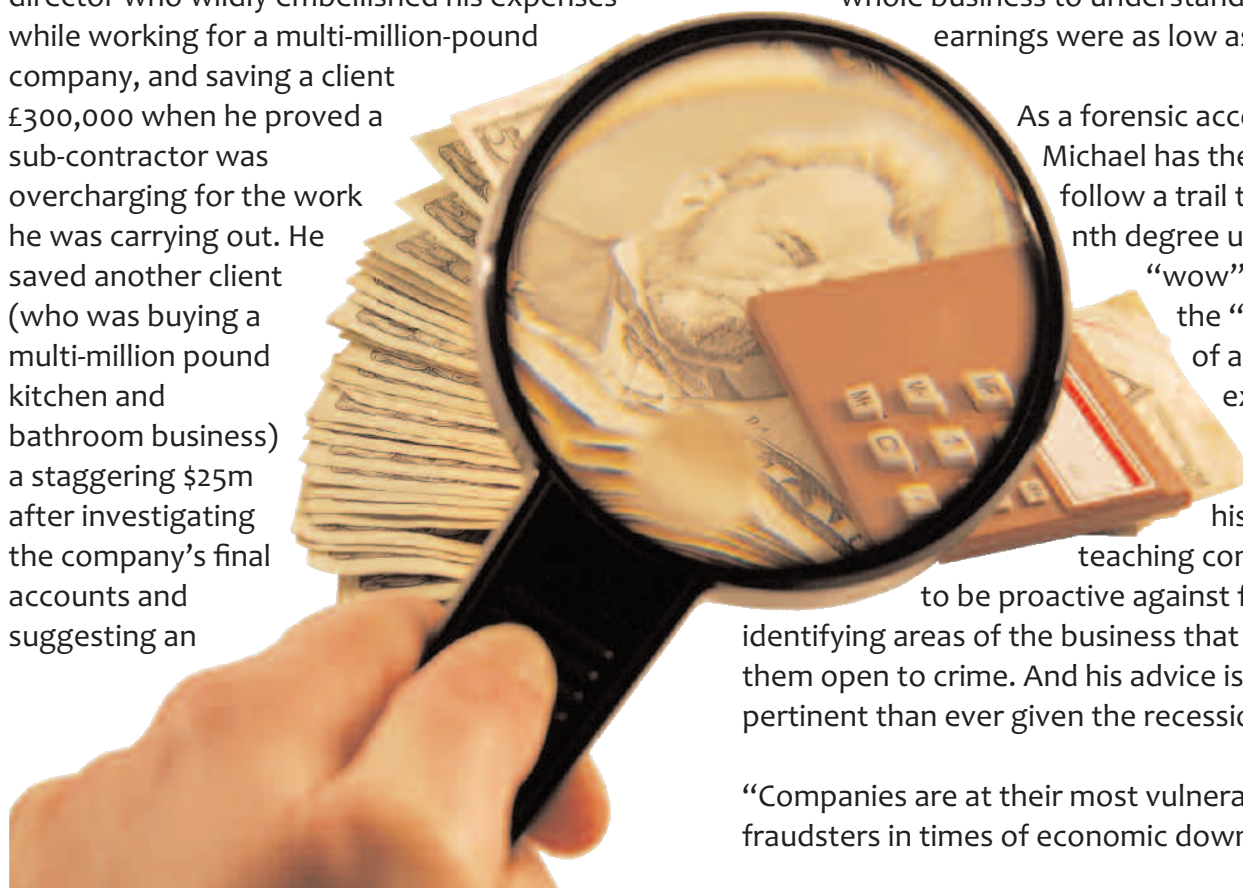
Michael was working for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Leeds when he was seconded from assurance to the forensic services department. As well as investigating fraudsters, he provided evidence for complex commercial disputes.

One particular case, in November 2006, took him to Dubai. He was asked to investigate a dispute between a minor and major shareholder of a company that provided security services in Iraq. "There had been an arrangement that one of the shareholders would buy out the other at a certain date for a multiple of the earnings," he says.

"It just so happened that the earnings had reduced drastically by that date. We had to investigate the whole business to understand why the earnings were as low as they were.

As a forensic accountant, Michael has the ability to follow a trail through to the nth degree until he finds his "wow" moment, or the "hinger" part of a case. With his extensive experience, a major part of his work is teaching companies how to be proactive against fraud by identifying areas of the business that will leave them open to crime. And his advice is more pertinent than ever given the recession.

"Companies are at their most vulnerable from fraudsters in times of economic downturn, because



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all their employees are under pressure, but there are ways to keep the fraudsters at bay,” he says. When Michael works with clients in their offices, he gets them to look at areas where they could be targeted.

“But these people may have been with them from the very beginning, such as a trusted employee who has helped build the business up, and business owners don’t have the benefit of knowing what to look for. We say to them if you were going to be a victim of fraud, this is where it would happen.” For every fraud, he says, there needs to be an opportunity for it to take place combined with external pressure and a desire from the individual, such as wanting a better lifestyle, or not being able to afford to pay the mortgage.

The most vulnerable companies are those that have started out small and grown quickly, because they don’t have the systems in place to protect themselves.

“That’s why it hurts so much and why there’s so much emotion in fraud,”

He says. “How do you feel if someone you have trusted from the moment you set up your company, who has helped you build it up, suddenly steals money from you?”

Fraud often follows a typical pattern, in the beginning; fraudulent acts can be quite random. It may be they spotted an opportunity and were desperate enough to steal a

small amount.

“They probably feel very guilty,” he says. “Then they realise they can get away with it and can improve the way they do it. They can defraud the company for quite a while. But eventually they tend to get complacent and don’t cover their tracks. That’s when you look to catch them out.”

Many of his cases have come to light by people making mistakes or by whistleblowers. Michael and his team will often follow up on suspicions that have been raised. The most common areas they are asked to look at are expenses, payments to creditors, payroll and petty cash.

“If there is a suspicion, there is



pretty much always fraud there,” he says. “In the past, I’ve taken part in midnight raids on the computer side of things, downloading employees’ PCs overnight so the employee has no idea that we’ve been in. Top technology companies now can image your computer remotely without you even knowing it.”



As I have already said: those who run businesses need to understand that the biggest threat does not come from organised criminals but from their own trusted staff and people they do business with everyday.

In most businesses it is the responsibility of management to ensure the security and integrity of the business assets by putting in place the appropriate policies and procedures, however to be totally effective in countering fraud everyone working within the business must take responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud and be prepared to assist in any investigation.

But forensic accounting is more than investigating the paper trail left by fraudsters.

Michael also provides expert witness testimony in cases from personal injury claims to divorce settlements; helps resolve disputes – forensic arguments for assessing loss of profits claims etc – and reviews all manner of contracts.

The majority of fraud cases end with a dismissal rather than police involvement, all be it the investigation process is the same. Some companies want to prosecute, setting an example to others. Michael's evidence will then be used in court.

The most effective fraudsters, however, are those that will never be found out, stealing money by stealth from under the noses of the very people who trust them.

DST would strongly recommend that those persons involved in business have a fraud health check carried out and do not wait until the fraud has taken place.

The team at DST is there to assist and will work with you to help reduce the risk of fraud. Police Economic Crime Units will have the benefit of knowing that the forensic accountant will be working with two very experienced SIO's who fully understand the police requirement and issues.

Finally the DST team can update or introduce an "Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy",

"Whistleblowing Policy" and train staff in their role and responsibilities.



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The Legend of Dick Turpin



JOHN PALMER OTHERWISE
RICHARD TURPIN
THE NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMAN AND HORSE STEALER
EXECUTED AT TYBURN APRIL 7TH 1739
AND BURIED IN ST. GEORGE'S CHURCHYARD

Dick Turpin was one of the most famous highwayman in history and his exploits have been the subject of numerous film, book and TV adaptations.

The charismatic character was born in 1706 in Essex and spent his early working years as a butcher. It wasn't long before he began stealing meat and fled to the countryside to evade justice.

His criminal exploits continued when he joined the infamous Essex Gang of highwaymen who held up coaches on the road and invaded isolated farmhouses to threaten innocent people into handing over their money and valuables.

Despite the fact Turpin was portrayed as a dashing dandy in television and film, in reality he used torture to persuade his victims to comply with his wishes. This led to a £50 reward for his capture.

Eventually local police officers captured two of the gang but Turpin continued to evade justice. When his gang mates were caught, Turpin decided to lie low in East Anglia until he teamed up with another infamous highwayman known as 'Captain' Tom King.

The pair were based in a cave in Epping Forest and they spent their

days holding up carriages and travellers on horseback and robbing them of their goods.

Even local peddlers started to carry weapons for protection. By 1737, Turpin had achieved such notoriety that another bounty of £100 was placed on his head - a reward that unwittingly transformed him from a common footpad into a murderer.

On May 4, 1737, a gamekeeper named Morris tracked Turpin to Epping Forest, but when he challenged him at gunpoint, Turpin drew his own gun and shot Morris dead.

One of his most unusual thefts was when he stopped a man named Major along a road and demanded that he swap the horse he was riding for Major's horse.



This prompted Major to later try and trace his horse which being kept by Tom King. In a scuffle, Turpin accidentally shot King instead of Major. Before he died King, gave police valuable intelligence about Turpin that made him flee to Epping Forest to again evade justice.

Turpin then decided to move to Yorkshire where he was eventually arrested for sheep

and horse stealing. He eventually faced trial and was sentenced to death despite pleas from his father for a lesser punishment.

On April 7 1739, Turpin rode through the streets of York in an open cart, bowing to the crowds. At York racecourse he climbed the ladder to the gibbet and then sat for half an hour chatting to the guards and

the executioner.

An account in the York Courant of Turpin's execution, notes his brashness even at the end, "with undaunted courage looked about him, and after speaking a few words to the topsman, he threw himself off the ladder and expired in about five minutes."

Highwaymen were first recorded as operating from 1017 onwards until the early 19th century. Slang names for them included "knights of the road" and "gentlemen of the road". There was a long history of treating highway robbers as heroes and they were admired because they confronted their victims face-to-face.

They travelled on horseback and some robbed alone, while others operated in pairs or in small gangs. They often targeted coaches, including public stagecoaches; the post-boys who carried the mail were also frequently held up.

The famous demand to 'Stand and deliver!' was in use from the 17th century. Highwaymen often lay in wait on the main roads leading from London. They usually chose lonely areas of heathland or woodland. Hounslow Heath was a favourite haunt. Bagshot Heath in Surrey was another dangerous place on the road to Exeter.

The penalty for robbery with violence was hanging and most notorious highwaymen ended on the gallows. The chief place of execution for London and Middlesex was Tyburn. Famous highwaymen who ended their lives there included Claude Du Vall, James Maclaine and Sixteen-string Jack.



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10 September 1897

First drunk driving arrest is made in London

A 25-year-old London taxi driver named George Smith becomes the first person ever arrested for drunk driving after slamming his cab into a building. Smith later pleaded guilty and was fined 25 shillings.

In the United States, the first laws against operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol went into effect in New York in 1910. In 1936, Dr. Rolla Harger, a professor of biochemistry and toxicology, patented the Drunkometer, a balloon-like device into which people would breathe to determine whether they were inebriated.

In 1953, Robert Borckenstein, a former Indiana state police captain and university professor who had collaborated with Harger on the Drunkometer, invented the Breathalyzer. Easier-to-use and more accurate than the Drunkometer, the Breathalyzer was the first practical device and scientific test

available to police officers to establish whether someone had too much to drink.

A person would blow into the Breathalyzer and it would gauge the proportion of alcohol vapours in the exhaled breath, which reflected the level of alcohol in the blood.

Despite the invention of the Breathalyzer and other developments, it was not until the late 1970s and early 1980s that public awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving increased and lawmakers and police officers became tougher on offenders.

13 November 1982

Dingo baby trial opens in Australia

A mother who says her nine-week-old daughter was killed by a dingo has appeared in court in Australia charged with her murder.

Lindy Chamberlain, who is seven months pregnant, is accused of slitting Azaria's throat as she sat in the front seat of the family car at a campsite at Ayers Rock.

The mystery of Azaria's disappearance two years ago attracted widespread publicity. Her body has never been found.

The original inquest into the baby's death found she had been killed by a dingo, but new forensic evidence led to a second inquest which suggested the child's throat had been cut and Mrs Chamberlain was sent for trial.

Not guilty

Her husband Michael, a Seventh Day Adventist minister, is also on trial, accused of trying to cover up the truth.

Mr and Mrs Chamberlain have both pleaded not guilty.

The courtroom was packed for the first day of what has already been dubbed by one newspaper as

Australia's "trial of the century".

Prosecutor Ian Barker told the court Mrs Chamberlain's story that her baby had been taken from the couple's tent by a dingo was a "fanciful lie to conceal the truth".

Neither of the accused showed any emotion as the bloodstained jumpsuit worn by Azaria at the time of her disappearance was exhibited to the courtroom.

Mr Barker told the court extensive tests by a team in London would convince the jury the baby's throat had been cut, not savaged by a dingo.

He said traces of blood had also been found in the family car more than a year after Azaria disappeared.

Tests showed attempts had been made to wipe away the blood. Further investigations revealed the blood came from a child less than six months old, suggesting it was Azaria's.

He continued the tiny amount of blood found in the Chamberlains' tent was inconsistent with a dingo attack. Nor were there any traces of saliva found on the baby's clothing which would have supported the claim.



The child's clothing was found close to a dingo's lair, seven days after her disappearance. The prosecution

claimed it had been planted there after the child's body had been buried.

Mr Barker said he would not suggest a motive for the killing, nor would he suggest Mr Chamberlain had been involved - but he probably learned about it soon afterwards and helped conceal the truth.

The trial is scheduled to last more than six weeks and should end just before Mrs Chamberlain is due to give birth, early in November.

Lindy Chamberlain was found guilty of murdering her daughter and her husband Michael of being an accessory. She was sentenced to life in prison with hard labour. He was given an 18 month sentence which was suspended for three years.

The case sent shockwaves around the world. Lindy Chamberlain's sentence was seen as very harsh and even senior legal experts in Australia questioned whether she had been found guilty beyond reasonable doubt.



Baby Azaria Chamberlain was only nine weeks old when she disappeared

The case had barely finished when two books were written about it and a film planned. Lindy Chamberlain appealed against her conviction and lost. But then in 1986 a matinee jacket belonging to baby Azaria was found close to a dingo's lair at Ayer's Rock.

Mrs Chamberlain was released five days later on the grounds "she had suffered enough".

The Chamberlains were pardoned in 1988. A further inquest in 1995 returned an open verdict.

In July 2004 a man came forward saying he shot the dingo carrying baby Azaria but did not tell anyone for fear he would be prosecuted. He said one of his friends buried the child's body.

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