



THIS ISSUE

The Forensic Science
Regulator's Code of
Practice

Meet the Team: Mark
Gascoigne, Forensic
Collision Investigator

New Faces

NEW FACES

Sophie Walton recently joined our busy casework logistics team.

NEWS ARTICLES

Have you looked at our website recently?

We've published articles on:

- Diary of a Biology Casework Consultant
- Instructing a Mobile Phone Expert
- Video image quality and forensic analysis
- 3D printed and improvised firearms
- EDIT - Evidential Drug Identification Testing
- Pepper sprays and the law
- Instructing an Imagery Expert

The Forensic Science Regulator's Code of Practice

On 2nd October 2023 the Forensic Science Regulator's statutory Code of Practice ('the Code') comes into force and brings with it a change in the way forensic science evidence will be presented to the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales.

Where previously Forensic Science could simply be viewed as 'the application of scientific methods and techniques to matters under investigation by a court of law', the Code presents a more rigid framework where most forensic science work is encapsulated by a pre-defined menu of Forensic Science Activities (FSAs).

For some of these FSAs, the Code requires those who undertake forensic investigations to be accredited to ISO17025 or ISO17020, which are international standards, and to have demonstrated wider compliance with the Code itself. For others, such as **Case Review** which covers the majority of the work we do, there remains no requirement or mechanism for achieving accreditation or demonstrating Code compliance.

How does this affect Keith Borer Consultants?

Keith Borer Consultants is a UKAS accredited testing laboratory, no. 4252, that has demonstrated compliance with the Code for its accredited methods. However, like many Forensic Science Providers (particularly smaller companies who offer a wide range of services), come 2nd October not all of our methods will have been through the expensive accreditation process. This does not mean we are not allowed to use these methods but, where we do so outside of Case Review, we will be required to declare what mitigatory measures we employ to reduce risk to the CJS.

Whilst including such information undoubtedly helps create transparency for the CJS, there is a danger that perfectly good evidence will face challenges to admissibility if compliance with the Code has not yet been achieved, in spite of the mitigations that are declared. Pragmatism will therefore be needed to ensure that the CJS continues to benefit from high quality, bespoke forensic services such as those we have been providing for the last 40+ years.

An opportunity to meet the team...

MARK GASCOIGNE

Collision Investigator



How long have you been a collision investigator?

I've been investigating collisions since 1992; these ranged from minor hit and runs when I first began, to more serious and fatal collisions as I progressed. For the past 12 years, I have been qualified as a Forensic Collision Investigator, dealing with serious and fatal incidents at a forensic level.

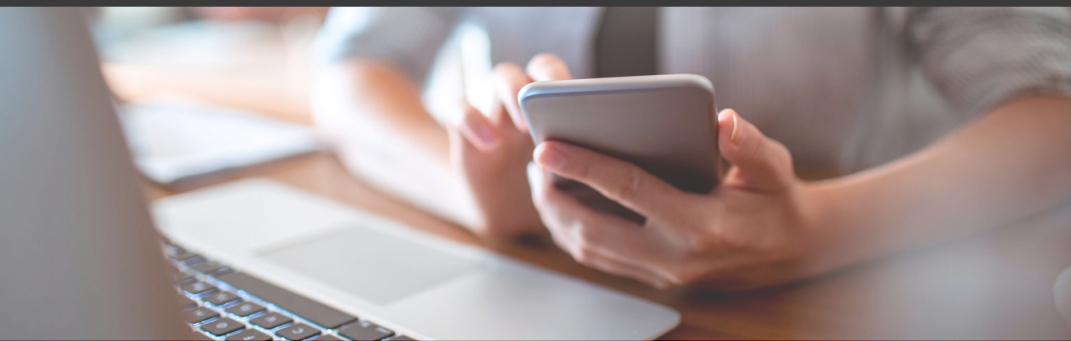
What aspects of the job do you find most interesting?

Many of the collisions I have investigated have a common question, "How fast?" If there is an abundance of CCTV evidence, there is the potential to determine an accurate pre-impact speed. Analysing the footage, in addition to carrying out a vehicle and locus examination, and being able to provide answers to specific questions is both interesting and rewarding.

What are your specialisms?

I have a number of specialisms including:

- working with CCTV footage to establish speed
- vehicle knowledge
- the ability to work with a multitude of crash investigation techniques to find answers



@KBCforensics

You can follow Keith Borer Consultants on X (Twitter) for up to date details of CPD training seminars for solicitors and barristers, links to news articles that may be useful to your case and, of course, details of what we do.



CrimeLine CPD Podcasts

If you are a CrimeLine subscriber, you can catch up with the experts at KBC in a series of forensic podcasts. Topics include CBD oil, IP addresses & cloud storage, fingerprints, indecent imagery, DNA, fire investigation and handwriting analysis. Look out for new podcasts being added to the series. You'll find them under CPD.



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