

Curriculum Vitae:

Elisabeth Briggs MNatSc (Chem) MSc MCSFS MAE



Academic Qualifications

MNatSc (Chem) 1st Class University of Birmingham (2000)

MSc Forensic Science University of Strathclyde (2001)

Employment

2019 - present Self-employed Forensic Document Examiner

2008 – 2019 Key Forensic Services Ltd - Forensic Document Examiner

2005 – 2008 Document Evidence Ltd - Forensic Document Examiner

2003 – 2005 Grampian Police Forensic Science Laboratory – Forensic Document Examiner

2001 – 2003 HFL Ltd (Horseracing Forensic Laboratory) – Screening Scientist

Career Summary

I have nearly 20 years' experience as a Forensic Document Examiner, moving from Aberdeen to work at Document Evidence Ltd in Birmingham, which was acquired by Key Forensic Services Ltd in 2008, before becoming a self-employed expert consultant.

I have examined in excess of 1000 cases from private and corporate instructions, civil and criminal matters as instructed by legal advisors, including cases where I have acted as a 'Single Joint Expert', government departments and direct instruction from various UK Police forces. I have also provided evidence for enquiries into media personalities and politicians, including magisterial inquiries in Malta.

I have given expert evidence at court on many occasions, attending magistrates, crown and county courts all over the UK in person and providing evidence remotely in the UK and abroad. I have also given evidence remotely on several occasions at the Royal Courts of Justice in London and the Coroner's Court in the Cayman Islands.

I have provided training in relation to the use and interpretation of Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA – a tool utilised by document examiners to assist in detecting writing indentations on paper) on several occasions, including a bespoke course for the Guardia Civil in Madrid, Spain. I have also acted as trainer and mentor to newly recruited document examiners.

I appeared on the BBC television programme 'Fake Britain' (season 5 episode 7) as an expert witness, demonstrating the methodology used in a case involving a forged will that was examined by me and subsequently featured in the programme. I also contributed to the BBC Radio 4 Podcast 'Fairy Meadow' broadcast in 2022, relating to the disappearance of three-year-old Cheryl Grimmer in Australia in 1970.

Professional Membership

I am a Practising Member of the Academy of Experts, a Member of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences and a Corresponding Member of the Australasian Society of Forensic Document Examiners Inc.

I was registered as an expert with the CRFP (Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners), an independent regulatory body to promote public confidence in forensic practice in the UK. This organisation was set up to ensure the competency of all police and forensic experts but was closed in 2009.

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