



ECLAT *forensics & identity* Consulting Ltd

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **ECLAT *forensics and identity* Consulting Ltd**, also trading as **ECLAT*forensics***

We are a new business that will provide advice and support to both the public and private sectors in the areas of *Forensic Science* and *Identity Assurance*.

éclat is a word that has its origin in French but has a common usage in English. The Oxford English Dictionary definition of éclat is that of “brilliant display or effect”.

ECLAT is also an acronym of “Every Contact Leaves A Trace”; a phrase attributed to Edmund Locard, that is regarded as the basic principle of Forensic Science.

In addition to our commercial business, **ECLAT*forensics*** aims to inform and educate laypersons in the principles of Forensic Science and the basic application of the many disciplines that are considered *forensics*.

We also specialise in areas of *Identity Assurance* and *Biometrics*, and how human identification plays a critical role in law enforcement to identify offenders, witnesses and victims.

Identity Assurance is also embedded into our everyday lives as access to devices, buildings, countries and services now require some *biometric* verification/validation. This could be via fingerprints, face, iris, or voice recognition; or for added security a combination of some or all these methods.

This document will outline some of the services we can provide our clients and will provide some examples of previous delivery and experience. However, the list is not exhaustive, so if you require something not stated, please contact us as if it is a product that we cannot supply directly, we have a vast catalogue of associates and contacts that we can put you in-touch with.



1. FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION

Our consultant, Richard Case, has vast experience working in operational law enforcement agencies in England and Wales.

He successfully completed the National Fingerprint Training Programme that was delivered by CENTREX/NPIA, which is now the College of Policing.

Richard has undertaken casework of all crime types including fraud, major crime and terrorism.

He has attended crime scenes and major crime conferences to offer advice and direction on the fingerprint strategy for high-profile and complex cases.

Richard has also successfully completed the National Forensic Laboratory Officer (FLO) course, enabling him to process exhibits within a law enforcement laboratory setting.

He has also completed the Footwear Marks and Intelligence course plus numerous other forensic related Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses.

Richard has produced hundreds of fingerprint expert witness statements and has presented oral testimony in Youth, Magistrates and Crown Courts for cases including vehicle theft, burglary and murder.

Richard's name appeared on both the National Register of Fingerprint Experts and the Register of Forensic Practitioners before they were disbanded.

In 2019 he successfully passed a fingerprint identification competency test delivered by an ISO 17025 accredited fingerprint bureau.

He is a professional member of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, and currently holds the position of Chairperson of their Fingerprint Division.

The Fingerprint Division of the CSoFS is the new home of the now dissolved Fingerprint Society, an organisation in which Richard held several committee officer roles, for which he was honoured by receiving the prestigious Lewis Minshall Award for his services.

He is also an active member of the International Association of Identification (IAI).

2. DISASTER VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

The identification of persons who have who have died or are unconscious is crucial to uniting a person with their loved ones and progressing any potential investigations.

This can be difficult where a body has undergone significant trauma or decomposition; or there are a large number of fatalities, where identity cannot be easily or readily established.

In these cases, visual identification by a family member or friend would be extremely difficult if not impossible, it would likely cause further distress, and could even result in mistaken identity.

Our consultant has been fully trained in obtaining *ridge detail* from persons, which would aid their identification. *Ridge detail* refers to the skin on the hands and soles of the feet, which contains the necessary features required to make a comparison.

In the cases where the person has died, this *post-mortem data* (collected after they had died) can be compared to *ante-mortem data* (had been left whilst the person was living).

Ante-mortem data can be found on existing databases or by examining items that the person is likely to have handled during their lifetime.

Richard has attended mortuaries on numerous occasions and has recovered prints from deceased persons and has also visited properties believed to be where the person lived to recover fingermarks from personal items the deceased will have touched. Both *post-mortem* and *ante-mortem* data has been recorded using conventional and digital recovery methods.

Richard has also produced witness statements to the Coroner's Courts that would allow a decision as to a deceased's identification to be made.

He has also attended many seminars, conferences and courses on Disaster Victim Identification and mass fatality issues.



3. TRAINING AND PRESENTATIONS

Our consultant had developed and delivered training on behalf of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to forensic staff and police officers.

As well as attending numerous conferences, Richard has also presented to national and international audiences on *forensics & identity*.

He has also organised two Fingerprint Society conferences and assisted in many more where delegates and speakers from around the world congregated to share their skills and knowledge.

Richard was a qualified STEM Ambassador for the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) and has an Enhanced Certificate from the Disclosure & Barring Service (i.e. DBS Checked).

Richard has delivered STEM based activities from police open days to presentations to school children (primary and secondary).

He has also participated in various STEM based initiatives including:

- **I'm a Scientist Get Me Out of Here** an online competition between scientists where students get to engage and ask competitors questions which can be specifically about their area of expertise, or something completely random. Depending on their answers (factual and/or witty) the students get to vote off the scientists until a winner remains. Richard finished second in the Forensic Science Zone, where he was up against some very tough competitors!
- **WorldSkills UK Forensic Science** is a competition open to students undertaking a relevant further education course where they compete by demonstrating their knowledge and practical skills. Richard has been a judge at regional heats and at the national finals held annually at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS CHANGE

Richard Case has considerable experience in project delivery both as a manager and a contributor.

He has employed several project management techniques including PRINCE2 and Agile for which he has received relevant training and qualifications.

Richard was employed as a Business Change Officer with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) as part of the Forensics21 Programme.

That programme consisted of numerous projects that had a significant impact on how police forensic units operated. Some of the projects that Richard helped manage are:

- **Detainee at Police Station Sampling (DAPSS)** improving the quality of forensic samples taken in police custody, through the training and monitoring of custody staff.
- **National Footwear Reference Collection (NFRC) & National Footwear Database (NFD)** the development and implementation of new software that allows police forensic units to share common footwear treads and cross-border intelligence.
- **Forensic Quality Standards** assisting police force forensic units achieve ISO17025 accreditation
- **Protection of Freedoms Act – Biometric Provisions** developing and implementing new legislation relating to the taking and retention of biometric samples.

In addition to management, Richard also gathered business requirements and measured benefit realisation as part of the pre and post project reviews.

Whilst working at the Home Office and Ministry of Defence, Richard continued to utilise his project management skills to deliver innovative and impactful projects.



5. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

Richard Case, the ECLATforensics consultant, has been employed at the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA); the UK Home Office Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST); and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL). These roles required research, innovation and the testing of new processes and technologies.

Richard used his technology skills and his connections within industry and academia to conduct research and publish scientific and technical reports to his managers. He has also collaborated with other international partners such as the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI); the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

He's a trained Trials Manager and while working in operational *forensic* departments, he would be given technology projects often evaluating the performance of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS); and other associated hardware such as LiveScan and Mobile Identification which were both used to capture fingerprints to verify the *identity* of persons who had come into contact with the police.

Whilst at the NPIA, Richard was key in the implementation of two national *forensic* IT systems, i.e. National Footwear Reference Collection (NFRC) and National Footwear Database (NFD).

At CAST, he developed a dataset of donor's fingerprints and fingermarks (including palms) to assist in the evaluation of new matching algorithms for a major national procurement exercise. The methodology he devised for this project has been adopted by law enforcement agencies throughout the UK to assist them in developing their own Ground Truth Databases (GTD), a requirement of ISO17025 accreditation.

Richard has also worked very closely with Home Office Biometrics on a project that is evaluating contactless fingerprint capture technologies.

6. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

We have extensive knowledge and experience in developing policy and influencing changes in UK legislation.

Whilst working at the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), our consultant played an integral role in the development and implementation of the biometric provisions of the Crime and Security Act 2010 and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

These pieces of legislation made significant changes to the sections of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the associated Codes of Practice that relate to the taking of and retention of biometric samples (primarily fingerprints and DNA) taken by law enforcement agencies.

This complex project had significant impacts on policing IT systems and national databases requiring the automated deletion and physical destruction of millions of DNA and fingerprint samples, with far-reaching consequences if not implemented correctly.

Richard collaborated with staff at Home Office Policy Group; the National DNA Database (now FINDS); the Police National Computer (PNC); the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO now NPCC); IT suppliers; the Office of the Biometrics Commissioner; and police forces to ensure a successful implementation.

Richard has also been consulted regarding other changes in legislation and police process that have had negative consequences to custody sampling, such as the Voluntary Attendance policy that has seen police inviting persons of interest into a police station for questioning rather than utilising powers of arrest. This has led to a drastic decline in the number of fingerprint and DNA samples taken by the police and a reduction of forensic opportunities as a result.

He has also played an instrumental role in changing policy for fingerprint identification when he co-authored a study and report of the fingerprint identification checking procedure.



7. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Our consultant, Richard Case, has spent much of his career working within quality system frameworks.

Richard took a pro-active approach to quality and became a trained ISO9001 internal auditor at Greater Manchester Police, and not only conducted audits within the fingerprint bureau, but also other forensic departments within the force i.e. Crime Scene Investigation, Forensic Enhancement Laboratory.

When he started employment with the National Policing Improvement Agency Forensics21 Programme, police forensic departments starting to work towards ISO17025 accreditation for their DNA and fingerprint laboratories, in line with recently passed EU legislation.

Richard played a role in the Quality Standards Project working alongside police forces, the newly appointed Forensic Science Regulator, and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) in assisting forensic departments document their Standard Operating Procedures and achieving accreditation within the given deadline.

In October 2012 Richard started working at the Home Office Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) where he became a qualified ISO17025 internal auditor and conducted several audits every year. He maintained this role through the integration with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) until he left that position in March 2020.

Also at CAST, Richard developed and implemented a fingerprint identification proficiency test, assisted by the College of Policing and the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera). This test was an approach to understand the variability that existed in each fingerprint bureau processes prior to a requirement for each law enforcement fingerprint bureau having to attain ISO17025 accreditation.

It was delivered to the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services, and the majority of police fingerprint bureau in England and Wales, where it was considered an introduction to proficiency tests for those not accustomed to the concept.

8. MEDIA AND PRESS

Forensics and biometrics are very topical in mainstream media both in a factual and fictional capacity.

In the news there are daily stories of how *forensic science* has assisted in solving major and complex enquiries, and there are often accompanying pictures and videos of Crime Scene Investigators carrying out their roles in their personal protective equipment.

There are also media stories covering the increased use of CCTV and facial recognition applications to identify criminal suspects.

This coverage highlights the debate around the use of *biometrics* where it is seen as a valuable tool in solving crime and protecting the public, but also requires careful consideration in balancing the privacy rights of everyday citizens.

Crime-based drama and documentaries are also very popular and there is always an editorial decision made by film makers on where to draw the line between factual accuracy and entertainment.

We hope to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions that surround *forensics*, due in part to the over-inflated public perceptions created in modern fiction; commonly referred to as *the CSI effect*.

In his career, our consultant has worked with local and national media outlets including the BBC; and international publications such as The New Yorker and the New York Times.

Richard has also featured in and contributed to internal blogs and publications for his employers, some earning him awards.

Now no longer constrained by government guidelines and restrictions in relation to press and media interaction, our consultant is keen to advise and support in these areas.



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