

**DR SARA SHORT BSC. PHD. MFSSOC. MAE.**  
**SENIOR FORENSIC SCIENTIST SPECIALISING IN**  
**FORENSIC BIOLOGY**

**P:** 0118 979 4043

**E:** [enquiries@forensicequity.com](mailto:enquiries@forensicequity.com)

FORENSIC SCIENTIST SINCE: 1986



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## QUICK NAVIGATION

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## 1 AREAS OF EXPERTISE

### 1.1.1 [Forensic biology](#)

1.1.2 Including: [Blood pattern analysis](#), [Body fluid analysis](#), [Clothing damage analysis](#), [DNA profiling](#), [Forensic fibres analysis](#), [Forensic hair analysis](#), [Forensic training](#).

## 2 SUMMARY

2.1 With more than 28 years' experience in a range of forensic science services Dr Sara Short is a leading and renowned expert in her chosen field of forensic biology.

2.2 During her career Dr Short has been involved in reporting over 1,000 criminal cases requiring expertise in DNA, DNA profiling, blood, blood pattern interpretation, body fluids, semen, hairs, textile fibres and damage to clothing. These cases have included amongst others murder, rape, cold case reviews, assaults, car crime and burglaries.

2.3 Before joining Forensic Equity in 2010 Sara was employed by the Forensic Science Service where she was responsible for attending scenes of crime to recover trace evidence in-situ and subsequently the reporting of many hundreds of cases involving biological evidence.

### **3 EXPERIENCE**

- 3.1 Leading forensic biologist with over 28 years' experience.
- 3.2 Internationally recognised forensic scientist having reported on over one thousand criminal cases; giving expert forensic opinion for both the defence and prosecution.
- 3.3 Highly experienced senior court reporting scientist; having appeared as an expert witness in a range of courts including Crown court, Magistrates court, armed forces tribunals and the court of appeal.
- 3.4 Highly experienced forensic biologist and registered forensic practitioner in all aspects of human contact traces and body fluids (blood, semen saliva, urine and faeces).
- 3.5 Recognised as a leading authority in blood pattern analysis and interpretation.
- 3.6 Eminently experienced in forensic body fluids analysis including defining its evidential significance.
- 3.7 Forensic expert in the assessment of damage to clothing.
- 3.8 Leading forensic scientist in the analysis of stomach contents as an aid to time of death estimates.
- 3.9 Leading expert in DNA analysis and interpretation.
- 3.10 Qualified forensic expert in the use of a range of DNA methods including the use of MLP and SLP as well as amplification methods from HLA DQ $\alpha$ , STR Quad, SGM, SGM Plus and Y STR analysis through to the low template methods of LCN and HSP DNA SenCE.
- 3.11 Notably experienced in the use of mitochondrial DNA sequencing.
- 3.12 Qualified and highly experienced scene examiner and forensic investigator.
- 3.13 Holds significant expertise in scene examination strategies and evidence recovery procedures including recovery, continuity and contamination issues.

- 3.14 Highly experienced in criminal paternity testing and analysis, with the ability to undertake calculations for the likelihood that any relative of a defendant could instead be the true father of a child in a disputed case.
- 3.15 Experienced and qualified trainer in all aspects of forensic biology, DNA, blood pattern analysis and body fluids having delivered a large number of training courses to defence solicitors and barristers, the police, scenes of crime officers and other government bodies.
- 3.16 Visiting lecturer at the Universities of Wolverhampton and Derby for their undergraduate forensic science courses.

#### **4 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

- 4.1 Member of the Forensic Science Society.
- 4.2 Full practising member of the Academy of Experts.
- 4.3 Registered forensic practitioner in human contact traces – DNA, body fluids and blood pattern analysis the CRFP (Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners) prior to the register being closed in 2009.

#### **5 NOTABLE WORK**

- 5.1 Presented a paper in relation to the evaluation of DNA mixtures, entitled "Unsuitable for Statistical Evaluation. A Call to Action" at the Forensic Science Society conference at University of Teesside on 17th April 2008.
- 5.2 Current reviewer for the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine (formerly Journal of Clinical Forensic Medicine).
- 5.3 Contributed to publications and academia including:

- 5.3.1 "Contextualising genetics using forensic science." Raul Sutton and Sara Short. 2009 in Adams, D.J. "Developing problem solving skills in bioscientists" UK Centre for Biosciences HEA 21-26.
- 5.3.2 "An examination of a contaminated seminal stain using absorption-elution and enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)." Sara Bolton and James Thorpe. Journal of Forensic Sciences 1988 volume 33 number 3. pages 797-800.
- 5.3.3 "Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for A and B water soluble blood group substances." Sara Bolton and James Thorpe. Journal of Forensic Sciences 1986 volume 31 no 1. pages 27-30.
- 5.3.4 "Separation of Blood Group Substances ABH and Lewis in Mixtures of Body Fluids." Paper presented at the Proceedings of the International Symposium on Forensic Immunology at FBI Quantico, Virginia 1986.