

Nigel Hodge BSc. BTh. DipPS.

Senior forensic scientist specialising in forensic biology

Forensic scientist since: 1997

Summary

With 17 years' in forensic science, Nigel Hodge is a highly accomplished forensic scientist and forensic biologist. Before joining Forensic Equity in 2013 Nigel worked for the Forensic Science Service (FSS) as a Senior Forensic Biologist.

Having investigated and examined more than two thousand cases to date, including more than three hundred cases of murder or suspicious death Nigel is a respected and very highly experienced forensic scientist.

Nigel's primary areas of expertise include bloodstain pattern analysis (BPA), DNA profile evidence and body fluid analysis.

Experience

- Highly experienced forensic biologist with over 17 years' in forensic science.
- Vastly experienced senior court reporting scientist having reported on cases including charges of assault, burglary, robbery, sexual assault, rape, suspicious death, manslaughter and murder.
- Leading expert witness having given evidence in court for both prosecution and defence on countless occasions.
- Leading authority on bloodstain pattern analysis, including the interpretation of blood stain patterns.
- Leading expert in DNA profile evidence, including low template DNA analysis and paternity assessment.
- Leading authority on transfer evidence and body fluid analysis relating to offences against the person including in complex cases such as murder or suspicious death.
- Highly experienced scenes of crime examiner and forensic investigator having assisted the police at numerous serious crime scenes.
- Highly experienced in the determination of scene examination strategies and evidence recovery procedures including DNA recovery, continuity and contamination issues.
- Leading cold case file reviewer and critical findings checker.
- Experienced and qualified forensic awareness trainer having developed and delivered a wide range of forensic science training courses for participants including scientists, solicitors, barristers, magistrates, police officers, scenes of crimes officers, crime scene managers and medical personnel.
- Senior lecturer in Forensic Biology at the University of South Wales (University of Glamorgan).

Committee memberships

- Member of the document review group for the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts.
- Member of the Forensic Science Society and member of the Council from 2010 – 2012.
- Member of the Society of Biology.
- Member of the Academy of Experts.

Areas of expertise

Forensic biology
Blood pattern analysis
Body fluid analysis
DNA profiling



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specialising in forensic biology (continued)

Notable work

- Developed and delivered a training course for South Wales Police probationer officers.
- Assisted in the development of a liaison project involving the Forensic Science Service (FSS) and South Wales Police.
- A regular contributor to BBC radio, including having undertaken his own series on crime scene investigation. Nigel is fully media trained and has given numerous interviews for television, newspapers and magazines regarding forensic, evidential and criminal matters.

Notable cases

- R v Thadaparambath

A rape case in which the prosecution relied upon partial, non-statistical, DNA evidence. The jury had been misdirected with regard to the evidential value of the DNA evidence resulting in a retrial. In voir dire Mr Hodge assisted the defence team in getting aspects of the DNA evidence declared inadmissible.

- R v Richards

An alleged possession of firearm which relied on a DNA link with the defendant. Nigel was able to explain in court that the defendant's account of events could have explained the presence of DNA matching him on the firearm.

- R v Ibitoye

A rape case where Mr Hodge showed that the alleged sperm cell that the prosecution were relying on as evidence was not in fact a sperm cell.