

# Job Description

## Reporting Forensic Scientist (Biology)

<b>Department</b>	Forensic Casework
<b>Location</b>	Abingdon/Chorley
<b>Summary of Job</b>	<p>A Forensic Scientist with biological specialisation who has experience of a broad range of scientific techniques, scene attendance and court appearance as an expert witness. This person will be expected to handle a full casework load and to provide forensic case strategy, whilst providing a liaison point with our police customers.</p>
<b>Reporting Structure</b>	Reporting to a Team Leader
<b>Essential Functions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To liaise with police officers and other authorities to establish a forensic strategy as required on a case by case basis.</li><li>• Ensure that high quality standards and integrity of the forensic analysis process are maintained at all times.</li><li>• Deliver casework in line with contractual or alternative agreed turnaround times.</li><li>• Interpretation of results and preparation of reports including expert opinion for (e.g.) police, CPS, coroner.</li><li>• Provide verbal and written testimony for the results reported.</li><li>• Case management and coordination, to ensure the integration of evidential findings from all specialised analyses and to ensure appropriate communication with all case stakeholders.</li><li>• If appropriate to train and mentor more junior staff in a broad range of examination techniques and reporting procedures.</li><li>• Responding to routine enquiries and urgent enquiries to a high standard.</li><li>• Maintain an up to date and complete technical knowledge of a broad range of forensic analysis processes as required to maintain competencies.</li><li>• Occasionally laboratory examination of crime scene samples in accordance with the agreed forensic strategy, (this examination will incorporate a broad range of potential evidence types).</li><li>• May attend at crime scenes as required and in line with competence and training</li></ul>
<b>Job Requirements</b>	<b>Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preferably having a B.Sc. Degree (or similar) in relevant Science, e.g. Biology, Chemistry, Genetics, Forensics or related subject</li></ul>

## **Experience**

Experience in one or more of the following (dependant on discipline specialism):

- Competent at reporting a range of cases potentially including serious crimes such as rape and murder
- Understanding of casework assessment and interpretation
- Experience of presenting expert evidence and opinions in court. Depending on discipline will include experience and competency to undertake and, if appropriate, report one or more of the following:
- Possessing a knowledge of forensic DNA profiling processes such as is required to be considered competent to interpret the results of DNA analysis, this may include complex mixture interpretation depending on competence
- Competence to interpret a range of body fluid test results commonly encountered in casework
- Competence to interpret bloodstain pattern analysis in the laboratory and, if suitably competent, at crime scenes
- Competence in the examination of textile damage and hairs
- Competent to recover trace evidence such as glass, paint, fibres and GSR from casework items; undertake and interpret the results of a broad range of chemical analyses as applied to these evidence types
- Competent in the comparison and interpretation of footwear marks in the laboratory and, if suitably competent in footwear enhancement processes, at crime scenes
- Competent in the comparison and interpretation of toolmarks.
- If suitably competent may attend fire scenes and undertaken the analysis and/or interpretation of accelerant analysis
- If suitably competent may attend Road Traffic Collisions and undertaken relevant examinations and interpretations

## **Technical Skills**

- Laboratory examination of casework items for a biological, trace and other evidence types as appropriate to individual's experience and discipline.
- Familiarity with using computers for word processing and other applications
- In depth knowledge of present scientific techniques and associated statistical evaluation or interpretation in accord with background data
- Knowledge of the legal system as it pertains to forensic science
- Knowledge of validation procedures
- Solid background in relevant discipline and forensics. Experience of other areas of forensic Science would be an advantage
- Ability to present technical data clearly and concisely in both written and verbal forms
- Maintain an awareness of developments in forensic science

## **Non-Technical Skills**

- Understanding of and ability to deliver customer needs in terms of quality and timeliness
- Ability to work quickly and accurately under pressure
- Excellent verbal communication and presentation skills
- Highly ethically motivated
- Professional demeanour
- Innovative and enthusiasm to embrace and instigate change
- Gravitas

### **Physical Demands**

- This role requires good concentration, meticulous attention to detail, and accurate record keeping
- Some crime scene attendance may be required which could be out of hours in inhospitable environments
- VDU operation
- Microscopy
- Sitting

### **Working Conditions**

- A computer workstation in a shared air conditioned office
- Laboratory work
- Will be required to take part in out of hours and weekend working rota
- Occasional requirement to be on call for emergencies
- Occasional work off site at crime scenes in range of environments, indoors and out