

JAMES BEARD BSc (Hons)
Principal Biologist

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Professional Profile

An experienced Reporting Scientist, I strive for continual personal development and to stay up-to-date with developments in an ever-changing field and a volatile marketplace. I have a strong motivation to succeed, coupled with an ability to work hard under pressure and a willingness to embrace new challenges. I believe that I hold both the technical knowledge and personal attributes to be a success and a key asset to any team.

Specialising in examinations for body fluids and the interpretation of complex DNA results, I have been directly involved with a number of high-profile cases, ranging from burglaries and thefts, to assaults, murders and terrorism investigations. Having trained in, reported and provided evidence for cases using the specialist statistical software, STRmix, I am well versed in the presentation of such complex evidence to the courts. Coupled with my experience and working knowledge of DNA profiling procedures, I am able to review laboratory techniques, protocols and DNA results and provide a comprehensive and impartial review.

Academic Qualifications

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| 09/04 - 05/07 | BSc. (Hons) Forensic Science, 1 st Class
University of Abertay Dundee |
| 09/01 - 05/04 | BSc. Forensic Psychobiology, with distinction
University of Abertay Dundee |

Forensic Science Career

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 01/19 – Present | Forensic Access | Forensic Biologist |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting forensic casework, producing written and oral testimony to customers • Preparation and presentation of written and oral evidence as an expert witness to Courts of Law • Use of Case Assessment and Interpretation (CAI) model • Assessment of cases to determine optimal strategy and approach • Item examination, including body fluid identification and interpretation • Interpretation of complex DNA results, including use of Probabilistic Genotyping Software (STRmix), and assessment of significance of scientific findings within the context of specific case circumstances • Peer review other reporting scientist's work, to ensure high quality standards and integrity maintained • Awareness and thorough understanding of laboratory processes |
| 03/15 – 01/19 | Cellmark Forensic Services | Team Leader |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for day to day operations of a busy team, often to urgent hourly deadlines set by customers and courts within the criminal justice system • Manage resources, in combination with other departments, to effectively deliver Forensic Services • Accountable for the training and development of new reporting scientists • Provide line management for a team of individuals, setting objectives and managing progression • Directly responsible for the monitoring and updating of standard operating procedures • Consideration of continual process improvement to increase operational efficiency • Involved in projects key to ensuring the continued development of biology reporting |
| 11/11 – 01/19 | Cellmark Forensic Services | Reporting Scientist |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting forensic casework, producing written and oral testimony to customers • Preparation and presentation of written and oral evidence as an expert witness to Courts of Law |

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- Assessment of cases prior to examination, including pre-submission advice to customers
- Use of Case Assessment and Interpretation (CAI) model
- Competent in the examination of numerous item types, including body fluid identification
- Interpretation of complex DNA results, including use of Probabilistic Genotyping Software (STRmix)
- Professional liaisons with police forces
- Peer review other reporting scientist's work, to ensure high quality standards and integrity maintained
- Awareness and thorough understanding of laboratory processes

11/09 – 10/11

Cellmark Forensic Services

Forensic Analyst

- Constructive part of a team responsible for a high throughput of crime scene samples
- Thorough understanding and working knowledge of DNA profiling process
- Awareness of anti-contamination measures and effects
- Reporting of non-conformities
- Consciously aware of very strict turnaround times
- Laboratory trainer for specialised automated laboratory equipment

Other relevant information

Communication

- Whether written or spoken, effective communication has been the backbone of my development. Within my current role, clear, concise and effective communication is essential for delivering evidence in the court room to a lay audience
- It is through good communication that any successful team operates, whether it be internally or across departments. This is something I am always conscious of when liaising with colleagues, and also, importantly, with customers; something I have daily exposure to, and sometimes under extreme time pressure

Quality Standards

- I have a strong grasp and understanding of the importance of laboratory standards with relation to accuracy, reliability and repetition of results. I realise the vital nature of quality control, and the serious consequences of any potential error
- I was an internal auditor for Cellmark Forensic Services, qualified to investigate and assess the current procedures within the company
- This was not specific to DNA processing. It included a range of processes (GSR, Information Security and Business Disaster Recovery) and business areas (Toxicology, Quality Assurance and Human Resources), which I would otherwise have had little exposure to
- These audits allowed me to assess the quality, consistency and integrity of standard operating procedures to ensure ISO Standards are met

Workload planning

- In my current day to day role I have to be able to dynamically manage my time, being proactive where possible, but reacting to situations as they arise
- The nature of our business means every request has come form of deadline; either a contractual turnaround time, or an expected date of response

IT

- Considerable experience with a large range of software, both general (MS Word, Excel Powerpoint and Onenote) and specialised (STRmix, Genemapper IDX and ReliCalc)