

SARAH TARRANT-WOODING BSc (Hons) Dip FMS MRSC

CONSULTANT FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST

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Professional Profile

I have more than 16 years of experience as a Forensic Toxicologist. To date I have reported several thousand cases, more latterly concentrating on major crime casework predominantly homicide and sexual offences. I have presented evidence in court many times including in several high-profile cases and have worked with most of the police forces in England and Wales as well as some overseas clients.

I have undertaken an active role in the establishment of the United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Forensic Toxicologist (UKIAFT) and I was a founding committee member. I have also organised several meetings on behalf of UKIAFT and organised a one-day conference to encourage collaboration with all the organisations involved in sudden death investigation.

In July 2013 I left LGC Forensics and set up InSpired Toxicology, offering Forensic Toxicology consultancy services, training and casework support. I have prepared and delivered training for Masters Courses at UK universities, and to overseas forensic scientists. I have reported very many cases for the defence covering all case types and I now support ArroGen Forensics with their Forensic Toxicology casework.

Academic Qualifications

2003-2004 – St Georges Hospital Medical School (Evening school)

Diploma in Forensic Medical Science.

1997-2000 - University of Reading, Berkshire

BSc (Hons) Environmental Chemistry – First Class Honours.

Forensic Science Career

I started my career in 2001 at Forensic Alliance, latterly LGC Forensics, and eventually became a casework lead in the Forensic Toxicology team. My specialism is forensic toxicology and involves the analysis of body fluids for the presence of alcohol, drugs and poisons and the interpretation of results. After several years I moved out of the laboratory and underwent a thorough and comprehensive training program to report toxicology casework, covering HM Coroners cases, Road Traffic Act cases (alcohol, drugs, and Alcohol Technical Defence) and major crime casework.

I had a caseload of typically 30-40 cases per month. I assessed the cases, developed strategies, reviewed all results, and produced interpretative statements. I presented my evidence in court on numerous occasions, and I am regularly asked to defend my expert opinion and demonstrate how I have arrived at a particular conclusion.

I now undertake a range of Forensic Toxicology Consultancy services. This includes defence work - both private instructions and LAA funded work, in depth training to UK and internationally based education establishments, casework support to other forensic service providers, and advisory services to all aspects of the Criminal Justice System.

SARAH TARRANT-WOODING
Consultant Forensic Toxicologist

Key Achievements and Contributions

- I have reported several thousand forensic toxicology cases including some very high-profile cases.
- I am a highly experienced trainer in all aspects of forensic toxicology having developed, written and presented training courses to Forensic Service providers, post-graduate university courses, overseas forensic institutions, police and coroner's officers.
- I am a founding professional member and formerly committee member of the United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Forensic Toxicologists (UKIAFT) actively contributing to the development of national policy to ensure forensic providers carry out quality and appropriate work.
- I have organised and hosted 3 national conferences.
- I have contributed to the development of drug panels for toxicology casework and the development of toxicology guidelines and recommendations which are supported by the Forensic Regulator.
- I was part of a team implementing changes necessary after the introduction of the National Forensic Framework. I developed in depth and specific knowledge of all service codes in all forensic disciplines. I produced training documents for the use of all staff and ran training sessions to educate operational staff in understanding the tender and application of the service codes, which at times was met with resistance due to the significant changes that were necessary in how the company worked. I also represented the company at contract management team meetings to negotiate code resolutions and ambiguous areas of the tenders
- I am a Member of Royal Society of Chemistry

Any other relevant information

Year	Position/Title	Name and Address of Institution
September 2013 – Present	Consultant Forensic Toxicologist and Director	InSpired Toxicology Ltd
May 2001-July 2013	Forensic Toxicologist	LGC Forensics (formerly Forensic Alliance)