

Michael Scott-Ham

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A very experienced and motivated forensic scientist with more than 40 years-worth of knowledge covering a period of immense change in forensic services. Internationally acknowledged as a forensic toxicology expert and keen to help develop the expertise of others. Undertakes a large amount of criminal and civil casework for solicitors, insurance companies and police services commenting on the effects of drugs and alcohol, always delivering on time. Extensive experience in managing projects to deliver benefits in a timely manner.

Professional Career

March 2012 – present

Director and Consultant: 'Principal Forensic Toxicology and Drugs Consultancy Ltd' Established Principal Forensic Toxicology and Drugs Consultancy Ltd to provide independent forensic toxicology and drug advice for all parts of the UK Criminal Justice System (UKCJS) and internationally. Increasingly a significant amount of work is also undertaken on behalf of insurance companies.

April 2012 – present

Director and Consultant: 'Principal Forensic Services Ltd' Established, with ten other ex-colleagues, Principal Forensic Services Ltd to provide a wide range of forensic expertise to the UKCJS and internationally (Defence and Prosecution) but also frequently to insurance companies.

Since leaving the FSS I have continued to undertake forensic toxicology and drugs casework for a wide variety of clients including solicitors, insurance companies and others, including work of a high-profile nature. Some work has also been undertaken for international clients and police services. I have appeared in court and, more recently via CVP, on many hundreds of occasions.

I have also delivered presentations at United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Forensic Toxicologists (UKIAFT) meetings, LTG meetings, universities and delivered a two-hour workshop on alcohol technical defence calculations to a joint UKIAFT and LTG meeting (Feb. 2014). This followed my preparation of a set of guidelines on behalf of UKIAFT for all UK to practitioners to follow when undertaking alcohol technical defence calculations. I have trained toxicologists at 7 different forensic science providers.

I provided technical knowledge to assist in setting up an ISO 17025 accredited workplace drug testing laboratory.

In April 2013 I was appointed onto the Home Office/Department for Transport Expert

Panel advising on Drugs and Driving and also acted as an independent consultant to the same parties on the new Drugs and Driving legislation introduced in March 2015. This involved providing advice on validation requirements for analytical testing and ISO 17025 accreditation. Advice was also provided concerning analytical uncertainty and how the results should be reported under the new legislation. I have also recently undertaken an investigation for the Forensic Science Regulator's Office.

December 2005 – March 2012

Principal Forensic Scientist for Toxicology: Forensic Science Service (FSS) until its closure

- Widely acknowledged expert in the field of toxicology who participated nationally and internationally in promoting best practice and presenting papers.
- Worked on complex and high-profile police casework and gave evidence at court as an expert witness on many occasions.
- Managed quality for FSS Toxicology in a large UKAS ISO17025 accredited laboratory including defining standards and competencies required by all practitioners.
- Recruited, trained and mentored new Reporting Officers for FSS Toxicology including mentoring on Expert Witness courses.
- Assisted United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Forensic Toxicologists (UKIAFT) in setting professional standards and was voted on to the UKIAFT committee unanimously when it was first set-up in 2010.
- Managed the rationalisation of the two operational FSS Toxicology units into a single centre of excellence based in London to improve consistency and best practice and lower costs. Strategies and plans were developed for senior managers and new processes suggested. This was achieved with the support of all colleagues through a difficult, but ultimately successful, outcome. A new analytical approach to casework was introduced, with full ISO 17025 accreditation achieved, prior to FSS closure.

Earlier Career

January 1987 – December 2005

Reporting Officer Drugs and Toxicology: FSS and Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory (MPFSL) Extensive casework experience dealing with several thousand cases covering all aspects of forensic toxicology (Road Traffic Act alcohol and drugs cases, Alcohol Technical Defence, Criminal Toxicology including poisonings, Coroners Toxicology etc.) including many of a high-profile and/or complex nature.

July 1978 – January 1987

Non-reporting casework analyst in Drugs and Toxicology Sections of the MPFSL.

Qualifications, Affiliations, Publications and Training

Applied Chemistry Degree at Brunel University (1980-1983) Upper Second (Hons.)
Member of United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Forensic Toxicologists
(formerly a Committee member)
Member of The Society of Forensic Toxicologists, The International Association of
Forensic Toxicologists, LTG (formerly London Toxicology Group) and The Chartered
Society of Forensic Scientists,
Senior Associate Member of The Royal Society of Medicine.

Co-author of the following papers:-

'Toxicological Findings in Cases of Alleged Drug-facilitated Sexual Assault in the
United Kingdom Over a 3-year Period' [Journal of Clinical Forensic Medicine Vol. 12
(2005) 175-186]

'A Study of Blood and Urine Alcohol Concentrations in Cases of Alleged Drug-
facilitated Sexual Assault in the United Kingdom over a 3-year period' [Journal of
Clinical Forensic Medicine Vol. 13 (2006) 107-111].

'Concentrations of drugs determined in blood samples collected from suspected
drugged drivers in England and Wales' [Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine Vol.
20 (2013) 278-289].

'The Distribution and Redistribution of Fentanyl and Norfentanyl in Post-mortem
Samples [Forensic Science International Vol. 284 (2018) 146-152].

'Evidence based survey of the distribution volume of ethanol: Comparison of
empirically determined values with anthropometric measures' [Forensic Science
International 294 (2019) 124-131]

'The Distribution and Redistribution of Carfentanil in Post-mortem Samples [Forensic
Science International Vol. 309 (2020) 110215].

Co-author of the following book:- Symptoms and Signs of Substance Misuse (3 Ed.) –
published September 2014

Contributed a chapter entitled "Substance Misuse: Legal Highs" to the "Encyclopedia
of Forensic and Legal Medicine" (2nd Edition) published in 2016.

Contributed a chapter on "Alcohol Technical Defences in Road Traffic Casework" for
a book entitled "Forensic Toxicology –Drug Use and Misuse" published in 2016, and
one on "The Use of Drug Metabolites in Forensic Toxicology" for a book entitled
"Detection of Drug Misuse", which was published in 2017.

Reviewer for the 'Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine', 'Medicine, Science and the
Law' and 'Science and Justice'.

Home Office Road Traffic Act and Railways and Transport Safety Act Authorised
Analyst until FSS closure.

I have lectured on the internationally known Borkenstein 'Drug and Alcohol' Course.

Personal

Full EU Driving License with no endorsements

LinkedIn profile at

http://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=105020485&trk=tab_pro