Adrian Dupre-Picken – Written evidence (FRS0003)

In response to your call for evidence, whereby you asked for feedback from people directly involved within the forensic science and Criminal Justice systems. I would like to respond to the question raised regarding the contribution of forensic science to the delivery of justice in the United Kingdom and it’s strengths and weaknesses in doing so.

I have over 20 years of experience as a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) and Crime Scene Manager (CSM) within the Police service. During this time it has always astonished me that whilst the policies and procedures of how evidence is processed once it has been seized are constantly being looked at, streamlined, improved and accredited, I feel that much greater priority needs to be given further back down the evidence chain, as currently nothing is or has been done to protect and preserve the vital evidence at the earliest opportunity, prior to it being harvested at scene.

As you will be only too well aware, crime costs this country over £60 Billion pounds per year (Home Office figures 2017), which equates to 7.7% of the national G.D.P. It is therefore inconceivable that currently no provision is given for protecting the vital evidence at the very first opportunity to do so. From the incident scene being discovered by the victim or attended by Police Officers, it is currently left solely to pure chance whether that evidence is destroyed by the elements or accidental damage prior to the CSI attending. How much evidence has already been lost or destroyed, and at what cost going forward?

With this in mind, I have spent a vast amount of my own time, designing, testing, and developing an effective means of preserving and protecting forensic evidence at the earliest possible opportunity.

Following extensive and robust testing of the design, it has proven beyond doubt that evidence protected at the earliest possible juncture in the correct manner, provides a much greater quality and quantity of usable evidence to be harvested by the forensic specialist.

Not only does my design protect and preserve the evidence from the elements, it also provides complete and provable integrity and therefore continuity of the evidence due to it’s unique built in tamper evident abilities.

Although it might not appear so, I am not writing to you purely to showcase my new patent applied for product (Evishield). My aim is to highlight a gaping loop hole in the evidence chain, which up until this point has had nothing done to alleviate it from destroying evidence. It would appear that your call to the forensic specialists of the nation for answers is the ideal forum for this matter to be raised, discussed and hopefully addressed so that no more vital forensic evidence is needlessly lost or destroyed prior to being able to prove or disprove an involvement in a crime.

Cases are being lost or thrown out of court. I personally was recently directly involved in a case for which I was called to Nottingham Crown Court, along with all the witnesses, legal teams, investigators, clerks, barristers etc, three times
before the case was thrown out due to a break in the continuity of evidence prior to me seizing it. This one case must have cost the tax payers hundreds of thousands of pounds, and it is by no means a lone example. My simple design Evishield, would have alleviated this by providing provable integrity and therefore continuity of evidence.

Crime/incident scenes are currently open to public view for considerable periods of time, until resources can be assembled. Sensitive or distressing images are available to the public or media recording and then available on social media or general internet. Evishield allows a First Officer Attending (F.A.O) from any of the Emergency services the ability to seal from view any scene, building, vehicle, deceased person immediately from view, allowing dignity to those involved in the incident, and evidence protection at the earliest possible juncture.

With the ability of the user to cover large areas from view or the elements in seconds, Evishield has also been designed to be “light tight” which allows the user to seal a room, vehicle, building in seconds to perform specialist forensic light examinations using UV, infra-red, crimelite lasers, etc.

In the tests I have carried out when feedback has been sought, the overwhelming feelings of the victim(s) of crime has been to raise the public’s confidence in the Police, who they have seen to do something positively pro-active to protect evidence and detect the offender of their crime. It is a quick and simple thing for an Officer to do, but it reaps massive rewards for the publics perception of the Police as a whole.

To provide evidence to my claims, I have carried out numerous scientific experiments, all of which have returned astoundingly positive results. I have numerous fingerprints which have been on the outside of windows for over 12 months (below shows the level of visible fingerprint ridge detail still available after over 12 months outside but covered with Evishield), they are still perfectly intact and have not deteriorated at all. Fingerprints left exposed to the elements without protection were destroyed in under four hours.
In one experiment, evidence types including (Blood, Hairs, Fibres) lasted only 1 minute 35 seconds in light rain before being completely destroyed. This shows how important it is to protect delicate evidence at the earliest possible chance.

I would be more than happy to provide you with further data, photographs, test results, experiment details, and demonstrations, all of which prove the vast difference in evidence quality if it is protected using my design.

My design has been called Evishield (Evidence - Shield) and is a long way through the patent process to achieve the protection that affords world-wide. For more details about it’s evidence protection abilities, but also it’s wide range of other valuable uses for crime/incident scenes please take time to view my website. www.evishield.com

With my expertise and experience in this field, I don’t feel it is too bold a claim to state that Evishield could be as useful a tool in the fight against crime as the establishment of the National DNA Database.

I would happily make myself available to discuss this matter further if you would require it.

21 August 2018