

Contact Traces response to “DAMILOLA TAYLOR: AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF FORENSIC EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE BY THE FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE”, published by the Home Office

Contact Traces welcomes the Review’s finding that there was no systematic failure in the operations of the Forensic Science Service, and hopes that it goes some way to restoring confidence amongst the public in the provision of general forensic science services to the criminal justice system in the United Kingdom.

Contact Traces welcomes the recognition by the Review of the factors involved in modern forensic provision that could contribute to mistakes during the examinations, and looks forward to assisting the Forensic Regulator addressing contamination issues in the handling of exhibits prior to submission to the laboratory as suggested by the Review.

Tiernan Coyle, Managing Director of Contact Traces, and the scientist employed by Forensic Alliance to perform the forensic fibre examinations during the re-investigation said: “What comes across loudly in this review is the impact individual scientists can have on an investigation. I have always believed that the quality in forensic science starts and ends with the scientific staff. Providing an environment to work in where forensic scientists are valued, rewarded and motivated is a factor that is often underestimated when it comes to the performance of individual scientists.”

Note to Editors

Contact Traces was founded by Tiernan Coyle in November 2006 in response to changes in the provision of forensic science services to police forces in England and Wales.

The only specialist provider of forensic fibre examination and analysis in the UK, Contact Traces is uniquely placed to offer a new kind of forensic fibre service using a combination of established techniques and emerging new technologies.