

MELANIE PUGH BSC (HONS) Analytical Chemistry
Forensic Scientist specialising in handwriting and questioned documents.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Handwriting examinations
- Signature authenticity
- Forgery
- Disputed documents
- Altered documents
- Printed documents
- Experienced expert witness.

CAREER SUMMARY

UK Home Office

Melanie undertook an extensive training programme within the UK Home Office Forensic Science Service, to become an expert specialising in the scientific examination of handwriting, signatures and disputed documents. She also specialised in the chemical analysis of inks.

European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI)

Melanie was part of the European working group for document examiners (ENFSI), which included writing best practice manuals and organising international conferences.

Stockton Pugh

Melanie is now an independent Forensic Scientist as part of Stockton Pugh, and a member of the UK Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Melanie has examined thousands of documents and dealt with many legal cases both simple and complex. She is a senior court reporting scientist and has given expert witness evidence on many occasions. She carries out work for prosecution authorities, including police forces, The Crown Prosecution Service and Government departments.

Melanie is an experienced expert witness in civil litigation casework in the UK and overseas and has produced numerous reports compliant with civil rules procedures. She also acts as a single joint expert.

CV HIGHLIGHTS

- Forensic Scientist with over 20 years' experience.
- Highly respected expert in all aspects of document examinations, including signature comparison, handwriting analysis and the forensic examination of questioned or disputed documents.
- Highly experienced in offering critical evidence in some of the UK's most high-profile and complex cases.
- Vastly experienced senior court reporting scientist having presented evidence on numerous occasions.

- Highly skilled in the utilisation of detailed observational methods to analyse documents in order to determine authenticity and detect forgery.
- Trained at the Home Office Forensic Science Service.
- Provided speciality training to police forces, government departments and banks.
- Trained and professionally developed Forensic Scientists in the UK and overseas.
Melanie was recently engaged by the Thai Embassy to train personnel from the Forensic Science Institute in Thailand.
- Registered Forensic Documents and Handwriting Expert with the former UK government's Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners.
- Secretary of the working group for forensic document examiners within the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) (2008-2011).
- Working to ISO 17025 standards in Questioned Document Examinations and Handwriting.

COMMENDATIONS

Commended by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

Melanie undertakes confidential work within the UK's Home Office, including internal investigations and counter-terrorism.

AN EXPERT WITNESS

Melanie has worked on many high-profile cases, including murders, kidnappings, rapes, counter-terrorism, serious fraud, money laundering, drugs, organised crime, witness intimidation and civil litigation.

She also specialises in civil litigation casework involving signature authenticity. Melanie provides evidence to Courts and Tribunals on a regular basis, acts as a Court appointed Single Joint Expert and is familiar with the Civil Procedure Rules.

As part of her duties Melanie is available to work on a pro-bono basis, providing her professional services to those that need it.