

### THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

for scientific support to crime investigation

#### National Fingerprint Training

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June 29, 2000

To whom it may concern,

I am a M.Sc. Forensic Science student from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. As a final component of my course, I am expected to complete a research project at a forensic facility. I have been placed at the National Fingerprint Training section of the National Training Centre for Scientific Support to Crime Investigation in Durham, England.

My project is to design a standard aptitude test for persons applying to become fingerprint examiners in Britain. Currently, several different aptitude tests are being employed by the different police forces.

I hope that by studying aptitude tests that have been utilised in the past, and are currently being used, I might gain some insight in to what must be included in a standardised aptitude test for fingerprint examiners. I also hope that I will be able to draw upon the knowledge of people with a comprehensive insight into the field of fingerprint examination, in order to design an appropriate aptitude test.

I have attached a questionnaire, that I have written, that is designed to gain information about aptitude testing in the field of fingerprint examination.

I am hoping that you will be able to take the time to complete this questionnaire and return it to me as soon as possible via e-mail, facsimile, or first class mail.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this questionnaire or this project. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Megan Dickson

Megan Dickson
megandickson@hotmail.com





# **Personal History**

	inting:
Are you considered to be a "Fingerprint Expert"?	
General Questions about Fingerprint Examin	ners
Gonoral Gaoctiono aboat i mgorprint Exami	1010
A. Please list 10 characteristics that you believe must be possessed fingerprint examiner:	d by a
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2.	
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4.	
 5.	
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<del></del>	
6. 7.	
6.	
7.	

<b>General Questions ab</b>	out Fingerprint	Examiners-Continued
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В.	In your experience, how did most individuals end up with employment as
	Fingerprint Examiners?

C. In your experience, what training have most individuals had to become Fingerprint Examiners?

D. What level of education do the majority of Fingerprint Examiners have?

## Questions about Individuals Perceived to have an Aptitude for Fingerprint Examination

- 1. How many fingerprint examiners have you had the opportunity to observe during your career?
- 2. For how many years have you been in a position to observe the ability of fingerprint examiners?
- 3. In your experience, have any *new* fingerprint examiners performed with a speed and accuracy far beyond the speed and accuracy of the majority of fingerprint examiners in your reference?

# Questions about Individuals Perceived to have an Aptitude for Fingerprint Examination- Continued

Aptitude for Fingerprint Examination- Continued	
What characteristics do you feel made these individuals exceptional as newfingerprint examiners?	
5. Were there any experiences (education, hobbies, similar training, etc.) t were common to any or all of these exceptional examiners?	hat
6. How many of these exceptional individuals have you encountered over t years?	he
<b>Aptitude Testing for Fingerprint Examiners</b>	
In what ways do you think that the aptitude of an individual for fingerprin examination could be tested?	t
In your experience, how has aptitude as a fingerprint examiner been tested?	

<b>Aptitude</b>	Testing for	<b>Fingerprint</b>	Examiners-Continued

Aptitude restin	g for Fingerprint Examiners-Continued
3. What improvements vectors testing that you have	would you make to improve the methods of aptitude encountered?
fingerprint examiners	ach a copy (or copies) of any aptitude tests for with which you are familiar, and name these tests ease list any suggestions for improvement of these
	Other Thoughts
Do you have any other ice this research?	leas or information that you feel may be relevant to
	telephone me, Megan Dickson, at (0191) 375-2133, at megandickson@hotmail.com if you have any

question about my project, or if you can offer any further input.