

THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE
for scientific support to crime investigation

National Fingerprint Training

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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.

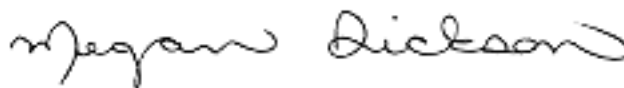
I hope that by studying aptitude tests that have been utilised in the past, and are currently being used, I might gain some insight in to what must be included in a standardised aptitude test for fingerprint examiners. I also hope that I will be able to draw upon the knowledge of people with a comprehensive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

megandickson@hotmail.com



Personal History

Please list your work and/or education history in the field of Fingerprinting:

Are you considered to be a "Fingerprint Expert"?

General Questions about Fingerprint Examiners

A. Please list 10 characteristics that you believe must be possessed by a fingerprint examiner:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

General Questions about Fingerprint Examiners-Continued

- B. 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?

