

DNA Low Template Analysis

Driver – Technology

Related Drivers –Collection and Storage of Personal Information

Background

A review of the reliability of low template DNA analysis (LTDNA) was issued by the Forensic Science Regulator in 2008. This review followed a judgement in the Omagh bombing trial where the judge questioned the scientific validity of the technique after it wrongly linked a sample taken from a car bomb in Northern Ireland to a 14 year old boy in Nottingham.

The review (lead by Professor Brian Caddy) concluded the science behind the technique is sound and robust and confirmed that the technique is appropriately validated. The review made 21 recommendations including:

- the establishment of a programme to educate police scenes of crime and forensic officers on collecting sample for low template analysis
- appropriate training programs and standards need to be set that will enable police forces and their crime scene personnel to have a full grasp of what constitutes LTDNA analysis, and how such samples are to be collected and stored, especially in relation to issues of contamination and the likelihood of success.¹

Potential Skills Needs

Technical skills – associated with Low Copy DNA analysis in particular collection and storage

¹ [Caddy, B., Taylor, G.R., & Linacre, A.M.T. \(2008\). A Review of the Science of Low Template DNA Analysis. Strathclyde: University of Strathclyde.](#)