

DR KLATZOW CONSULTING CC

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Dear Mr O'Sullivan

RE: CRIME TECH / PHAHLANE

Further to your request and further to certain annexures which you provided to me, namely LCRC Operational Management Part 3 (Annexure SM-1), together with photographic evidence of certain chemicals that are being stored, clearly with expiry dates in and around February 2014, March 2013, September 2013, etc, these seem to be in significant quantities and appear to be fairly haphazardly stored. I am also in possession of a sworn statement by Sandragasen Moonsamy who is a commander in the Criminal Records Centre in East London where he make certain allegations of the nature of excess chemicals that are being stored past their sell by date together with comments on fingerprint brushes and other matters.

I have been asked to comment on the need for proper chemical management in a forensic situation and for that matter in any situation. It is essential that the forensic laboratories operate according to a standard operating procedure and that they adhere as closely to the ISO standards as is possible. One of the requirements for the ISO standards and one of the things that the defence will invariably check is the nature of the chemicals that the laboratory is using in order to do its analytical work. These chemicals have to be within their period of use and must not exceed the expiry time given on each bottle. If the allegation is correct that the expiry times were exceeded and that these were relabelled with a new expiry time, this constitutes a fraud on the system.

Secondly, it is absolutely essential that the chemicals that are used be stored under conditions where those conditions can be monitored and can form a proper chain of

custody. Unless this is the case, it places into jeopardy any prosecution using those chemicals. If the chemicals are used and there is no chain of their use and chain to show that these chemicals are in fact purporting to be what is stated on the label then it becomes a serious issue in maintaining the integrity of any analysis subsequently should that come under cross examination at a court case.

Thirdly, it is important to understand that only the highest grade chemicals should be used in chemical analyses and these are chemicals which have a valid certificate of analysis by a reputable company. Therefore, it was my practice when I still ran a forensic laboratory to buy only from reputable companies and only in quantities that could be used within the specified timeframe.

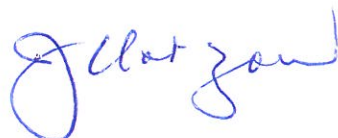
With regards to fingerprint brushes, it is important to understand that a fingerprint, a latent print on any surface, is an exceptionally fragile thing. It needs to be treated with the utmost care. Over more than 100 years of experience it has been found that squirrel hair brushes of the right type specifically designed for the purpose are the correct instrument to use for transferring fingerprint powder onto the latent print. The use of a synthetic brush with a harder nylon or other type of bristle is totally inadequate for the purpose for the simple reason that it is likely to destroy the finer features and the detail of the fingerprint. Given that, it means that the fingerprint may very well become completely useless as there will be unexplained differences between the ten times inked fingerprints that are taken and kept in the docket. That could have a very negative effect on any prosecution and will in itself be an unacceptable degradation of the crime scene to the great disadvantage of everybody concerned.

If these chemicals have been purchased in excess it constitutes in my view a grave breach of process and it throws into jeopardy the otherwise good results that are being obtained by some sectors of the police forensic laboratories.

Thank you for your instruction.

Yours faithfully

DR KLATZOW CONSULTING



DR DAVID J KLATZOW