



Case study: DNA evidence for the prosecution

Background

We were asked by Northumbria Police to analyse a jacket worn by the victim of a mugging incident in the locality to establish whether or not DNA could be extracted to identify the attacker.

Our laboratory in Wakefield received the item (a black jacket) in connection with the case.

The purpose of the examination was to determine if there were any scientific findings to corroborate the view that the suspect that been in contact with the openings of the lower front pockets of the jacket.



A sample of DNA from the victim was also supplied as reference material.

Our findings

The item examined was a black jacket with a hood, elasticated waist and cuff trim, two pockets on the upper left chest and left and right zip pockets on the lower front. The openings of the lower pockets were sampled using a combination of specialised adhesive tape on the fabric and swabs on the teeth of the zips, to recover any cellular material recovered from the openings of the pockets.

Following DNA tests, we were able to conclude that the DNA profiles of both the victim and the suspect were represented in the result obtained and therefore that the findings were in keeping with the defendant having had contact with the openings of the lower front pockets of the jacket.

Outcome

The suspect pleaded guilty to the offence and received a 4 year custodial term.

For further information about our forensic services please contact +44(0)844 2641 999 or www.lgcgroup.com/enquiries.