

## **Fingerprint Evidence & Rosaline Sharpe**

The following details are supplied in an attempt to illustrate how evidence was manipulated in Kevin's case and form a very small portion of the how the Crown theatrically staged the case against Kevin.

Kevin has constantly complained to the CCRC that he had two sets of fingerprints taken during his first period of detention, in the absence of his solicitor. The activities surrounding the bin liner, later to be found with Kevin's Palm print on, was held in the incident room of the police station during Kevin's arrest.

Kevin has suspected for a considerable time the missing set of fingerprints taken in police custody are taken in such a fashion and technique, that they will replicate the fingerprints found on the bin liner; with parallel lines running across his fingerprints.

January 10<sup>th</sup> 1995, DS West asks Kevin if he can take his prints; Solicitor answers, "I think we will deal with that after the interview is over", the interview is terminated immediately by police to take Kevin's Prints. Kevin is placed back in the cells at 8.20pm and the solicitor allowed to go home, 8.40pm Kevin is taken for fingerprinting without solicitor present.

January 11<sup>th</sup> 1995, DS West says "and of course we have taken elimination fingerprints, we took those yesterday did we not? And because they were not taken in the presence of your solicitor we didn't get him to sign them. Very important exhibit obviously in relation to fingerprints, here they are for the purpose of the tape. Kevin Barry Lane, elimination fingerprints taken by DC Wood yesterday with your consent, that's for the custody record and in agreement with you solicitor, do you want to sign those? Solicitor, I'll sign after the interview.

The interview was terminated immediately leading you to believe Kevin's prints were going to be sent for comparison.

Kevin's prints, rather strangely, were not sent for comparison whilst he was in custody, opposed to other suspects and Vincent and Smith's who's were compared immediately (Within one hour of their arrest).

Normal police procedure in a murder inquiry would be to compare a suspect's print immediately upon arrest. Oddly, Kevin's were compared 72 hours after he was released and his prints were then found when the bin liner was examined for a second time, by two new experts.

When Kevin had his prints taken he was asked if he was left or right handed, Kevin deliberately offered his left hand knowing he is right; a left hand print was found on the refuse bag.

**The CCRC have previously established Kevin's fingerprints were taken on a form supposedly for elimination purposes only, i.e. for potential witnesses or persons who could have had innocent contact with an item rather than for suspects.**

**This is highly suspicious and deserves a greater degree of consideration when you view the circumstances of Kevin's arrest; Kevin was arrested and cautioned in the presence of a solicitor, on suspicion of the murder of Robert Magill.**

**A real question must be asked as to why a trained police officer would take fingerprints on forms for elimination?**

Kevin's legal team have continued to press for the bin liner to be made available for independent testing as well as for the BBC Rough Justice programme makers.

All requests were ignored and it was decided by Hertfordshire Constabulary that they would have a team of retired police officers investigate concerns in relation to the bin liner. This appears to be a peculiar decision when one considers that the police are spending money on tests that would otherwise be independently funded. In any event we were duly informed that the retired detectives confirmed the palm print was Kevin's. This was already known and was not the reason why we had requested forensic tests to be conducted and it appears the important issue of fabrication and planting had been ignored.

Kevin's solicitor made further requests for the bin liner to be handed over for independent analysis. Hertfordshire police are now claiming the following:

“The only material of fingerprints remaining is in the form of photographs of fingerprints images”. It would appear the exact geographical location of the bin liner is not known”

It further transpires the retired police officers who conducted the above tests have gone back into retirement and cannot be held accountable for the missing bin liner.