

## REQUEST

I would like to request information with respect to procedure followed in dealing with forgery cases of Questioned documents and Disputed Signatures. Please provide me information following points-

- A. Whether in criminal complaints involving allegations of forged signatures, the police sends document for verification to forensic experts or if it is responsibility of party alleging forgery of his signature that has to get expert opinion.**

If it is a police investigation and it is reasonable necessary and proportionate to the investigation – the police conduct this enquiry

If a person has consulted their own expert before engaging with the police we would consider using this evidence if it meets the codes for the Criminal Justice system and the Forensic regulators requirements for expert witnesses.

- B. Whether there is any government department that renders forensic services with respect to Questioned documents and forged signatures.**

All police services use a mix of internal services and private suppliers, WMP has a contract with the Eurofins formerly the Laboratory of Government Chemist to provide this services for the force.

- C. Name of department or agency that renders expert forensic opinion in prosecution of such cases of forgery.**

There are a number of suppliers the major suppliers are 'Eurofins' and 'Key Forensics' formerly 'Document Evidence'. There are a number of smaller suppliers, individual expert witnesses but these tend to service the criminal defence market