



"LGC Forensics helpt bij oplossen oude moordzaak" (ENG)

LGC Forensics plays a critical role in helping the Metropolitan Police solve the death of Rachel Nickell

LGC Forensics has played a critical role in helping to solve the Rachel Nickell killing, which concluded at court today. The Metropolitan Police referred the unsolved case for reinvestigation to LGC Forensics, one of the world's leading independent providers of forensic services.

LGC Forensics has built up a formidable reputation across all areas of forensic science and has worked for all 43 major police forces in England and Wales, as well as in other countries. The work of our scientists was recently highlighted after the Metropolitan Police called us in to help re-investigate the death of Damilola Taylor, which occurred several years ago. This led to the discovery of fresh forensic evidence leading to the successful conviction of the Freddie brothers.

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LGC Forensics has assisted in many high profile and cold case re-investigations, including the Paget investigation into Princess Diana's fatal car crash; the death of the UN weapons inspector, David Kelly; and the Alexander Litvinenko investigation.

Dr Angela Gallop, LGC Forensics Director of Science and Innovation, said: "The LGC Forensics team is pleased to have helped the Metropolitan Police achieve justice for Rachel Nickell's family after 15 years. The major breakthrough was the discovery by our team of scientists led by Roy Green of DNA matching Robert Napper's on a taping* taken from the victim's body. The link to Napper was supported by some paint flakes found on samples from the victim's son which matched the paint on Napper's tool box, and by a footwear mark at the scene which could have been made by one of his shoes".

Explaining the DNA breakthrough, Dr Gallop added: "Initial tests did not show any DNA in a sample from the taping. When LGC Forensics was asked to re-investigate, we decided to re-test this taping and original samples taken from it. This revealed the victim's DNA along with traces of DNA from an unknown male. Further work on the unknown DNA established that the result was more than 1.4 million times more likely if the DNA had come from Robert Napper than someone else unrelated to him. The DNA results

combined with the paint and footwear evidence provided compelling scientific evidence of Robert Napper's involvement in Rachel Nickell's killing".

The forensic work on the Rachel Nickell case was undertaken at LGC's laboratories at Culham, Oxford by a team of over 20 scientists working under Roy Green and including colleagues from Cellmark.

Dr Gallop said: "The case proves once again how powerful an imaginative scientific approach, combined with diligent execution of the testing, can be in revealing evidence which had hitherto lain dormant. We have some of the very best forensic scientists in the world in LGC and credit must go to all members of our team for their sheer dedication and consistently meticulous work over a long period of time".

LGC Forensics is currently involved in over 50 other cold case reinvestigations.

* Tappings are strips of adhesive tape used to recover potentially significant traces from the surfaces of a wide variety of items including clothing and exposed parts of the body.