Complex Casework SFR – Supporting Information for the Worked Examples
(Appendix 2)

Example 1 (Airbag)

This is an example of the most simple of cases that could be processed via the ‘complex casework’ route; a single exhibit submitted for forensic analysis with a named suspect who has not provided an account.

Mr A is believed to have been the driver of a stolen motor vehicle when it was involved in a road traffic collision. The driver escaped from the vehicle, with no obvious bleeding injuries. The airbag was deployed at the point of impact and was recovered by CSI. Mr A was found during a police search of the area, in nearby woods. He declined to comment during interview.

The submission request is to connect Mr A with the deployed airbag by transfer of DNA.

Example 2 (Inhaler etc)

This example is slightly more complex in that multiple exhibits have been submitted for examination concurrently, and there is an account given by the suspect.

A robbery has taken place during which a large amount of cash and jewellery was stolen and the occupants were threatened with a knife. A coat was found hidden in bushes in the rear garden of the property; this does not belong to the complainant or his family. CCTV of the scene shows the offender, wearing dark clothing and a baseball cap, disposing of an unknown article within a wheelie bin just around the corner. An inhaler from the pocket of the coat and a pair of leather gloves from the wheelie bin have been submitted for examination.

The suspect has been identified as a result of police enquiries; he states that he may have worn the coat/gloves at some time, but he lost them and has no knowledge of the robbery.

Example 3 (sexual)

This is an alleged sexual assault upon a vulnerable female in a care home, by a careworker. There is no specific account from the complainant due to her disability. She was discovered, by another careworker, lying on the floor by the side of her bed with her lower clothing pulled down to just above her knees. Mr C was found by the witness in the complainant’s en suite bathroom (which wouldn’t normally be used by staff); he was in the process of fastening his trousers. Mr C provided a ‘no comment’ interview, other than to say he got ‘caught short’ and used the complainant’s toilet to urinate.

The interpretation of the scientific findings is quite complex, but has been expressed in the most abbreviated way possible.
**Example 4 (blood)**

In this case, the use of photographs to present the scientific findings is explored. This is encouraged where it adds value and assists the reader in understanding the findings.

An assault occurred outside a nightclub, the complainant sustained deep cuts to his face and arms, which bled. The suspect was observed leaving the scene in a taxi. Mr D was arrested from his home address approximately 9 hours later, and clothing was seized which matches the description of that worn by the offender at the time of the incident. A pair of bloodstained gloves were recovered from the back of the taxi.

The suspect admits being at the nightclub that night but states he was heavily intoxicated and has little recollection of events, however, he does not think he assaulted anyone, nor did he witness any disturbance; he left on foot.

**Major Crime Walk-Through**

Operation Sandford is the investigation into the murder of Mr E, aged 26, who lived with his girlfriend, Miss W, aged 25, at 99 High Street, Sandford.

At 0934hrs on Thursday 17th December 2015 Police received a telephone call from Miss W reporting finding the body of her boyfriend at their home address. Miss W had just returned home from a night shift at work. She had been concerned having not heard from her boyfriend throughout her shift, which was unusual. Police and Paramedics attended, life was pronounced extinct.

99, High Street, Sandford is the middle property of 3 through-terrace houses. Entry to the address is via the front facing door which is accessed from the pavement through a small paved yard. Entry can also be gained via the rear door which is accessed from a small driveway off the main road which permits access to the rear of the three terrace houses and two further addresses behind. Entry to 99, High Street, via the front door grants immediate access to the small front facing lounge. Beyond the lounge is a small kitchen. The back door leads from the kitchen to a small rear yard. There are stairs from the kitchen leading up to the first floor where 2 bedrooms and a small bathroom are located.

The front door of 99, High Street has a CCTV camera attached to the top of the door frame. This CCTV is operational and was recording at the time of the offence. This CCTV shows the pathed yard of the address and the pavement beyond but does not show the front door or immediately in front of it. There is no CCTV coverage of the rear of the address.

CCTV seized from the scene shows a male, believed to be the suspect, approaching the front door of 99 High Street at 17:38:51 on Wednesday 16th December 2015. Further CCTV enquiries reveal the suspect approaching the scene along the High Street from the direction of the town centre and leaving via the same route at 1823hrs, suggesting he has been inside the address for anything up to 45 minutes.
• **Initial Scene Visit**

Scientists attended the scene on the evening of the 17th December and re-visited on the 18th December 2015.

There was considerable disturbance within the lounge of the address with furniture upturned and heavy bloodshed. The body of Mr E was found lying on his back on the floor with his legs straight and crossed at the ankle. A cushion from the sofa was found over his upper body when discovered by his girlfriend but was moved to assess for signs of life. There are also signs of disturbance in the kitchen with footprints in blood found on the floor. There appeared to be little activity upstairs apart from the landline phone, ordinarily located in the lounge, which had discarded at the top of the stairs.

A number of blood swabs were recovered, which may be ‘foreign’ to the scene, and possibly shed from the offender rather than the victim. Similarly, blood drips on the trousers of the victim may have originated from someone other than the wearer.

• **Fast Track actions**

Phase One – to identify whether or not there is any ‘foreign’ blood at the scene, which may help identify the offender

Phase Two – to determine whether or not the pair of discarded disposable gloves found on the pavement outside 89, High Street, Sandford may relate to the incident.

• **Further Forensic Examination**

A suspect, Mr Z, was later identified through CCTV and family enquiries; he was charged with murder but during initial accounts, denied any involvement whatsoever. Shortly after arrest, his body was mapped for injuries and photographs taken of cuts to his hands. His motor vehicle (believed to have been driven by him after the commission of the offence) was seized for examination and further work was requested in an attempt to connect Mr Z with the gloves (JCD/2&3) recovered close to the scene.

**MG22c example (blood interpretation)**

A DNA match has previously been obtained from blood recovered by CSI from the inside of the front door handle of a dwelling on Leaping Lane, which had been subject of a burglary. Mr V has given an account, stating that he is not responsible for the burglary but on the day in question, he remembers being assaulted by a man, unknown to him, with a metal bar. He bled as a result of this assault and believes his blood must have been deposited within the dwelling by secondary transfer from the true offender. When questioned further, he went on to state that he was struck only once with the metal bar and did not describe any contact between himself and his attacker, after the commencement of bleeding.