

Curriculum Vitae
Kathryn Thorndycraft – Pope CDE MEWI

1963 – 1972 After completing my education at Tynemouth High School to GCE Level I commenced working for Lloyds Bank PLC in their branches in Newcastle upon Tyne, Chopwell Co. Durham and South Shields

1972 – 1984 I had time out from working to bring up my children in which the final three years were spent living in Rio de Janeiro where the children attended the British School and I also undertook voluntary work. During my period there I took on the voluntary position as Secretary of the Royal Society of St George.

1984- 1990 returning to Scotland I commenced work again with Lloyds Bank PLC

1990 – 1998 I commenced a new career working for Grampian Police in their Identification Department as a 'Questioned Document Examiner' after three years of 'on the job' training which included a short experience at the 'Questioned Document Department' of Birmingham Police. During my first year I undertook work and trained in all aspects of 'Identification' of the crime – 'Scene of Crime', 'Forensic Photography' and 'Fingerprints' I also took part in Mock Trials.

I was authorised as a Forensic Document Examiner by The Secretary of State for Scotland, in 1993 to report on Handwriting and Document examination and attend Court as an 'Expert Witness'

1998 – To date I started my own Company – FHDl – Forensic Handwriting & Document Investigation, in which I undertake casework mostly for Defence Lawyers and large Firms with internal disputes. My casework takes me all over the UK, Republic of Ireland, Europe and Worldwide. I have undertaken casework in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Australia and Nigeria.

The nature of my work is to compare and examine handwriting and documents to determine whether or not genuine often using specialised equipment to decipher alterations, erasures and indentions. If necessary I attend Court or an Industrial Tribunal as an Expert Witness

I have given Expert Witness evidence on many occasions in various Courts including High Courts, Sheriff and District Courts. I am on the Forensic Science Societies list of Independent Consultants, in the UK, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland.

I am a member of the 'Expert Witness Institute' and also of 'NADE' (National Association of Document Examiners) with whom I have been qualified as a Certified Document Examiner for over 12 years. During some of this time I was invited to be on their Board.

In 2014, was privileged to become a member of the Worshipful Company of Security Professional (the 108th Worshipful Company in the Inner City of London) , obtaining the Freedom of the Company in November 2015 and the Freedom of the City of London in March 2016.

I attend Conferences on Document Examination and the role of the Expert Witness both in the UK and throughout the world. Being a member of NADE (National Association of Document Examiners) I meet up most years usually in the USA and attend an extensive programme on the examination of documents and handwriting, this involves discussing with my fellow members the various caseworks we are involved in. I also take part in International Quality Assurance Trials ensuring that up to date methods of examination are maintained.

For several years I was invited to give lectures at Dundee University to Students on their MSc course in 'Human Identification'. I have also given numerous talks to various Professional organisations such as Lawyers in order for them to gain CPD (Continued Professional Development) points

I have in recent years take part in a Gaelic TV Documentary programme which involved the analysis of handwritings involved in a murder on a small Island in the 20th Century. I was also on BBC Reporting Scotland News Programme where they profiled both me and my business.

One of my biggest Court cases whilst working for the police was one which made Scottish Legal History due to the large sentence awarded. It involved £100 million of pure cocaine brought into the West Coast of Scotland by a Spanish Sea Captain. The handwritten note found in his cabin which then identified him and connected him to men on the mainland which solved the case.

I have a very large caseload and in the last few years some very high profile cases including murder/shootings and major frauds in other countries including Russia and Pakistan .

In June 2015 I took on a graduate as a trainee in my business – Catriona MacDonald who now as part of her 2 year training is undertaking Joint Forensic Science Reports with me and will be applying to take her written examination with NADE at the May 2017 Conference.

Kathryn Thorndycraft- Pope CDE MEW
Forensic Document Examiner
17th January 2017