

# The Fingerprint Inquiry | Scotland

## Glossary of terminology

- **Core participant**

The expression “core participant” comes from the Inquiries (Scotland) Rules 2007. The Chairman can designate an individual or organisation as a core participant. The Chairman may decide that a person should be a core participant for all or part of the inquiry but cannot make a person a core participant without that person’s consent.

Some of the factors that the Chairman takes into consideration when deciding whether a person should be designated as a core participant are:

- Whether the person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates
- Whether the person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates
- Whether the person may be subject to significant or explicit criticism during the inquiry or in any report by the inquiry.

A core participant or their lawyer may apply to the Chairman for permission to question any witness who is giving oral evidence to the inquiry.

- **Witness**

Someone who gives evidence to the inquiry. The evidence may be written or oral. A core participant may or may not also be a witness.

- **Inquiries Act**

The Inquiries Act 2005 - An Act of the UK Parliament, extending to the whole of the UK. There are also Inquiry Rules made by Scottish Ministers. This is the legislation under which the Inquiry operates.

- **Y7**  
A mark which was identified as the left thumb of Ms McKie found on a door-frame surrounding the door into the bathroom where the body of Miss Ross was found.
  
- **XF**  
A mark which was identified as the right forefinger of David Asbury found on a Christmas gift tag in Miss Ross's house.
  
- **QI2**  
A mark, part of which was identified as the right forefinger of Miss Ross and part as a fingerprint of David Asbury, found on a biscuit tin containing money in Mr Asbury's home.
  
- **QD2**  
A mark which was identified as David Asbury's found on a banknote in the biscuit tin.
  
- **Initial Hearing**  
One of two preliminary hearings of the Inquiry. Held in October 2008.
  
- **Procedural Hearing**  
One of two preliminary hearings of the Inquiry. Held in November 2008.
  
- **Terms of reference**  
The Inquiries Act defines the terms of reference as:
  - (a) the matters to which the inquiry relates;
  - (b) any particular matters as to which the inquiry panel is to determine the facts;
  - (c) whether the inquiry panel is to make recommendations;
  - (d) any other matters relating to the scope of the inquiry that the Minister may specify.

In accordance with the requirements of the Act Scottish Ministers agreed the terms of reference after consultation with the Chairman of the Inquiry.

- **Submissions**

A presentation or argument made to the Inquiry Chairman about, for example, the procedure and conduct of the inquiry (as distinct from evidence presented to the Inquiry)

- **Oral evidence**

Evidence heard “live” at a hearing.

- **Determination**

Another word for decision. In the context of the Inquiry, a term used in the legislation for a decision by Scottish Ministers about conditions to do with awards of expenses to witnesses for legal representation.

A more extensive glossary will be available on the Inquiry’s website:

[www.thefingerprintinquiryscotland.org.uk](http://www.thefingerprintinquiryscotland.org.uk)