

FORM F1.

Request for forensic analysis match funding

- The Forensic Analysis Fund is only accessible to UK police officers and UKBF officers.
- Please complete the following fields, save and then email this form to: stephanie.pendry@traffic.cjsm.net
- You will receive an email confirmation of receipt within 24 hours and should be contacted regarding the case within 3 days.

Name / Rank	PC Julie Smith
Constabulary Address	Fictitious Constabulary, Main Street, Nowhere, ZZ3 TOP
Telephone & mobile	01457 324XXX (direct office line), 07432 XXX432 (when on duty)
Email	Julie.smith@fictitious.pnn.police.uk
Case ref	Inc 42 11/05/19
Date	04/03/20
Authorising officer signature Inspector or above	Inspector Robert Carter
Mobile number of authorising officer	07967 XXX943

This is an example form for a completely fictitious case that requires radio-carbon dating to age a specimen. It includes some handy hints to help you complete your own FAF application. All text in blue has been completed by the applicant.

Possible offence in relation to:

COTES Wildlife and Countryside Act Other

If other, please specify:	Customs and Excise Management Act 1979
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PLEASE NOTE:

- Please be accurate with level of funds required. Additional work or increased costs will not be authorised. A further application to the fund will be required if costs increase.
- This fund can pay the first £300 plus up to 50% of additional costs of any forensic test. Match funding is required for amounts over £300.
- Any media articles must acknowledge FAF as a source of funding (see notes page 5).
- Should the case go to court, it is required that an application for costs is submitted to the court and any costs recovered are reimbursed to FAF (MG19 form).

Case information:

Please provide a case summary and objective of the forensic testing. Consider: -

1. Circumstances of the alleged offence(s) including date(s)

On 23rd February 2020, four pieces of what appeared to be tortoiseshell were observed for sale on the internet from a UK registered seller. Following initial investigations, the seller was visited by the police on the 15th March 2020. The suspect was arrested at his home address on suspicion of offences relating the thread in endangered species and a search was carried out under section 32 PACE. A number of items of suspected tortoiseshell were seized together with paperwork.

The suspect in possession of the items claims that all items are antiques and are therefore not subject to the ban on trade. There was no mention in the sales advert of the existence of an Article 10 certificate or re-export permit or the requirement for them though the seller offered worldwide shipping. The suspect stated that he was unaware of the need for an Article 10 certificate but also said that he was more than happy to follow this process now that he is aware of the requirement. He failed to explain how he came into possession of the items and it is considered likely that the items are not antique and would therefore not be exempt from the requirement for an Article 10 certificate, or for re-export permits if being sold outside the EU.

The seized items have been examined by expert Dr Andrew Kitchener who has provided a report evidencing that many of the items seized are made from marine turtle shell.

CPS advice has been sought and they wish for radiocarbon dating to be carried out on some of the items of tortoiseshell that Dr Andrew Kitchener identified as 'new' to seek clarification as to whether these items are pre or post 1947.

2. Specific offence(s) being investigated

Being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of a restriction upon the exportation of goods imposed by Article 5 of Council Regulation (EC) 338/97, in relation to specimens of a species listed in Annex A to Council Regulation (EC)338/97 namely Elephant ivory (Elephantidae sp). Contrary to section 170(2)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979

Keeping for sale derivatives of marine turtle (Cheloniidae sp), listed in Annex A to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 and in contravention of Article 8 of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97.

Contrary to Regulation 8(1) and (8) of the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997.

Acquiring for sale derivatives of species, listed in Annex A to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 and in contravention of Article 8 of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97, namely marine turtle (Cheloniidae sp).

Contrary to Regulation 8(2) and (8) of the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997.

Case information:

3. Details of items seized and how these items have been stored. If there are multiple items, please provide details for each item

The four items seized are all marine turtle:

SG13.9861 = bangle

SG13.9862 = box

SG13.9863 = earrings

SG13.9864 = soap dish

All four items have been labelled as detailed above and stored individually in tamper-evident bags, held at room temperature in the secure evidence store at Winchester Police Station.

Be simple, yet specific. If there are multiple items, create a table for this section. The method of storage could have a big impact on what types of testing are possible.

The submitter clearly defines the points to prove relating to the age of the specimens and has identified an appropriate forensic test which could be applied in this case.

Case information:**4. What are the points to prove from the forensic test or specialist examination?**

The suspect claims that the items are antiques (pre-1947) but this is suspected to be false. We need to demonstrate that the tortoiseshell was taken from a marine turtle after 1947 or was worked to produce the finished product after 1947.

We have discussed the options for forensic radiocarbon dating analysis with Prof. A. Jing at SUERC who has confirmed that he is able to undertake testing to show whether or not the tortoiseshell was growing before or after 1950. A post-1950 result would provide proof of illegal trade.

Radiocarbon dating will be carried out on the 4 items to identify if they are post 1947 and as such aren't covered by the antiques derogation.

5. Please provide accurate costing and specifically state what proportion of these costs is being applied for from FAF. Please include details of who is carrying out the forensic test(s)

Radiocarbon dating costs £315 + VAT per sample plus a report charge.

RCD 4 samples, plus report: £1260 + VAT for analyses, £110 no VAT for the report.

Total is £1,622.

We would like to claim 50% of the costs from FAF plus the £300 covered in full = £961.

The four tortoiseshell items are very different from each other. We would like to test all four samples, rather than just one, as we believe that they may originate from different sources and support the belief that the suspect is involved in multiple trade activities.

The testing would be performed by Prof. A. Jing, SUERC, Scotland

Identify a suitable forensic provider for the test you need to carry out and obtain a quote. Be specific about what funds you will be seeking from the FAF, in line with the note at the start of this form.

Case information:

6. The importance of this in relation to other evidence in the investigation – what could the forensic evidence add to the case?

This evidence is crucial in furthering this case. Without it the CPS will not be in a position to proceed with prosecuting these offences without the evidence to show that the items are post 1947 so do not fall under the antiques derogation.

Here you must emphasize the importance of the testing. For this case the offence cannot be proven without this evidence.

Case information:

7. Details of any other forensic tests which have been considered or completed. If completed, please provide a copy of the forensic test results with your Forensic Analysis Fund application

All items have been physically examined by Dr Andrew Kitchener and have been identified as marine turtle.

For this case the species identification of the specimens was necessary before the radio-carbon dating. In other cases, additional forensic tests may be considered depending on the outcome of the testing requested in this form. If there are alternative methods that were considered, list them here and mention why they have not been chosen.

Case information:

8. Any other information relevant to the case, such as if a bail date applies, or other date for which this analysis and evidence is required e.g. any time bars for offences, or court dates

There is no bail date set as the suspect is released under investigation. There are no time bars in relation to these offences.

It is imperative that all crucial dates are included here. From court dates through to time bars for offences.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

As a condition of accepting these funds, should the case go to court, it is required that an application for costs is submitted to the court and any costs recovered are reimbursed to FAF (MG19 form).

In addition, all FAF recipients must include the following information in the 'notes' section of any press release or media work carried out:

“The Forensic Analysis Fund (FAF) offers financial support to police and customs officers seeking to carry out forensic analysis during a wildlife crime investigation. WWF, TRACE, RSPB and Defra have all contributed to the scheme. For amounts up to £300 the scheme will cover full forensic costs. For amounts in excess of £300, the scheme will cover the initial £300 plus 50% of the remainder. The fund has been established to encourage the use of forensic techniques to help solve wildlife crimes and comes under the banner of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW). Many wildlife cases which make use of forensic analysis would otherwise have failed to reach prosecution stage or be eliminated at an early stage. Founded in 2008, the scheme has already provided money to help support over 40 cases.”