

COMMENTS AND OPINIONS

Before attempting to address the specific questions asked of me by Ms. Fitzmaurice in her letter dated May 5th, 2005, I would like to address three specific issues which I consider to be particularly important.

1) INJURIES SUSTAINED ON 27.04.97

I must confess that I find determination of the injuries sustained by the deceased on 27.04.97 much more difficult than I had anticipated. This is, I think, partly due to the inadequacy of the clinical and the nursing notes made on 27.04.97, and partly due to the duration of survival of eleven days before death, with the consequent modifications, by healing, of the injuries.

Perhaps I could address each body area in turn, and try to draw some reasonable conclusions:-

a) SIDES OF HEAD

Clearly, there was a bruise on each side. The CT scan report from 27.04.97 refers to the left temporo-parietal region and the right temporo-occipital region: Professor Crane refers to the left temporalis muscle and the right parietal region. Despite these differences, and allowing for healing and the possible effects of gravity, I am sure that these are the same areas of bruising.

These presumably represent at least one blunt force impact to each side, and more than one impact may well have been involved; I would have thought that punches, kicks and/or stamps are likely to have been responsible.

I note references in the Nursing Notes to an abrasion on the left side. This suggests possible contact with a rough surface (e.g. the roadway), and I therefore wonder whether the left side of the deceased's head was in contact with the roadway when the injury to the right side of his head was inflicted.

I also note what I think is the only entry referring to an external injury on the right side, - "redness also on temporal region right side"; I