

CPD Questions - Paige McElhinney and Emma Priest

1. If a statement from forensic scientist says that there is a “strong” DNA link to a client from a saliva sample on a jacket, how can the limits on the testing carried out by ESR allow arguments that there may be a weak link to that jacket having been worn by the client?
2. Explain the “prosecutor’s fallacy” in relation to the probabilities in which a DNA match for a client is expressed – for example “that it is 400 million million times more likely that this DNA match would come from your client than from a person selected at random from the general New Zealand population. Does it mean that only one person in 400 million million has the DNA in question?
3. If there is a bloodstain on a shoe that is linked to your client but no tests have been done in relation to “wearer DNA” from cells that a wearer would usually leave on a shoe, how can you argue that the shoe does not belong to your client?