

CRIME SCENE MANAGEMENT CASE STUDY

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Presented to:

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OPERATION CONIFER

26 NOVEMBER 2000



• **Victim:** Leanne Tiernan



Suspect/Culprit: John Taylor

LAUNCH OF OPERATION CONIFER

- On Sunday November 26, 2000
- A worried mother called the police
- Telling them that her daughter had not come home after Christmas shopping
- When initial inquiries prove fruitless, Yorkshire police launch

OPERATION CONIFER

- One of the largest missing person's investigation in their history!!!

9 MONTHS

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Detective Chief Superintendent

CHRIS GREGG QPM

Former DCS-West Yorkshire Police

- Leanne waved good bye to her family and set off on the shop bus, riding to Leed
- With her best friend Sarah to buy some Christmas presents

Initial Investigation





SHE ENTERED
THE DARKNESS
OF HOUGHLEY
GILL

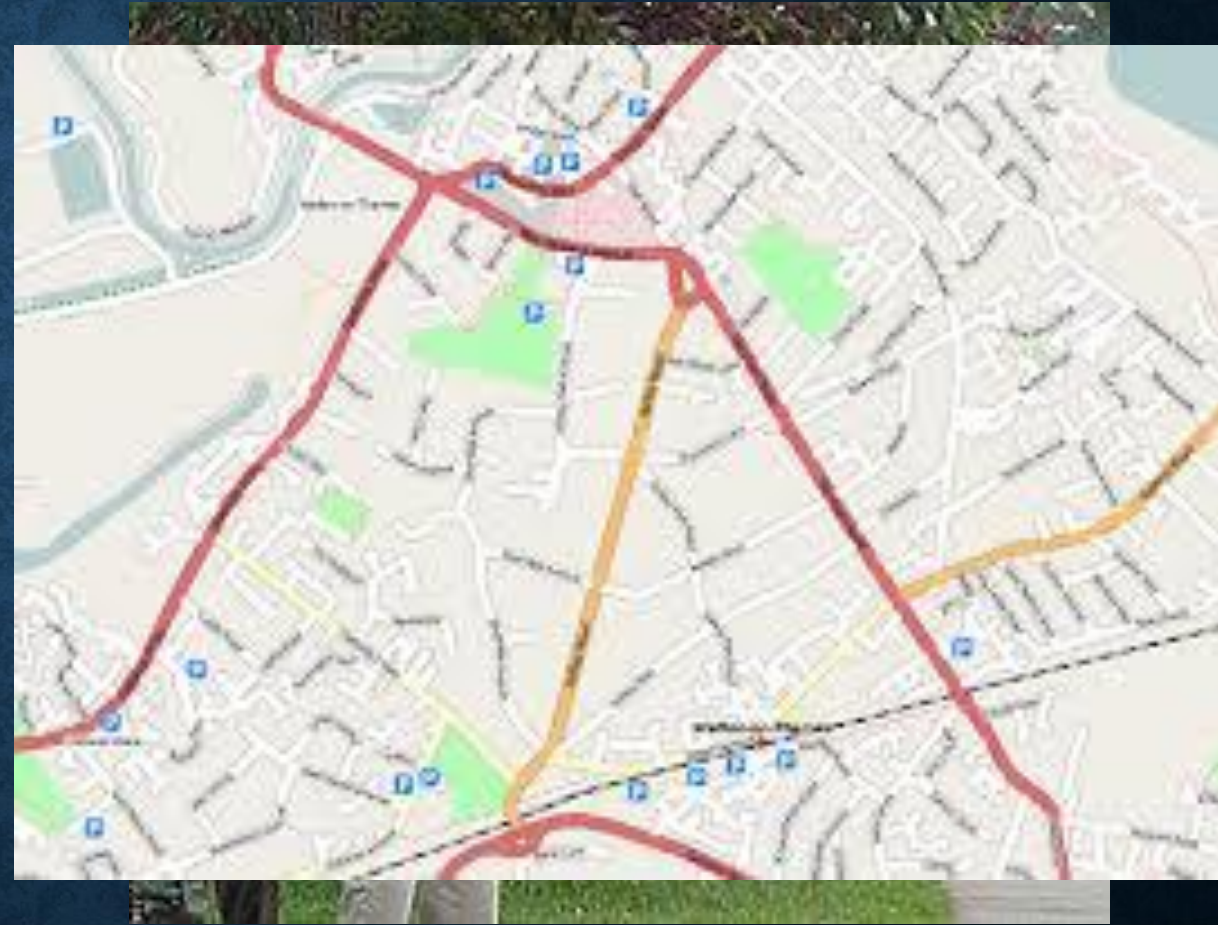


- It should have taken 20 minutes for Leanne to reach her home.
- At 5.30 pm --- Sarah rang her mobile phone.
- Her mom called her too --- it rang 20 times and rang off.
- She rang it again --- it was cut off after 4 rings.
- At 7.00 pm, she reported the police --- about daughter --- missing person
- And!!!

**THE CASE WAS HANDED OVER TO CHRIS
GREGG**

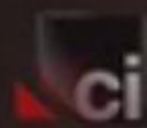


- Police launched a huge manhunt to find Leanne
- > 1,400 house-to-house inquiries were conducted
- 800 houses along her probable route — designated by the police as "Red Route"





It was clear that an early forensic response would be needed. So DCI Gregg called in the Forensic Science Service or FSS.



HEAD, TEAM FSS



PETER GRANT

Ex-Major Crime Specialist Advisor, FSS

INITIAL RESPONSE

- Her DNA profile and finger prints were needed
- So samples from her tooth brush for DNA profile
- And her finger prints from her diary were collected





[●REC]

RECONSTRUCTION

A local businessman offered a £10,000 reward --- for information leading to her safe return



STILL MISSING **£10,000 REWARD LEADING TO THE RETURN OF LEANNE** **CAN YOU HELP?**



LEANNE TIERNAN 16YRS

Leanne was last seen by a friend at 4.50pm on **Sunday 26th November 2000**, on **Houghley Lane, Bramley, Leeds**.

Leanne is 5' 4" tall, slim with fair hair often tied up in a 'french twist'. She has a ring in her left eyebrow. When last seen she was wearing a blue 'Ellesse' jacket (reversible with cream inner) with a half zip front pouch pocket. Under which she was wearing a black and white ribbed polo neck jumper, black boot leg trousers and black ankle boots.

**IF YOU KNOW HER WHEREABOUTS PLEASE CONTACT
PUDSEY POLICE STATION - 01132 414859 OR CALL**



Uniting against crime

10021864

WITNESSES ACCOUNTS

- Once the reconstruction was aired, immediate response was received
- 2 were of interest!!!
- A lady telling about a man's description
- A scream
- No evidence of a struggle was found
- No evidence linked to her abduction was found



INITIAL RESPONSE (cont.)

- On 4th December 2000,
- Police released an E-FIT facial composite of a man.
- He was described as being:
 - 5'8" tall and of stocky build
 - Round reddish face that may possibly be scarred...
 - Wearing a black woolen hat,
 - A three-quarter-length waterproof jacket and dirty jeans





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A major break through
After 9 months

THE CRIME SCENE

THE CRIME SCENE

THE CRIME SCENE

- On 20 August 2001
- A dog walker saw a bundle of rubbish dumped.
- He went to it and realized that it was a dead animal buried in a shallow grave.
- He opened a duvet cover and found a dead person.





THE CRIME SCENE



CRIME SCENE PROCESSING

- Police called in former SAS tracker "**Jungle Eddie**" McGee --- who had helped track down a murderer in 1982
- To identify the killer's most probable route through the woodland.

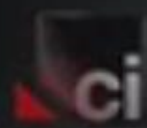


Information about JOHN TAYLOR

- A parcel delivery worker and lived on the same housing estate as Tiernan's
- He was known locally as "the pet man" and a poacher.
- Taylor's name was given to the police separately --- by two former women,
- Both saying that he had driven past the woods in their company and boasted of poaching there regularly.

Inquiries into TAYLOR'S Background

- Police began to conduct thorough inquiries into Taylor's background,
- One woman disclosed that Taylor told her he liked tying women up and locking them in a cupboard.
- The way she described the 'tying' was exactly how Tiernan was found tied.
- She also said that Taylor kept a bundle of the cable ties in a drawer next to his bed.



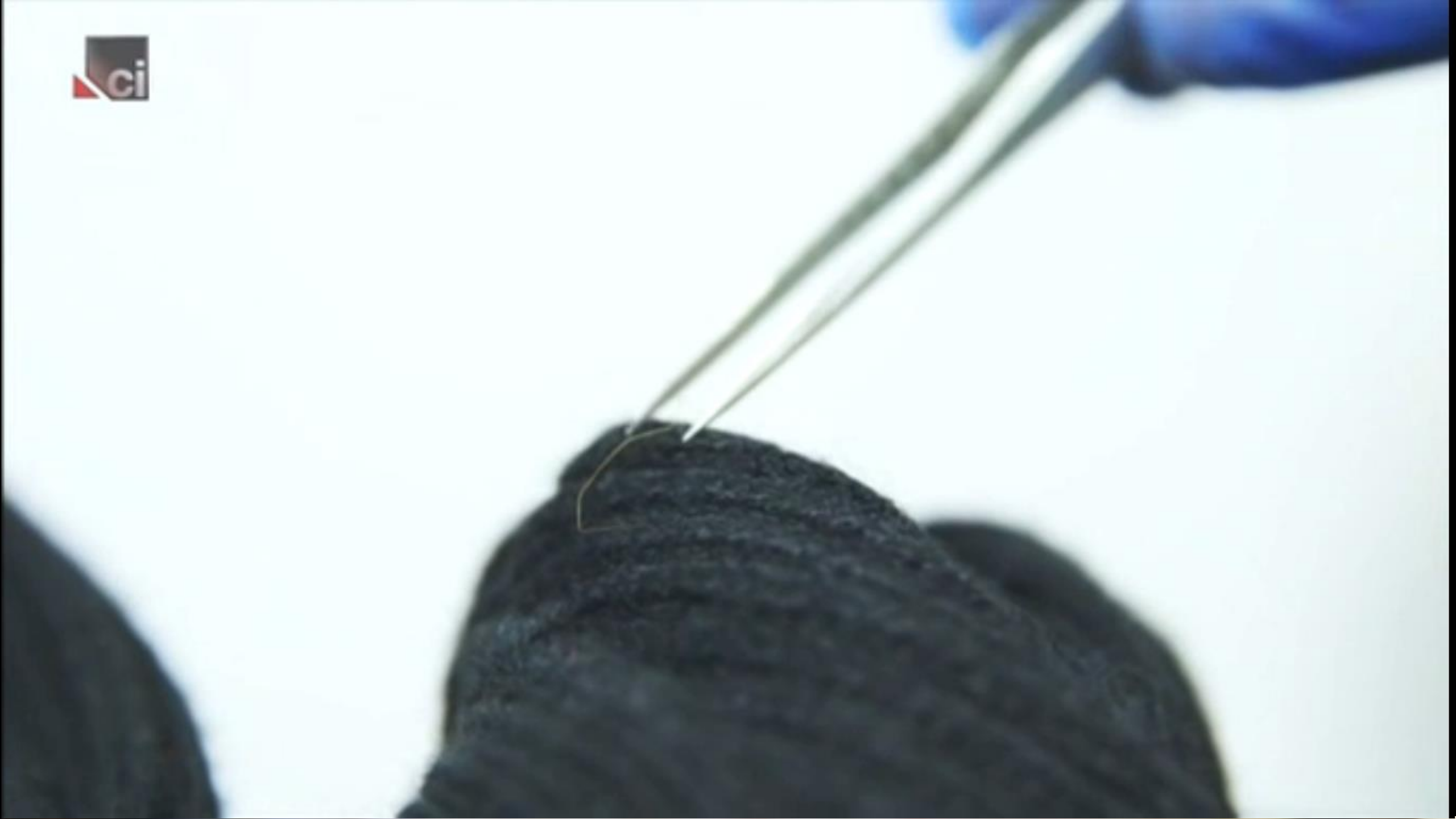
Dr. ADRIAN NEEDS
Forensic Psychologist

VICTIM'S BODY ANALYSIS

- The pathologist examining her body said that it had not been there since November
- She had been strangled
- Some forensic experts --- victim's dead body --- kept in cold storage or a freezer
- **IN PART TO AVOID DETECTION AND IN PART AS A TROPHY.**
- A cryobiology expert was called in --- examined the microstructure of Tiernan's cardiac tissue
- He concluded that the body could have been kept frozen for some time



EVIDENCE LIST



Dr. PATRICIA WILTSHIRE
Forensic Palynologist

THE DOG COLLAR

- Police tracked down suppliers of the dog collar
- Found that a man from Bramley --- had bought several similar dog collars
- Buyer's name was John Taylor!
- Major breakthrough for the investigation
- **Taylor → the prime suspect**
- Police exercised a search warrant at his home



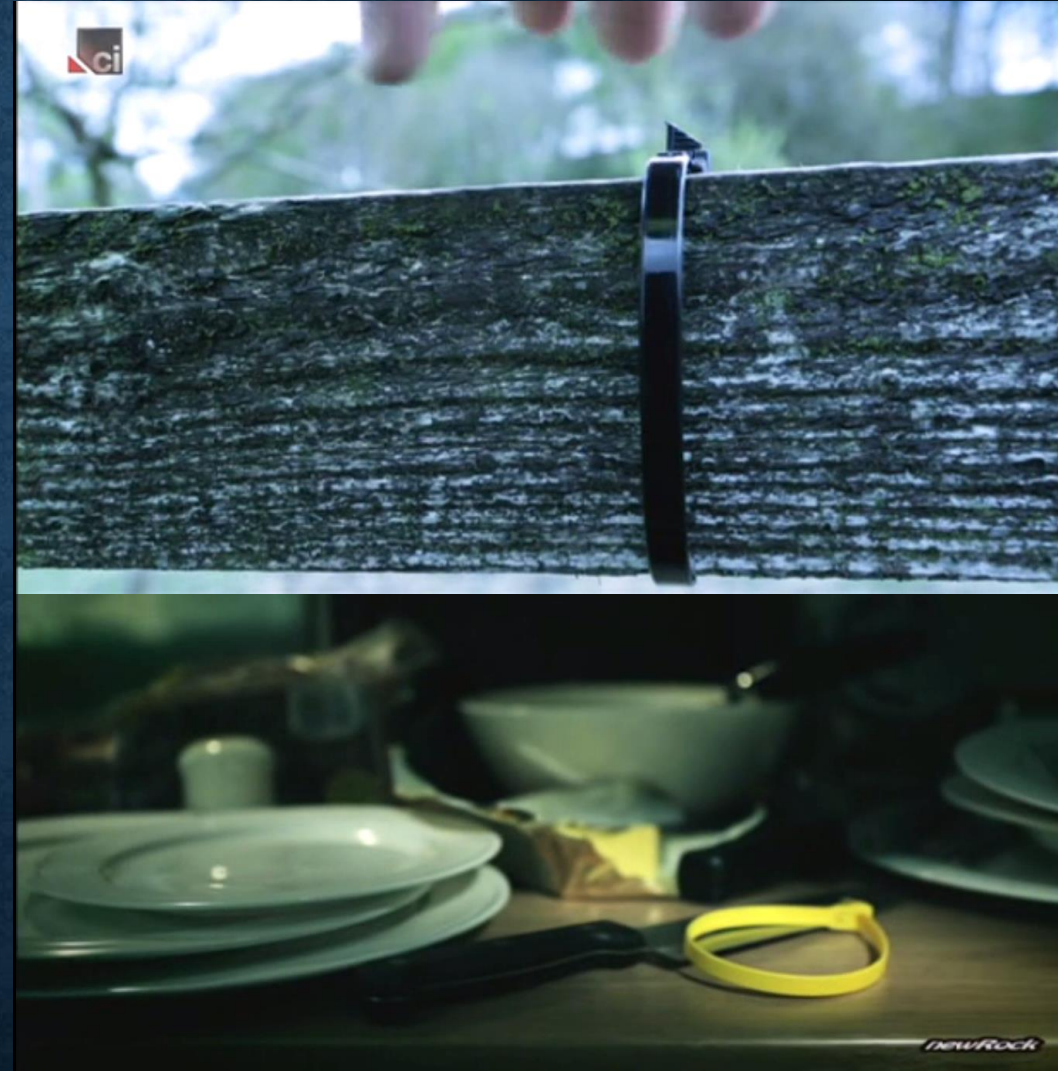
THE TWINE

- FSS examination of the twine --- it was of a unique type only manufactured by a company in Devon, England.
- Usually only supplied to the Ministry of Defence but;
- a small batch had been sold to the public for use as rabbit catch nets.
- The twine used on Tiernan's body **MATCHED** exactly the one found at Taylor's home!



THE CABLE TIES

- Some of the yellow cable ties used on Leanne --- were exclusively used by the Royal Mail, the company of ???
- Police searched Taylor's home --- found
 - more of the cable ties and
 - one of the dog collars in the drawers beside his bed.



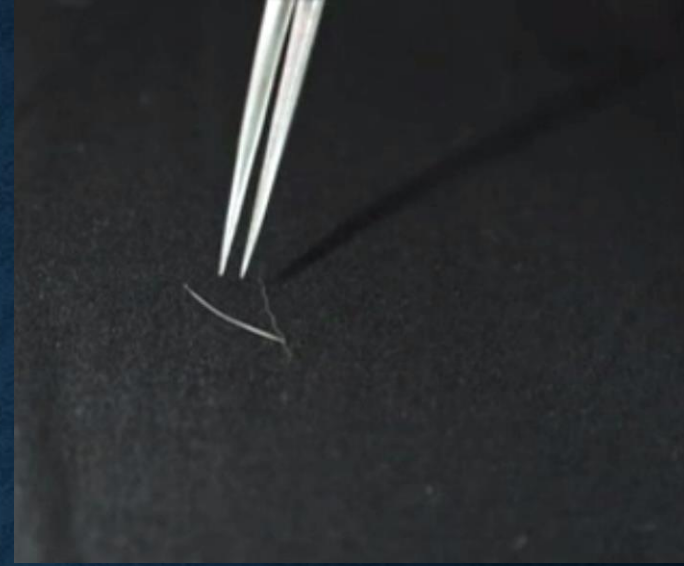
HAIR - as an evidence

- FSS examined the scarf which had been tied around Tiernan's neck
- Found a hair caught in the knot which did not belong to her.
- Unfortunately, there was not sufficient DNA in the roots for standard DNA profiling.
- Scientists found very small amounts of DNA in the hair shaft
- Used mitochondrial DNA testing



DOG DNA PROFILING

- Forensic investigators found dog hairs on Tiernan's body
- The dog hair DNA sample was sent to a university in Texas
- The university produced a partial profile for a dog.
- But police were unable to link this to Taylor, as the dog he owned at the time of Tiernan's murder had subsequently died.
- This was the first time dog DNA had been used in a British criminal case.



THE CARPET FIBERS

- Forensic scientists found a strand of pink nylon carpet fibre on her clothes
- The fibre had been dyed in an unusual way
- When police searched Taylor's home --- they discovered that he had recently removed all carpeting from the house and burned it
- But small traces of fibres matching those on her jumper were found caught on nails in the floorboards.

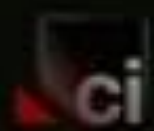


PRIMARY CRIME SCENE SEARCH

Green
plastic bags



BLOOD
STAINS
under
floorboards





Frame from a video released by West Yorkshire police of detectives interviewing John Taylor who initially denied being involved in Leanne's murder



His Version of Events





LEEDS CROWN COURT

MR. JUSTICE ASTILL

Defense: Lawyer Graham Stowe Bateson

Prosecutor: Robert Smith

THE ARREST

- On 8 July 2002
- 46yo John Taylor pleaded guilty to the kidnap and murder of Leanne Tiernan on 26 Nov 2000.
- He was sentenced to two counts of life imprisonment
- In Feb 2003, he was convicted of two rapes, based on DNA evidence, and given two additional life sentences.



The 7S's Of Crime Scene

Securing the
scene

Separating the
witnesses

Scanning the
scene

Seeing the
scene

Sketching the
scene

Searching for
evidence

Securing &
collecting
evidence

Thank You