" PPP "
People for Proper Policing in North Wales

New evidence in Jill Dando murder case

Police have found "conclusive" DNA evidence that could catch TV girl Jill Dando's killer - 11 years after she was shot.

It has led officers to pinpoint a suspect for the shooting of Crimewatch presenter Jill, 37, in April 1999. Forensic scientists have discovered tiny particles of evidence that could point to the gunman.

Barry George, now 50, was convicted of Jill's murder at the Old Bailey in 2001 but was cleared on appeal in 2008.

Scotland Yard's homicide command has been carrying out a full review of the case and material evidence has been passed to the forensic science service for analysis. Advances in DNA technology have unearthed the vital new clues. There is said to be a 20 per cent opportunity of matching the forensic breakthrough with a suspect.

A police source said last night *"This is the first time conclusive forensic evidence has come into the frame in this case. We are hopeful that it will lead to a charge and a resolution."*

It had been claimed by George's original defence lawyer **Michael Mansfield QC** that Jill could have been murdered by Serbian terrorists in revenge for an allied attack on the TV centre in Belgrade.

BBC chiefs were put under police protection after Jill's murder. Police also looked at underworld gangsters exposed by Jill on the Crimewatch programme as possible suspects.

However, detectives on the Operation Oxborough squad investigating her murder believed she was the victim of an obsessed stalker who had shadowed her in the days leading up to her murder.

They found more than 250 men obsessed with the star.

Her killer pumped a single shot into her head in a professional style assassination on her doorstep after dragging her head down to the ground.

The home-made bullet had been crimped and Police described it as a James Bond-style weapon.

The PPP comments …Ironically it was forensic evidence, traces of firearms residue, that convicted George originally. These powerful forensic tools can be dangerously misleading if contamination occurs by accident or design.