



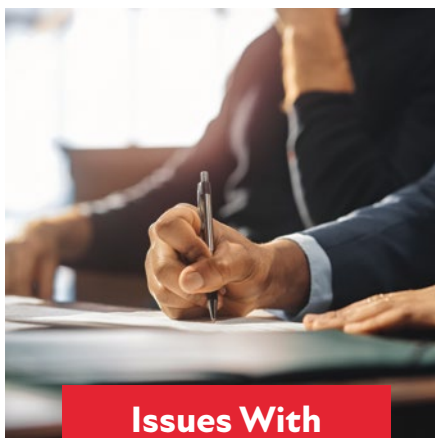
# Racial and Hair Colour Bias in Hair Strand Testing

Forensic Testing Service (FTS) uses an expert-led approach that avoids Society of Hair Testing (SoHT) cut-off levels, ensuring fair, accurate results for individuals with darker hair in family court cases.



## Not All Hair Tests are Equal

Drug molecules bind more to melanin, concentrated in darker hair. This can lead to higher drug levels in dark-haired individuals than lighter-haired ones, even with similar use. SoHT cut-offs don't account for this, increasing risks of biased results in court.



## Issues With SoHT Cut-Offs

SoHT cut-offs create a binary system: above is positive, below is negative. This ignores factors like hair colour, treatment, and exposure. Without expert context, results can mislead. Courts need interpretation, not thresholds, for fair decisions in child welfare cases.



## Fair Testing with FTS

FTS never uses SoHT cut-offs. We provide expert analysis that considers lifestyle, history, and conditions. Our accredited lab follows court guidance and ethical standards. Each report promotes fairness, reduces bias, and offers trusted insight for family court proceedings.

## Get in Touch

To instruct FTS toxicology services, please contact our Customer Support Team

☎ 01924 480272

✉ [expert@forensic-testing.co.uk](mailto:expert@forensic-testing.co.uk)

🌐 [www.forensic-testing.co.uk](http://www.forensic-testing.co.uk)



# How **FTS** Delivers Unbiased Results

Hair strand testing can be highly effective—if interpreted properly. At FTS, we go beyond the limitations of SoHT cut-off levels to deliver ethical, court-ready reports that account for race, hair colour, and individual context. Our approach reduces bias and supports better outcomes for children and families.



## **We Never Use SoHT Cut-Offs**

FTS avoids outdated SoHT cut-off levels. We interpret every result within the full context of the individual, taking into account lifestyle, hair type, and case details. Our approach complies with High Court and Court of Appeal guidance, ensuring each report meets legal expectations and scientific standards.



## **Contextual & Non-Discriminatory Reporting**

Our reports go beyond raw numbers. We assess lifestyle, history, ethnicity, hair care, and environmental factors to provide expert interpretation. This helps prevent miscarriages of justice and ensures individuals are not unfairly penalised due to hair colour or external factors.



## **Accredited, Reliable Science**

Our ISO/IEC 17025:2017-accredited laboratory in Yorkshire is UKAS-certified, ensuring results are reliable and court-admissible. We use advanced methods to detect a wide range of substances, including those that may not have been initially suspected. This provides a more complete and reliable picture of possible misuse.



## **Legal Support & Expert Instruction**

We support legal professionals with expert guidance from referral to final report, including help with court order wording and Part 25 applications. Our robust chain of custody and collection processes minimise legal challenge, saving time, cost, and uncertainty in proceedings.

## **Get in Touch**

To instruct FTS toxicology services, please contact our Customer Support Team

☎ 01924 480272

✉ [expert@forensic-testing.co.uk](mailto:expert@forensic-testing.co.uk)

🌐 [www.forensic-testing.co.uk](http://www.forensic-testing.co.uk)