

Fingerprints

Identity of fingerprints of a defendant with those of the apparent perpetrator of an offence is some evidence of the identity of the defendant as the perpetrator.¹ The identification of the characteristics of fingerprints and their patterns is essentially a matter of expert evidence, and experts have given evidence in the case. It is for you to consider whether on a consideration of the expert and other evidence in the case you are satisfied that the examined fingerprints are those of the defendant.²

¹ This direction is not always appropriate: cf *R v Peel* [1999] 2 Qd R 400 at 411.

² In England, juries are directed that the question whether the fingerprint is that of a defendant is not to be decided on the basis of any comparison carried out privately by the jury: see *Judicial Studies Board Specimen Directions* No 33.