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Bomber has gone from personal grudge to higher profile campaign

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THE PROFILE of the letter bomber will be pieced together from the forensic make-up of the bombs.

Every device carries with it the "signature" of its maker. The ingredients used will show whether the attacker is self-taught or professionally trained. The device could give hints towards a man with a military or industrial background.

The components used may also be specific to one area of the country. The letter bombs are probably incendiary devices rather than explosives which would explain why they are not causing significant injuries. They seem to use a circuit system with wires and a battery inside an A5 Jiffy bag. When the envelope is opened, the circuit is broken and the device goes off.

On one occasion it was reported to be a "crude-type firework".

If the bomber is self-taught, he would have practised exploding the parcels.

The letter bomb is traditionally a weapon used by someone with a personal grudge — in this case probably an angry motorist. The bomber has planned the attacks very carefully, researching the firms and the names of the chief executives.

The first parcel was sent to a private address in Kent and is likely to be the "root cause" of the bomber's grudge.

The next was posted directly to Paul Tinder, the chief executive of

Capita, in Westminster.

The last two have been more general, with the bomber not caring who opened the parcel. It suggests he has developed from a specific grudge into a higher-profile campaign. David Hill, an expert at security firm red24, said: "It looks as though this person has done a lot of research into the people and firms he has targeted. The details released so far suggest incendiary devices, rather than explosives. The difference is minimal. An incendiary device in an envelope opens with a flash and a small flame.

"The simplest example is a Christmas cracker. There is no explosive to cause a loud bang." He added: "The police will be looking for everything they can get forensically -- the ingredients, how it was put together and whether that provides clues as to who put it together.

"They will look to recover some DNA and they will also be thinking about geographical profiling. We do not know if the postmarks on the parcels have been recovered.

"It is unlikely the bomber will be using the same place to post each package, they may be moving around. There could also be more than one — it could be two people working together.

"Another key is that no one has taken responsibility. It might be that this campaigner is determined to continue."