

DR SOHOM DAS

**CONSULTANT FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST
& EXPERT WITNESS**

MBChB, MRCPsych BSc, MSc,

CONTACT DETAILS

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CREDENTIALS

APPROVED UNDER SECTION 12(2) OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1983 / 2007

ON GMC SPECIALIST REGISTER FOR FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

AVMA AND APIL APPROVED EXPERT

FULL INDEMNITY INSURANCE (MDDUS)

QUALIFICATIONS

AWARD / SUBJECT	YEAR	ESTABLISHMENT
MSc – Psychiatric Research	2012	University College London
MRCPsych – Membership	2011	Royal College of Psychiatrists
MBChB – Medicine and Surgery	2003	University of Edinburgh
BSc – Pharmacology	2000	University of Edinburgh

MEDICO-LEGAL EXPERIENCE

I have extensive experience of carrying out a range of psychiatric assessments and writing independent reports for a number of different courts (including civil and criminal court), since 2011.

I have authored over 1,000 criminal and civil court reports in my career; for the latter, at a ratio of around 45% for the Claimant, 35% for the Defendant and 20% as joint instructions).

I am the CEO of a medico-legal practice; Sigma Delta Psychiatry Expertise. Professional website: www.sigmadeltapsych.co.uk

I am the co-founder of North London Medico-Legal forum; a Continued Professional Development Group for psychiatric medico-legal experts who meet up regularly to discuss recent developments, recent experiences and review each other's reports.

I work part-time in my current Forensic Psychiatrist role (in a Criminal Court Liaison and Diversion schemes for the NHS). Therefore, I am able to dedicate several days per week to carry out medico-legal work. I am generally able to see clients and turn around reports very quickly.

CIVIL COURT EXPERIENCE

- Personal injury cases – assessing a range of psychiatric damages. **I specialise in complex and high value cases.**
- Clinical Negligence – assessing a range of issues, such as breach of duty, causation and condition and prognosis. I specialise in complex and high value cases.
- Historical sexual abuse cases.
- Immigration Detention assessments – including related to alleged unlawful detention.
- Capacity assessments. I have authored a patient information leaflet for the Royal College of Psychiatrists' website - <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/treatments-and-wellbeing/mental-capacity-and-the-law>
- Psychiatric consequences of a wide range of incidents and accidents (e.g. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, issues at work, physical disability).
- I have undertaken over 40 cases related to the Grenfell Tower fire.
- Detailed recommendations on prognosis and on psychiatric and psychological treatment.
- I have carried out formal medical-legal work for a number of different countries and jurisdictions, including Canada, Australia and Gibraltar.

As well as adults, I have carried out multiple assessments of children and adolescents.

CRIMINAL COURT EXPERIENCE

- Multiple murder cases.
- Fitness to plead.
- Defendants' mental state at the time of offences.
- Mental health disposals (including Hospital Orders, Restriction Orders, and Community Orders).
- Mental health defences (including Not guilty by Reason of Insanity, Diminished Responsibility and automatism).
- Capacity to form intent / mens rea.
- Risk Assessments, including violence, sexual offending, and risk of reoffending.
- Assessments undertaken in low, medium and high secure psychiatric hospitals, prisons (men and women) and Immigration Centres. I have dealt with high-profile cases, including those covered in the media.
- A wide range of alleged offences; from fraud to murder and terrorism.
- Cases on behalf of the Defence, as well as the Crown Prosecution Service.

OTHER MEDICO-LEGAL WORK

I have experience in authoring:

- Family court reports.
- Coroner's Court (including providing oral evidence).
- Employment Tribunal reports (including grievance investigation assessments).
- Mental Health Review Tribunal reports (both as the Responsible Clinician, and as an independent psychiatrist).
- Parole board reports (including giving oral evidence).
- Immigration Tribunal reports.
- Evaluation of psychiatric consequences of a legal detention by the Home Office.
- Formal capacity assessments.
- Reports for the Ministry of Justice (such as Annual Statutory Reports and leave reports).
- Serious Untoward Incident reports.
- Undertaking assessments and providing written and oral evidence for court in foreign territories (including for the British Indian Ocean Territory, Gibraltar and Canada).

MEDICO-LEGAL TRAINING

I have had extensive training in medico-legal work. In recent years, this has included:

- Regular formal anonymised feedback about the quality of my reports from solicitors, as part of my formal annual appraisal (most recently, April 2024).
 - Regular Case-Based Discussion assessments regarding my own challenging medico-legal cases; as formal Common Professional Development activities; within my peer group, recognised by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
 - Good-standing for my Common Professional Development activities; officially recognised by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
 - Mental Health Act / Medico-legal / Approved Clinician status refresher course, CNWL NHS Trust (November 2023).
 - European Psychiatric Association conference, Paris (March 2023).
 - Psychology Direct seminar – medico-legal updates / recent legal judgements (May 2023)
 - CNWL Suicide risk assessment and prevention training (October 2023).
 - Grange Medico-legal conference for Psychiatrists (September 2023)
 - (Royal College of Psychiatrists, Forensic Psychiatry Faculty) on numerous occasions (most recently, Vienna, March 2022).
- As a higher trainee (Specialist Registrar) in Forensic Psychiatry in London (2011 – 2014), I have had the privilege of supervision from several different renowned Consultant Forensic Psychiatrists, for both independent and NHS medico-legal assessments. This helped me hone my report-writing skills.

Previous medico-legal training has included:

- Grey's Inn Expert Witness Training
 - Practice cross-examination by trainee and experienced barristers.
- Regular formal medico-legal teaching sessions within forensic psychiatry higher training, including:
 - Medico-legal report club, involving presenting and critically appraising my own and other people's reports.
 - Tutorials by experts in civil and family court assessments.
 - John Howard Centre teaching sessions and North London Forensic Service academic morning; discussions about complex medico-legal issues and presenting difficult cases myself at these sessions to several expert consultant colleagues.
- Numerous medico-legal workshops at National Higher Trainee Psychiatry conferences and International Forensic Psychiatry Conferences, by experienced clinicians, judges, barristers and solicitors.

Other relevant activities / media work / experiences:

- I host a YouTube channel that dissects a whole range of topics related to mental illness and criminality: <https://www.youtube.com/apsychforsoremind>
- **I have appeared on numerous TV and radio shows and documentaries to discuss my work and comment on cases; including ITV's This Morning, BBC Moring Live, Sky News, LBC and Radio 4.**

Media website: <https://www.drdasmedia.com>

- I have written a book outlining my professional memoirs, titled: 'In Two Minds; stories of murder, justice and recovery from a Forensic Psychiatrist. Published by with Sphere Publishers; a subsidiary of Little, Brown/Hachette. It has sold over 15,000 copies.
- I am a regular guest speaker at CrimeCon UK, a large true crime convention.

- I have given formal training to psychiatrists, solicitors and judges about medico-legal work, on behalf of a number of agencies including Psychology Direct and AvMA (Action against Medical Accidents), a UK legal charity for patient safety and justice.
- I have undertaken formal psychiatric teaching to the magistrates in Willesden Magistrate's Court.

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I regularly participate in Continued Professional Development, for my medico-legal work, as well as my other work as a Forensic Psychiatrist. This includes:

- Regular critique of my reports by fellow expert psychiatrists within the North London Medico-Legal forum, which I co-founded (on-going basis, currently on hiatus)
- Regular feedback about the quality of my reports from solicitors, as part of my formal annual NHS appraisal (most recently, July 2023).
- Regular presentation of complex medico-legal cases to my Continued Professional Development peer group (most recently, December 2023).
- Regular attendance to a number of medico-legal conferences.
- Annual appraisal and regular GMC revalidation (next due May 2024).
- Keeping up to date with medico-legal and psychiatric journals.
- Being signed up to a number of medico-legal websites, blogs and newsletters.
- Regular presenting complex medico-legal cases with consultant colleagues.
- Obtaining feedback from clients (mostly solicitors and barristers) about the standard of my work; this includes formal feedback for my annual appraisal.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

MEDICAL LEAD / SENIOR PSYCHIATRIST WITHIN WILLESDEN MAGISTRATES COURT & HARROW CROWN COURT LIAISON AND DIVERSION SCHEMES

LOCUM FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST (PART-TIME), FOR CNWL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

FEBRUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2023

CLINICAL DIRECTOR: DR SATINDER SAHOTA

My responsibilities within the Court Diversion role include:

- Previously being the medical lead / senior psychiatrist within Harrow Crown Court Liaison & Diversion service.
- Membership of steering panel when CNWL took over contract for Harrow Crown Court.
- Assessing defendants with complex psychiatric presentations (escalated to me via the junior team members).
- Writing brief court reports within a very short turn-over at court (often within an hour or 2).
- Formally advising the court about major psychiatric issues (including fitness to plead).
- Initiating and undertaking Mental Health Act assessments and making formal medical recommendations.
- Contributing to and sometimes chairing business meetings between various teams and organisations within the court.
- Lead formal teaching sessions for other members of my team.
- Attending pan-London Court Liaison & Diversion focus groups.

My responsibilities within my previous prison role (also part time for CNWL NHS Foundation Trust; from February 2017 to May 2018) included:

- Overseeing the care of the psychiatric patients within the prison's Healthcare Unit.
- Clinical Leadership to prison clinical mental health team.
- Initiating treatment for prisoners suffering from mental illness (including prescribing medication and referring to our team of psychologists).
- Regular assessments / courts reports for a number of courts and solicitors; regarding recommendations for disposal (including formal transfer to hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983/2007) for prisoners.
- Clinical lead for weekly multi-disciplinary planning meeting within Healthcare Unit
- Contributing to ACCT assessments.
- Mental health assessments within the Segregation and Care Unit.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT (AT CONSULTANT LEVEL)

CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF LONDON CYRENIANS HOUSING (PART-TIME)

APRIL 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JAMES McNICHOLAS

Director of the AIR (Assessment, Independence & Recovery) Team, as well as being the Clinical Director of London Cyrenians Housing; a housing association (and charity) that specialised in housing clients with troubled backgrounds (Forensic Histories / Mental Illness / Dual Diagnosis / Learning Disability).

My responsibilities included:

- Leadership and supervision of team (consisting of nurses and social workers). Line management of whole team.
- Examination and feedback regarding risk assessment documentation across the organisation.
- Overseeing and advising on the care of complex and challenging clients; liaison with community mental health teams and staff within the housing projects.
- Assistance and advice for complex referrals, related to higher risk clients.
- Delivery of organisation-wide teaching, in a wide range of topic

RESPONSIBLE CLINICIAN FOR DANBURY WARD, LOW SECURE MENTAL ILLNESS REHABILITATION WARD, ST ANDREW'S HEALTHCARE, ESSEX.

MAY 2014 TO APRIL 2016 (PART-TIME)

LEAD PSYCHIATRIST: DR MUTHUSAMY NATARAJAN

Consultant responsible for the care of 14 psychiatric in-patients with significant forensic risk histories.

- Initiating and carrying out treatment plans for a range of patients on civil and criminal sections of the Mental Health Act.
- Providing leadership to an in-patient Multi-Disciplinary Team, including supervision and line management of a junior doctor.
- Chairing all Care Programme Approach meetings, and ward rounds.
- Writing a range of reports (including medico-legal, tribunal, CPA, leave reports) and supervising reports by junior staff.
- Frequent medico-legal report writing through the St. Andrew's consultancy service.
- Regularly providing evidence at all Mental Health Review Tribunals and Manager's Hearings.
- Regular attendance to Crown Court to give expert evidence on behalf of my patient group.
- Lead psychiatrist in Secure Training Centre (for adolescent offenders).

HIGHER TRAINING POSTS IN FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

(AS SPECIALIST REGISTRAR)

NORTH-EAST LONDON FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY SCHEME

JOHN HOWARD CENTRE, HACKNEY + CAMLET LODGE, NORTH LONDON FORENSIC SERVICE.

APRIL 2011 TO APRIL 2014

TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: DR MARY WHITTLE

The positions I undertook within my higher training included:

- Locum Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist at the John Howard Centre (3 months)
- Medium-secure male rehabilitation ward, Camlet Lodge (3 months)
- Medium-secure female ward, Camlet Lodge (6 months)
- Low-secure male rehabilitation ward, Camlet Lodge (3 months)
- 2 x Medium-secure male in-patient unit posts, covering PICU, acute and rehabilitation wards, John Howard Centre (18 months)
- Millfield's Unit, John Howard Centre; a therapeutic community within the Personality Disorder Service (4 months)

Additional Specialist Forensic Higher Training included:

- Participation in four different Court Diversion schemes.
- Regular scheduled outpatient clinics at HMP Pentonville and HMYOI Feltham.
- Specialist assessment of young offenders (including developmental disorders such as ADHD and autism).
- Regular Mental Health Act assessment.
- Treatment of patients at Broadmoor Hospital (High Dependency Ward)
- Co-facilitation of a year-long Schema-therapy (psychological treatment) group for personality disordered offenders.
- Co-facilitator of formal risk assessment tool (HCR-20) and psychopathy screening tool (PCL-SV training).
- Member of the Faculty of Management and Leadership
- Authored material for the Royal College of Psychiatrists website (patient information leaflet about capacity and podcasts, about anti-depressants and psychosis).

OTHER PREVIOUS PSYCHIATRY POSTS

(AT SENIOR HOUSE OFFICER LEVEL, OR EQUIVALENT)

INCLUDES CAMDEN & ISLINGTON ROTATION – CORE TRAINING

FEBRUARY 2006 TO MARCH 2011

TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: DR ANGELA HASSIOTIS

- Prison Substance Misuse, Detoxification Wing, HMP Pentonville (3 months)
- Forensic Psychiatry, Camlet Lodge, North London Forensic Services (6 months)
- Learning Disabilities Psychiatry, Camden LD Service (5 months)
- Addictions Psychiatry, IDASS North, Islington (6 months)
- Liaison Psychiatry, University College London Hospital (6 months)
- Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, University College London Hospital (6 months)
- General Adult Psychiatry, St. Pancras Hospital, London (6 months)
- Old-Age Psychiatry, Mascal's Park (6 months)
- Psychiatry Registrar, Sydney, Australia (12 months)

OTHER MEDICAL POSTS

AUGUST 2003 TO FEBRUARY 2006

- Accident & Emergency Registrar, Sydney, Australia (6 months)
- Intensive Care doctor, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle (3 months)
- Ear, Nose & Throat doctor, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle (3 months)
- Urology doctor, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle (3 months)
- Orthopaedic doctor, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (4 months)
- General Medical House Officer, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (4 months)
- Liaison Psychiatry House Officer, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (4 months)

REFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ANONYMISED COPIES OF ANY AFOREMENTIONED REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST