

Reassuring usability, providing ergonomics

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PERSONAL PROFILE

I have been working as an occupational ergonomist since 1980 when I was involved in increasing the operability of power station control rooms. In 1991, I founded the consultancy Interaction of Bath, now registered with the UK Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors for the provision of the full range of ergonomics and safety services, including process control room design, manual handling risk assessment, software tool development and expert witness work.

My academic background is strong: I am a Registered Ergonomist, a Chartered Physicist and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors. I take particular care with the quality of my written output; my reports have been commended as correct, clear and concise.

Legal work is a growth area, perhaps because of the tightening Health and Safety legislation and the increased awareness of ergonomics among employers and employees. I set out below my curriculum vitae relating to the provision of expert witness in ergonomics.

EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE

The legal cases to which I have contributed include the following:

- A claim against a hairdresser for 'beauty parlour syndrome': stroke caused by neck trauma
- A claim against a pharmaceutical company for injury during handling medicines
- A hairdresser's claim for RSI caused by overwork at fashion shows
- Defence against an improvement order for the workstations used for computer training
- A claim for upper limb injury from handling trolleys in the catering industry
- A production-line worker's claim for degenerative injury of the arms
- A claim for compensation for back injury from handling large window frames
- A production line worker's claim for RSI caused by a magazine insertion machine
- A cleaner's claim against her employer for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome caused by using a floor polishing machine
- A claim of RSI arising from unpacking boxes of clothing in the logistics industry.

Most of the cases in which I have been involved have included the production of a Joint Statement with the ergonomist for the other party, and I am experienced in presenting clearly the differing points of view.

SPLIT

To date, my ergonomics expert witness work has been split as follows:

- 85% for the Claimant
- 5% for the Defendant
- 10% as a Single Joint Expert.

GENERAL ERGONOMICS EXPERIENCE

One of the advantages of maintaining a portfolio of work that extends outside the legal domain is the perspective it gives of current employment practices in industry and elsewhere. This is very valuable in gauging the level of foreseeability of an injury. The following examples of projects I have carried out illustrate my experience of different industries:

- The supply of Display Screen Equipment workstation assessments to a major high street bank
- A EU-funded project concerned with the Human and Societal factors associated with resilience against terrorist attack
- The design and assessment of a secure mail opening facility, to mitigate musculoskeletal injury and enhance productivity
- The development and delivery of training courses in all aspects of ergonomics, risk assessment and safety case development.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Professional Bodies	Fellow, Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors APIL First Tier Expert (the highest tier) Member, HCI group, British Computer Society Chartered Member, Institute of Physics Member, Safety and Loss Prevention Group, Institution of Chemical Engineers
Doctorate	D Phil, Department of Physics University of York, 1981
Degree	Honours degree in Physics (2.i) Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, 1977
A-levels	Maths (A), Physics (A), Chemistry (A), Applied Maths (B), Maths Pure & Applied (B)

STANDARDS

I am familiar with all ergonomics standards, including ISO 9241 (Display Screen Equipment), ISO 10075-2 (mental workload), ISO 11064 (control-room design) and ISO 11228 (Manual Handling).

Health and Safety legislation such as the Manual Handling Operations Regulations (MHOR) 1992 and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 are central to my work.

My legal reports follow the format specified in the Civil Procedure Rules. I am aware of Practice Direction Part 35 and the Protocol for Instruction of Experts to give Evidence in Civil Claims.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

I was born in Bath in 1954. I am married to a teacher of modern languages and have two children. My interests are music (particularly opera), politics and food. I do not smoke.

Foreign languages: French (O level), Italian (colloquial), German (rudimentary)

I am happy to supply any further information that may be required.
