



## Current NHS Post

<b>Title</b>	Consultant Psychiatrist
<b>Start Date</b>	20 November 2003
<b>Speciality</b>	General Adult Psychiatry
<b>Employer</b>	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
<b>Base</b>	Antelope House Southampton SO14 0YG

## Other Roles:

- Expert Witness
- Royal College of Psychiatrists MRCPsych Examiner
- Accredited Educational & Clinical Supervisor
- Medical Appraiser
- Advisor- Southampton City CCG Mental Health Panel

## Skills & Experience

I have been working in various psychiatric settings since 1993. I have been a Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry in Southampton since November 2003. From November 2003 to December 2010, I worked as both a community and inpatient psychiatrist. From January 2011 to April 2013, I worked mainly as an inpatient psychiatrist, and within Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment Service, and thereafter as an inpatient psychiatrist.

I am currently a consultant psychiatrist for patients on acute wards. My work involves assessment and management of patients who suffer from acute, severe or enduring mental disorders, including psychotic, mood, personality and trauma/stress-related disorders, and drugs and alcohol misuse. Patients' conditions are often associated with other complex conditions/situations, such as forensic history (offending behaviour), violence, suicide attempts/deliberate self-harm, homelessness, immigration issues, and various general medical conditions. My work also includes assessment and management of patients who are treated with ECT. Detained patients under the Mental Health Act (MHA) make up between 50-60% of my patient group. I regularly take part in emergency and out-of-hours on-call: activities include assessment and treatment of patients in the community, police station, emergency department in the General Hospital. I am adept at all aspects of Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act and other legislations, including assessment, report-writing and attendance at Tribunals and Courts.

## **Expert Witness Practice**

I have been undertaking independent medico-legal work since 2008. My expertise covers all aspects of General Adult Psychiatric conditions, Substance Misuse (drugs and alcohol related conditions) and Forensic Psychiatry including: Schizophrenia and other psychotic conditions; Depression and Bipolar disorder; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other trauma/stress-related disorders; Personality Disorders; Anxiety and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCD); Factitious disorders (Munchausen syndrome); Drugs & Alcohol problems; Risk assessment e.g. deliberate self-harm/suicide attempts, violence, self-neglect; Parental assessment; Mental Capacity assessment.

I have written numerous reports that are compliant with the relevant laws and procedures for the purposes of the Criminal, Civil and Coroner's Courts; Family/Children proceedings, Immigration proceedings; Fitness to Drive, Employment and Fitness to Practice proceedings. I have given expert evidence under cross-examination at the Courts and Tribunals.

I regularly undertake academic and professional activities to maintain and improve my skills and expertise. I have relevant knowledge of the Laws and Practice Directions in relation to criminal and civil litigations, family proceedings, immigration proceedings and other legal framework; and I am experienced in writing court-compliant reports.

I am an Accredited Expert Witness, having attained the Cardiff University Law School/Bond Solon (CUBS) Civil and Criminal Expert Witness Certificates. I have attended the following medico-legal training in the last 3 years: Corporate Investigation Officers training; Excellence in Written Evidence and Courtroom Skills; Criminal Law, Procedure & Best Practice; Civil Law, Procedure and Best Practice, and Bond Solon annual expert witness conference.

## **Previous Training Posts, Skills & Experience**

**July 2000 – October 2003:** Higher Specialist Training (Specialist Registrar) within St Mary's and Charing Cross Psychiatry Training rotations in London: I worked with West London Mental Health NHS Trust, and Central & North West London NHS Trust. Duties and experience involved working in various Adult Mental Health settings, Forensic Psychiatric services including Low and Medium Secure Hospitals, Broadmoor Hospital (High Secure Hospital) and Prisons psychiatry, and Substance Misuse Services. I acquired considerable skills and experience in General Adult Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, Substance Misuse Psychiatry (Drugs and Alcohol misuse) and Liaison Psychiatry.

**September 1996 – July 2000:** Registrar in the Wessex Psychiatry Training Scheme in the Hampshire and Dorset areas. During this period I worked/trained in various psychiatric specialties including General Adult, Substance Misuse, Forensic, Older Persons and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy.

**1993 –1996:** Medical Officer in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Ghana Medical School & Accra Psychiatric Hospital in Ghana.

**1992 –1993:** House Officer in General Medicine, Surgery and Paediatrics in Ghana.

## **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Since 2004, I have been of Good Professional Standing with the Royal College of Psychiatrists with respect to CPD. I have been actively involved in CPD activities since I completed formal training in 2003. I am a member of a CPD Peer Group. I regularly attend conferences/seminars/courses and I actively participate in local national academic programmes. I am a member of the following faculties: Addiction, Forensic and General Adult Psychiatry.

## **Testimonials**

*I have been using Dr Bekoe from Southampton for most of my recent cases as I find his reports very quick, very thorough and of a high standard for use in Court work.*

[Solicitor]

*I am pleased to say that the Prosecution have finally seen that this whole prosecution is a nonsense and that they have agreed to discontinue it [the trial]. This is based entirely upon your Report and the opinion that you expressed about Mr H mental abilities in September 2016. I am therefore very grateful to you for your report as it was clearly crucial in persuading the Prosecution, even it took them longer than it should have done, to decide that Mr H should not be prosecuted.*

[Solicitor]

*Thank you for your most helpful report that has been circulated to the relevant parties.*

[Coroner]

*Your report was most helpful. It was a model of clarity, brevity and relevance to the statutory criteria we must apply. Most of us have seen several of your reports over the years and all reach the same high standard ... We also want to comment on your performance at the Panel hearing itself. Your response to our questions was courteous and good-humoured. You took pains to explain the complexities of the patient's condition in a digestible and informative way.*

[Barrister; Tribunal panel chair]