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Drug Expert Witness CV
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1987 – 2002. I joined the Royal Navy as a junior chef and progressed to Petty Officer prior to leaving. Whilst in the Royal Navy I was trained in the use of several firearms, firefighting, damage repair (flood emergency), a first aider, a military diver (underwater search techniques, first aid, navigation, hull examination) and NBCD (Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence), I also completed leadership and management courses. I served on the following Type 42 destroyers, HMS York, Edinburgh, Gloucester and the HMS Ark Royal (Aircraft carrier). I served on warships in the first Gulf war and the Balkans conflict. Type 42 Destroyers often carried out patrols in the Caribbean for several months at a time assisting US law enforcement with drug interdictions. I did not personally seize any drug related commodities during these deployments.

An additional activity of drug enforcement which I was aware of was whilst on deployment within UK waters, the ship I was serving on, was tasked to carry out an interdiction on a yacht suspected of carrying drug related commodities. The yacht had been identified as sailing from the Mediterranean Sea, through the Bay of Biscay and towards the UK. The Special Boat Service came aboard the Type 42 destroyer I was serving on, and they (the SBS) boarded the yacht, detained the occupants, and brought the detained persons onto the ship I was serving on. The yacht was then taken into Plymouth at which point the yacht, drugs and detained persons were handed over to law enforcement.

2002 – 2018. In 2002 I joined the Metropolitan Police Service. Between 2004 and November 2007 I was attached to the Crime Squad/Taskforce in Sutton police station where I specialised in proactive and reactive investigations into low level drug supply and associated crime. This role enabled me to work alongside units who

would supply specific intelligence in relation to the supply of controlled drugs which required an immediate response to the fast time intelligence. My responsibilities also covered the planning and execution of intelligence led drug warrants, briefing / de-briefing of officers involved, dissemination of the intelligence gathered and any subsequent investigation surrounding the result of the warrant.

During this period, I was the officer in charge of many investigations surrounding the supply and possession of controlled drugs at the lower end of the supply chain. I have carried out numerous interviews of suspects in relation to a range of drug related offences and spoke with people in respect of the purchase/supply and consumption of a wide variety of controlled drugs which assisted in understanding the surrounding prices, methods of consumption / supply, street slang and the drug arena they were involved within.

Between 2007 to 2016 I worked within the Middle Market Drug Partnership now known as The Organised Crime Partnership. This is a joint National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police Service unit which tackles the illegal importation and supply of controlled drugs. During this period, I worked alongside or communicated with officers from the HMRC, UKBA, DEA, Europol, Interpol, Belgium, Spain, France, Netherlands, Turkey, Japan, Brazil, USA, Albania, Romania, Italy, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the Banking industry and many other private institutions which are used by criminals to assist in their illegal activities of importing and supplying controlled drugs and also to launder the proceeds of criminal activities. I have taken every opportunity to obtain a greater understanding of drug markets throughout the world when working alongside international colleagues.

I have been the Officer in Charge (UK representative) of an investigation which was set up at The Hague (JIT) by Eurojust, compromising of the Belgian Federal Police, The French Ministry of Interior and The National Crime Agency (OCP). The operation name in the NCA was Operation Behave, the SIO was NCA Officer Nigel Eeles. This was in respect of a Nigerian organised criminal network based within the UK involved in the importation of Cocaine from South America to the UK and Europe, and the importation of Crystal Methamphetamine from West Africa to the

UK and onward supply to Europe and Japan. This investigation involved a significant amount of international phone intercept material which required interpretation from French to English. I was served several Japanese case files relating to persons arrested in Japan, which were identified as being linked to this investigation, for importation of class A drugs into Japan. I had a Japanese interpreter who worked alongside me in Spring Gardens and liaised with Japanese law enforcement through the NCA.

I have been deployed on numerous covert/intrusive surveillance operations where I observed and recorded the transaction of cash and drugs from static and mobile observation points. I have been involved in the covert recording of conversations between members of various organised criminal enterprises involved in the international and national drug trafficking of class A and B drugs and I am also trained in tracking of vehicles and the use of covert surveillance techniques.

I have carried out investigations into several organised criminal networks who use fear and reward in relation to drug couriers, for example travelling to the Caribbean Islands and return to London carrying large quantities of class A and B drugs. I have investigated a UK based OCN involved in the importation of multiple tons of cannabis from South Africa using international air freight, I received a judge's commendation for my role in this successful investigation. I have also been involved as a surveillance officer and arrest team in a protracted covert investigation into the Vietnamese community involved in facilitating the set-up of cannabis farms throughout the UK.

I have carried out covert proactive/reactive investigations into offences involving Heroin, Cocaine, Crack, crystal meth, different forms of Cannabis and many other class A, B and C controlled substances. I have been involved in hundreds of operations/investigations either as the OIC, disclosure officer, telephones officer, exhibits officer, intelligence officer, surveillance officer or working alongside TP officers, dog handlers, firearms units, search teams and other units within law enforcement agencies. When working alongside and or carrying out my duties this activity has given me a greater understanding of drug market dynamics,

methodology in respect of communication, transportation and techniques employed by OCN's working at the highest levels of drug related criminality.

I have seized and or examined hundreds of coded documents, ledgers and debtor's lists and the common theme throughout each is that they are designed to keep account of the commodities in question, the associated income/expenditure and debts attributed to people involved. I have often found that authors of coded documents, although trying to mask the true nature of what is taking place must still be relevant to the commodities / actions in question. I have found that some codes are specific to the subject and are merely a distortion of what is taking place. I have been able to interpret evidence contained within documents and linked this to other aspects of the case in order to build a bigger picture. I have offered opinion on role and responsibilities to specific members of an OCN based on communication data. I have also been able to demonstrate links between coded documentation and other evidence to show the relevance of certain acts or commodities, and I have provided sound reasoning as to why certain people are not at certain levels of the supply chain as the prosecution may suggest.

I have been involved in many cases, either within the investigation team or as a drugs expert witness, which has required examination of European telephone intercept material and or covert audio recordings relating to organised criminal networks involved in the importation and national distribution of illegal drugs. These conversations although containing part code and or guarded speech can often be interpreted and facets of the costs, trafficking/concealment methods, properties, amounts of drugs and other logistical aspects of the enterprise can be identified and explained. This has also enabled me to obtain an understanding of the complexities into an established organised criminal network.

Having been involved investigating drug supply cases surrounding the "Chemsex" and male sex worker environment, I approached the London Club Drug Clinic which is run by the NHS and provides a service for men who have sex with men and consume drugs during sexual activity. I spoke with the clinical team which includes: specialist addiction doctors, psychologists, counsellors and nurses. I have regular

meetings with a previous client, and we speak about their life experiences surrounding their life as a sex worker and their experiences of being actively involved within the "Chemsex" environment. I have spoken with several male sex workers who have spoken openly about the "Chemsex" arena they worked within and specifically covered the use of GBL/GHB, Mephedrone and Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth).

I have attended specific locations relevant to the drug trafficking industry within the UK, examples of which being internal and international airports (cargo, freight and foot), ferry terminals, container terminals (deep rummage and x-ray of HGV's at Dover), inlet harbours for yachts, national / international railway terminals, numerous storage facilities, postal services and the Parcel Force headquarters to name but a few.

I have attended the Government Cannabis Facility (GPharm). Numerous growing and cultivating techniques were explained and I examined a wide variety of cannabis strains at various stages of growth through to harvesting and the drying rooms. I made cannabis resin using a small washing machine, ice and a number of filter bags and gained a valuable insight into the process of cannabis extractions.

As part of my role as a Drugs Expert Witness, whilst visiting New York, I arranged a meeting with and attended the headquarters of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in New York to discuss drug related issues within the USA. I have attended LGC forensics, and I have witnessed the production of crack cocaine with the use of a microwave and saucepan. I was requested to attend the headquarters of the British Board of Film Classification and discussed new commodities, consumption methods and teenage specific drug related issues, specifically relating to Vapes and nitrous oxide. I have spoken with the Commissioner of the New Zealand Police force regarding Crystal Meth issues within London and the UK. I was a member of the National Drugs Advice Group and also a member of the UK Drug Expert Witness & Valuation Association (DEWVA) while serving within law enforcement.

2016 – 2018. In January 2016 I was the first dedicated drugs expert witness in the

metropolitan Police Service, and I was involved in setting up the Metropolitan Police Drug Expert Witness unit. This involved the recruitment and training of officers; I then implemented a continued personal development procedure by planning drug related seminars consisting of guest speakers covering illicit laboratories (steroid / meth / amphet / crack). Identification and purity of MDMA tablets, Professors from Kings Collage London discussing drugs and drug addiction, prosecution barristers, reformed drug addicts and sex workers who would discuss consumption / supply chain and prostitution to name a few.

I set up the process of collating commonly identifiable drug prices within the Greater London area. This was achieved by examining phone download report, message data from a variety of communication devices, drugs ledgers/tick lists and other relevant identifiable information relating to the sale price of drugs at all levels of the supply chain.

I implemented a system whereby I was informed of any cannabis sites identified within London and assessed the information in relation to the grow site. I attended where possible to examine the facility to identify changing trends with the growing techniques. These sites range from small tents with single figure quantities, up to thousands of plants within a multistage growth facility. There was an average of between 30 and 40 cannabis grow sites within London a month.

I have completed Cyber Crime training covering the fundamentals of computers / networking, The Cloud, The Dark Web, Encryption, Hashing, Crypto Currency and Social media Networks. I attended CPD from The Met Police CBRN officers relating to clandestine drug production labs, specifically crystal meth and amphetamine.

I have completed the National Surveillance course run by the National Crime Agency, The National Crime Agency 2-week Expert Evidence in Drug Trafficking course, in Feb 2014 I completed a 6-week course run by Kings College University London titled ‘Understanding Drugs and addiction’. I have completed an online 12-week basic cannabis production course (Denver University, USA 2016) and I am

familiar with the following methods in relation to the production of cannabis; Aeroponics, Auto pot system, Bubbler pot system, Dripper system, Flood and drain and Nutrient film Technique NFT).

I have not attended a formal law enforcement expert evidence in firearms trafficking course. However, I have had input in firearms trafficking on the National Crime Agency expert evidence drug trafficking course and several CPD events throughout the years. I have previously been trained in the use of several firearms including 5.56 SA80, several semi-automatic and automatic machine guns, 7.62 Self-Loading Rifle and I have also fired a variety of other firearms when serving in the Royal Navy and working within a QRF (armed Quick Reaction Force).

During my time in law enforcement, I have investigated and charged persons who were involved in possession only, low level distribution, cultivation of cannabis either single figure quantities of plants through to industrial scale production, national distribution of part kilo and single kilo quantities of class A, B and C drugs, importation and other activity which is classified as an offence under the misuse of drugs act.

I have also come in to contact with importation quantities of class A and B drugs each identifying their own embossed logo or identifier. I have attended locations used as a stash location or drug and or cash, premises used for the adulteration of class A drugs and repressing of such commodities using hydraulic presses, plates and templates for embossing kilo quantities of cocaine and venues for counting of cash.

I have produced many hundreds of drug reports for the prosecution and taken instructions from the defence in many drug related investigations. I have offered my opinion numerous times at Crown Courts throughout the UK, and I believe I have obtained a clear understanding in respect of controlled drugs, the arenas they are consumed within and the drugs trade at all levels of the supply chain to be able to offer expert opinion on such matters.

2018 – Current. I left the Metropolitan Police service and Law Enforcement in Jan 2018. In January 2018 I set up DJ Drugs Expert Witness Limited, my services as a Drug Expert are requested by criminal defence teams throughout the UK where I have offered my opinion to assist the court covering many facets of drug related arenas.

January 2019 – Lead Speaker, International Narcotics Conference, Royal Sultanate of Oman

Invited as a guest speaker to a four-day international conference hosted in the Royal Sultanate of Oman, attended by senior figures including Judges, Chief Prosecutors, and high-ranking officers of the Royal Omani Police Service. Delivered a series of presentations and engaged in expert-level discussions on key issues relating to drug trafficking and control, specifically:

- Emerging drug trafficking trends
- Patterns of drug consumption and associated societal impact
- The structure and scale of international drug trafficking networks
- National distribution models, including organised crime group involvement

Provided comparative analysis between UK and international drug enforcement strategies and contributed to collaborative dialogue aimed at enhancing transnational cooperation and policy development. This engagement reflected a recognition of my subject matter expertise in drug markets and organised criminal networks.

September 2020 – December 2021 – MSc Criminology, University of West London

Successfully completed a Master's degree in Criminology with core modules including:

- Transnational Organised Crime
- Financial Crime
- Counterterrorism
- Criminological Theory
- Contemporary Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice

- Cybercrime
- Research Methodology

Dissertation titled *'A Growing Problem for Law Enforcement'* (15,000 words), focused on organised crime, cannabis cultivation, and distribution networks within the UK. A book proposal based on this dissertation has since been submitted—co-authored with Professor Simon Harding—to a major academic publisher.

November 2022 – Present – Founding Member, Independent Drug Expert Witness Alliance (IDEA)

Co-founded the Independent Drug Expert Witness Alliance (IDEA), a national platform established to support collaboration, knowledge exchange, and continuous professional development for expert witnesses specialising in controlled drugs. As an active member, I regularly contribute to professional discussions on issues relating to the use, supply, and production of controlled drugs, including regional pricing trends across the UK and developments in drug market dynamics.

May 2023 – Guest Speaker, New Scotland Yard

Delivered a presentation to officers completing the Drug Expert Witness Course at New Scotland Yard. The session focused on the practical realities of working as an expert witness instructed by the defence and outlined the wider role of independent drug experts in the criminal justice system.

June 2024 – CPD Event Organiser and Speaker

Co-delivered the UK's first cross-sector CPD event on drugs expertise, hosted online by IDEA and attended by over 150 professionals from law enforcement, the legal sector, academia, and forensic science. The training covered key areas such as expert witness bias, online drug markets, mobile phone analysis, modern slavery, and forensic drug laboratory processes. Uniquely, the event featured both prosecution and defence experts, encouraging balanced, informed debate across the field.

November 2024 – Attendee, Border Security Report Webinar

Participated in an international webinar hosted by Border Security Report, featuring

expert speakers including Bob Van Den Berg (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and William Mudde (Director, MAPS International). The session focused on evolving modus operandi of transnational organised crime groups, including innovative cocaine smuggling methods such as concealment in coffins, yachts, fruit, and chemical integration into materials like wood. Strategies to detect and disrupt these methods were also discussed.

November 2024 – Guest Lecturer, St Mary's University, Twickenham
Delivered a lecture to Master's students on the *Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Migration and Organised Crime* programme. The session focused on EncroChat, covering its operational use by organised crime groups, the methods of law enforcement infiltration, and the legal implications arising from subsequent prosecutions.

July 2025 – Book Contract Signed with Bristol University Press
Co-authoring a forthcoming publication with Professor Simon Harding. The book explores key themes including cannabis cultivation, organised crime, modern slavery, and human exploitation. Current phase involves extensive field research and interviews across relevant sectors.

Ongoing – Independent Research and Stakeholder Engagement
My continued professional development is actively supported through direct engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the drug landscape. This includes regular, informal discussions with individuals who use Class A, B, and C substances for both recreational and medicinal purposes, providing valuable insight into evolving trends, patterns of use, and product quality.

I also liaise with professionals across health and academic sectors, including NHS clinicians, drug rehabilitation practitioners, substance misuse counsellors, and university-based researchers and professors.

In addition, I maintain up-to-date knowledge of drug markets, policies, and scientific developments through continuous research using reputable sources such as:

- THC.com

- Leafly.com
- EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction)
- Europol
- UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)
- InSight Crime
- ScienceDirect
- Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)
- Allbud.com
- DS Daily
- YouTube drug education content
- Stop the War on Drugs campaign materials
- And many more

This multidisciplinary approach enables me to maintain an informed and balanced perspective on drug use, policy, enforcement, and harm reduction.