

# Curriculum Vitae – Dr David Usher

## Expert Witness in ergonomics

---

### PERSONAL PROFILE

I began working as a professional ergonomist in 1980 when I was involved in power station control room design. In 1991, I founded the consultancy *Interaction of Bath*, now registered with the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors for the full range of ergonomics services, including process control room design, manual handling risk assessment, software tool development as well as expert witness work.

My academic background is strong: I am a Chartered Physicist as well as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors. I also take particular care with the quality of my written output; my reports are clear, concise and correct.

I have provided expert evidence in more than 100 cases in criminal and civil law, acting for either side. Additionally, I act as ergonomics specialist for the Institute of Occupational Medicine.



**Dave Usher**

DPhil, BSc, CPhys, FCIIEHF, ARCS  
dave@interactionofbath.com

### EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE – CIVIL LAW

Civil cases include:

- Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome in a railway maintainer
- Musculoskeletal injury in an abattoir worker
- A suicide by exiting from a hospital window
- ‘Beauty parlour syndrome’ – stroke from neck compression at a hairdresser (3 cases)
- Injury by impact with a fork-lift truck
- Injury (RSI, fibromyalgia) from extensive use of Display Screen Equipment
- A production-line worker’s claim for degenerative injury of the arms
- Many claims for compensation for back injury from manual handling

### EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE – CRIMINAL LAW

I have provided evidence in many criminal cases, including:

- Death on stairs (2 cases)
- Death from shooting
- Death from knife attack
- Grievous bodily harm, involving the throwing of acid
- Death by road traffic collision, concerning conspiracy (2 cases)

### JOINT STATEMENTS

As well as a report for one party, in most of these cases I have led 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. I have also acted as a Single Joint Expert on many occasions.

# Curriculum Vitae – Dr David Usher

## Expert Witness in ergonomics

---

### GENERAL HUMAN FACTORS EXPERIENCE

An advantage of carrying out non-legal work in parallel is the perspective it gives of current employment practices in industry and elsewhere. This allows me to gauge the extent of foreseeability of an injury and whether it could reasonably have been mitigated.

The following examples illustrate my experience of different industries:

- Analysis of the design of the operations room of the Type 23 frigate for the Royal Navy
- Human Factors analysis of the decommissioning of the UK's fast reactor at Dounreay.
- A EU-funded project concerned with the human, societal and ethical factors in landmine clearance
- Analysis of human error in weapon production, for Atomic Weapons Establishment
- Development of a system for automatic handwriting recognition and support for medical coding.

### ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

<b>Professional Bodies</b>	Fellow, Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors APIL First Tier Expert (the highest tier) Chartered Member, Institute of Physics Member of British Standards Institute committee PH/9 (Ergonomics)
<b>Doctorate</b>	D Phil Department of Physics, University of York, 1981
<b>Degree</b>	Physics (with honours) 2.i Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, 1977
<b>A levels</b>	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 1992 and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 is central to my work as an ergonomist.

My legal reports follow the format specified in *Practice Direction Part 35* for criminal work and *the Protocol for Instruction of Experts to give Evidence* in civil claims.

Interaction of Bath is certified to the quality standard ISO 9001, providing traceability and adherence to process.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

I was born in Bath in 1954. I am married, with two children. My interests are classical music (particularly opera), politics and food. I do not smoke.

Foreign languages: French (O level), Italian (colloquial).