

Appendix A

Drugs Expert Witness – Professional Experience

Matthew Anthony Lockyer

1. I am a retired Police Officer having worked for Hampshire Constabulary from January 2000 to December 2021. Since leaving the police I continue to be engaged in the provision of training and continued professional development across the United Kingdom in relation to drugs use and supply.
2. I was a full time Drug Expert Witness employed by Hampshire Constabulary based within the Scientific Services Department at Southampton Police Investigation Centre.
3. My role as a full time Drug Expert Witness included reporting on drugs cases and providing training, advice and support for Drug Expert Witnesses across the Constabulary and on a regional and national level.
4. In 2000 I joined Hampshire Constabulary and upon successful completion of initial training I was based at Alton Police Station until 2003 and then moved to Ventnor Police Station on the Isle of Wight where I conducted uniformed patrol duties.
5. During this time, I made numerous arrests for possession of all types of controlled drugs and investigated supply of Class A and Class B drugs in the Hampshire area, obtained and executed search warrants and conducted covert observations of drug supply activity.
6. I regularly interviewed detained persons involved in the supply, production and/or use of controlled drugs gaining an insight into how these drugs are used, sold and with regards to cannabis produced.
7. I Conducted searches of premises and persons for controlled drugs, planned and executed operations around the supply of controlled drugs. These searches gave me knowledge on how drugs are packaged and secreted to avoid detection. I also gained first-hand knowledge of how drugs are prepared for use such as heroin, crack cocaine and cannabis.
8. In 2004 I successfully applied for and joined the Isle of Wight Divisional Tasking Unit based at Newport on the Isle of Wight.

9. Whilst part of the tasking unit I conducted investigations into the supply of Class A drugs including but not exclusive to Heroin, Crack Cocaine, Cocaine and MDMA. I also investigated drugs supply offences relating to Class B drugs Cannabis and Amphetamine.
10. During my time on the tasking unit the majority of my work revolved around the supply of drugs which led to routinely conducting observations surrounding drug supply activity including dealing on the streets of Heroin and Crack Cocaine and observations relating to the supply of drugs. I personally witnessed hand to hand exchanges which were later confirmed to be supply of controlled drugs including Heroin, Crack Cocaine and Cannabis.
11. I also investigated the supply of controlled drugs into the Prisons on the Isle of Wight either by those visiting the jails, inmates smuggling drugs in after being arrested or drugs being thrown over the walls.
12. This gave me the opportunity to increase and develop my knowledge and experience around how the supply of drugs differs within the Prisons and the streets relating to deal sizes, quality of the product and values. I also gained knowledge and learnt about the Prison regime including how drugs supply activity is conducted once the drugs have gained access to the jail.
13. I conducted numerous searches of premises utilising search powers. These searches allowed me to gain knowledge and experience of how drugs are prepared for immediate supply, items associated with both the use and supply of drugs such as digital handheld scales, cling film, foil, grip seal bags, documentation relating to drug supply.
14. I regularly conducted searches of persons on the street, within premises and also Police custody related to the use and or supply of controlled drugs. From this I gained knowledge on how different substances are packaged, deal sizes and methods employed for concealment such as plugging and cheeking.
15. I was involved and investigated a large number of Cannabis Cultivation Sites (CCS) which included the seizing of evidence and the dismantling of the Cannabis production equipment. From this I gained knowledge in how Cannabis plants are grown/produced from both seed and cuttings, equipment that is used such as high-powered lighting, ballasts, fans, timers, heat shields ventilation and use of nutrients.
16. These CCS ranged from small domestic type grows of a couple of plants up to large commercial sized grows of over 100 plants.

17. In January 2005 I was successful in my application to become the Isle of Wight District Drugs Intelligence Officer based at Newport Police Station on the Isle of Wight. This is a role I held until 2013.

18. 2005 – 2013: IOW District Drugs Intelligence Officer.

This role included regular contact with those within the drugs fraternity; numerous persons with substance misuse problems, drug rehabilitation agencies, charities, drug arrest referral workers, drug and alcohol reference groups - and various other statutory, and voluntary, organisations.

I was also in regular contact with other enforcement agencies and the scientific services who deal with the analysis of controlled substances seized from all over the United Kingdom.

- a. I was responsible for the submission of items suspected of being controlled substances requiring laboratory analysis seized by Police officers in the area of Hampshire, and the collation of data provided from those analyses.
- b. I had access to the details of intelligence logs, crimes and sudden deaths that are linked to users or dealers of controlled substances within Hampshire.
- c. I was involved in surveillance operations of customers and suppliers of controlled substances including test purchase operations
- d. I along with others was involved in the planning and execution of search warrants, the analysis of mobile phone records, interpretation of “deals lists” and other items seized by police officers
- e. I was also involved in the arrest and interview of persons suspected of buying, supplying and cultivating controlled substances.

Drugs Officer Roles and responsibilities were to:

- a. Conduct intelligence interviews of persons held in custody for drug related matters to keep abreast of current prices for various drug commodities.
- b. Quality assure drug submissions for forensic examination; this allowed me to view the various drugs and packaging for submission to the forensic lab.
- c. I liaised with the Forensic Lab and to read their Forensic Science Drug Reports.
- d. I provided statements for the identity and valuation of herbal Cannabis and Cannabis resin for guilty plea cases at Magistrates Court.
- e. I provided Drug Expert Witness reports in order to assist the Courts.
- f. I maintained a close liaison with drug rehabilitation services on the Isle of Wight.
- g. I worked closely with security staff and drug rehabilitation staff at the three IOW prisons, including the obtaining of prices and trends for drugs misuse within the establishments.

19. 2005 – 2015: During this time, I was directly involved in the planning and execution of covert and overt investigations targeting the supply of Class A drugs (Heroin and Cocaine).

- a. I was part of a multi-agency team facilitating fast track treatment to drugs services across the Isle of Wight.
- b. I was involved in the planning of drug enforcement activity at the two music festivals (IOW Festival and Bestival).
- c. I also assisted in the planning and execution of drug enforcement activity at Boomtown in Winchester.
- d. At the large music festivals, I have had roles including – covert observations where I have personally witnessed the supply of drugs, dedicated decision maker in relation to the supply of drugs as part of the custody process.
- e. I have investigated the supply of Class A drugs (MDMA / Cocaine) to conclusion at Crown court and tested thousands of drugs seizures over the years including Cannabis in herbal and resin form, Cocaine, Heroin, Amphetamine, MDMA in tablet, powder and Crystal form as well as Mephedrone and Ketamine.
- f. I had the lead for a multi-agency team delivering drug education to schools across the Isle of Wight and parents/carers of children including Foster Care agencies.
- g. I delivered drug awareness training to Student Police Officers at Hampshire Constabulary's Training School.
- h. I was an active member on the Drug Action Team board alongside partner agencies such as IOW Council, Prison Service, Island Drug and Alcohol Service, Cranstoun drug Treatment service.
- i. I tested and examined hundreds of seizures of controlled drugs including separating wrappings and examining individual deals of Heroin and Crack Cocaine, Cannabis, Amphetamine, Ketamine and MDMA (Ecstasy).
- j. I was the Case Officer for an investigation into the supply of Heroin and Crack Cocaine across the Isle of Wight resulting in 19 persons being convicted for supply of Class A drugs which was affecting the local community.
- k. I was part of a team investigating the supply of Cocaine (street level 1 gram deals up to kilogram amounts) leading to the conviction of 10 people for Class A drug supply.
- l. I gathered and submitted intelligence on a regular basis around the use and supply of drugs as a full time covert human intelligence source handler from 2013 to 2015.

20. 2015 - 2021: Hampshire Constabulary Drug Expert Witness Team.

- a. Responsibility to provide advice to colleagues regarding the investigation into drugs supply.
- b. I reviewed and quality assured submissions of drugs to forensic providers.
- c. I examined and tested controlled drugs within Evidential Drug Identification Testing (EDIT) guidelines.
- d. I examined and tested suspected controlled drugs for urgent cases/remand.
- e. I provided insights and valuations of seized controlled drugs

- f. I maintained knowledge around the pricing of controlled drugs within Hampshire and bordering counties where applicable.
- g. I maintained knowledge of drug types and trends prevalent across Hampshire.
- h. I interpreted SMS for drugs codes/slang relating to the supply of drugs.
- i. I provided Drug Expert Witness statements for court.
- j. I reviewed and quality assured reports submitted by drug expert witnesses across not only Hampshire but the neighbouring counties (Surrey/Sussex) also.

- 21.** In 2019 I took on the role of coordinator for Expert Evidence provision across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
- 22.** Throughout 2020 I sat as an active participant on the multi-agency drug related harm reduction group across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The group is made up of Police, NHS, Public Health and substance misuse treatment providers as well as peers from within the substance misuse treatment programme.
- 23.** In 2020 I had an active role within the regional drug related harm reduction working group covering Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley regions. The group consists of Police, NHS, Public Health and substance misuse treatment providers as well as peers from within substance misuse treatment.
- 24.** In November 2020 I delivered a lecture to Crime Science Master's Degree students at Portsmouth University on County Line drugs supply across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The aim being to broaden the awareness of how science and scientific methodology can be utilised in the management of crime.
- 25.** In November 2020 I delivered a lecture to Crime Science degree students at Portsmouth University on the provision of expert evidence and examination of drugs by non-scientific trained personnel.
- 26.** Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic I kept in regular contact through telephone, email and video conferencing with drug expert witnesses and those associated with drugs work. This has been nationally, regionally and locally to discuss trends, prices, methodology used by those involved in drug supply.
- 27.** Throughout my Police career I spoke with over a 1000 people in relation to the use, supply of controlled drugs and legal highs. These people have been suspects and convicted criminals

including dealers of drugs from street level to wholesale suppliers, witnesses, victims of crime, ordinary members of the public (parents/teachers for example), police officers, Doctors, Scientists, Drug Treatment Workers, persons undergoing drug treatment/counselling and police sources of information.

28. I have provided several hundred statements for Crown, Magistrates and Youth court as a Drug Expert.
29. I examined and reported on 1000s of seized drugs ranging from £10 deals of Heroin to multi kilogram seizures of Cocaine.
30. I saw Cannabis plants in various stages of the production procedure and harvested plants.
31. I have reviewed hundreds of mobile phone reports containing text messages relating to the use and supply of drugs in coded format and using slang terminology.
32. Since retiring I have remained engaged in the delivery of drugs related training courses and provision of continued professional development within policing across the United Kingdom.
33. These sessions provide me with the opportunity to maintain my own continued professional development and engage in discussions with those attending around the current situation regarding the use and supply of controlled drugs.
34. I have also maintained contact with those whom I have previously worked with within the substance misuse treatment sector and regularly have professional discussions with providers of treatment and those who use drugs to maintain my understanding of the current drugs picture across the UK.
35. I am a former committee member of the Drug Expert Witness Valuation Association.
36. Throughout 2022 I conducted & attended numerous training and continued professional development events at various locations across the United Kingdom. These events have allowed me to continue to share and gain insights into the use and supply of the most commonly encountered controlled drugs.
37. In November 2022 I co-founded the Independent Drug Expert Witness Alliance a forum for all drugs expert witnesses & others working within this sphere to share knowledge and experience and gain continued learning in an open environment. As member of this group, I have regular professional discussions during which the sharing of knowledge and experience in relation to the use, supply & production of controlled drugs as well pricing variations across the United Kingdom.

- 38.** In January 2023 I attended an online professional discussion with a former user & supplier of drugs including cocaine, mdma, cannabis and LSD. During this session I received an insight into the use & production of crack cocaine, the supply & use of cocaine, mdma & LSD both within the UK and overseas. This input also included information on transportation and methods employed to evade capture/detection by law enforcement.
- 39.** In June 2023 I attended a Southwest Region drugs expert meeting during which current trends and information relating to the use & supply of controlled drugs was shared.

QUALIFICATIONS HELD & TRAINING COMPLETED

March 2004: The Home Office approved course in the use of the Marquis drug testing kit for the presumptive identification of Heroin and Amphetamine.

March 2004: The Home Office approved course for the identification of Herbal Cannabis, Cannabis Resin and Cannabis plants

September 2005: The Home Office approved course in the use of the Cozart (Alere) drug testing kit for the presumptive identification of Cocaine and Crack cocaine.

January 2006: Level 2 Surveillance Course – Visual Imagery, Log keeping and Observation posts.

July 2006: Attended and successfully completed the Home Office approved National Drugs expert Witness Course at Bishop Garth Police training and development Centre, West Yorkshire.

December 2006: Attended and successfully completed the Level 2 source handling Course at Kent Police College.

March 2007: Attended and successfully completed the Home Office Approved Specialised Investigation of Illicit Drugs Production Course at Bishop Garth Police training and development Centre, West Yorkshire.

July 2007: Level 1 Investigation Course – Hampshire Police Training

December 2008: Attended and successfully completed the Home Office Approved National Drugs Investigation Course held at Bishop Garth Police training and development Centre, West Yorkshire.

May 2009: Completed the GE Security Operator course for use of Mobile Trace detection.

July 2011: Completed the Morpho Detection Operator, Administrator and Maintenance course.

January 2012: Completed the Surveillance Log Keeping Skills Course at Hampshire Constabulary Training and Development department.

June 2013: Trained in the use of Bruker Alpha-Analyser to test Ketamine, Mephedrone and other chemical based drugs.

February 2014: Attended and successfully completed the HM Revenue and Customs Level 3 Covert Human Intelligence Source Training Course (Handler) held in Nottingham.

August 2016: Trained in the use of the Thermofisher TruNarc handheld drug detection device by Hazmat, for the detection of Mephedrone and Ketamine.

January 2017: Gained professional membership to the Chartered Society of Forensic Scientists (CSFS).

March 2017: Trained in the use of the Drug ID II drug testing kit for the presumptive identification of Cocaine and Crack Cocaine.

October 2017: I attended an Illicit Drugs Lab Course which was a combination of theory, practical and scenario-based training to gain skills required to recognise and deal with hazards posed by process, precursors and manufacture of drugs.

March 2019: I attended and completed a 4-day drugs trafficking and organised Crime course provided by the former drugs threat lead for the National Crime Agency at Portsmouth University.

This course gave me an insight and a detailed understanding of Heroin and Cocaine from the point of production to the end supply at street level within the United Kingdom. The course covered routes of importation, finances, roles within the supply chain and methods of concealment.

February 2022: I completed the Detectachem training for the use and training delivery of the Mobile Detect drugs identification kits and the Seeker drug detection device.