

## **Professional Experience**

- 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 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.

## **QUALIFICATIONS HELD**

**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.

**May 2021:** 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.

**August 2022:** I gained a Level 3 Award in Education & Training via Active IQ & the West Academy.

### **Continued Professional Development**

Throughout my career I have attended many different training events and conferences in relation to the use and supply of controlled drugs and more recently substances referred to as legal highs (novel psychoactive substances).

Below is a selection of those attended:

**2006** Invited to and attended the European Network on Drugs and Infections Prevention conference in Ljubljana (Slovenia) as a guest speaker on partner agency working and fast track routes to drug treatment.



**2006** I attended the National Reducing Drug Related deaths conference in Manchester.

**2006** attended a Home Office approved research location specialising in the production of Cannabis Plants.

**2007** Invited to and attended the Sussex partnership conference around substance misuse as a guest speaker in partnership with Cranston drug treatment services on partnership working and fast track access to drug treatment.

**2010** I attended a Cannabis awareness course provided by Liam Watson from drug education training

**2011** I attended the Cocaine Nation Course provided by Liam Watson from drug education training.

**2005** to **2009** I attended the annual Drugs Supply conference hosted by the Home office.

**2010** onwards I have attended the Drug Expert Witness and Valuation Association annual training event.

**2012** attended the Combatting the Commercial Cultivation of Cannabis training event

**2012** I attended a conference on Legal Highs hosted by Essex Drug Partnership.

**2015** attended the London Drug Gangs presentation provided by a former convicted drug gang member at Hampshire Constabulary Training HQ.

**2016 (February)** attended a home office approved research location specialising in the production of Cannabis Plants.

**2016 (April)** attended HMP Winchester for a liaison meeting around the use and supply of Novel Psychoactive Substances within Prisons.

**2016 (October)** attended Hazmat Link training event around clandestine laboratories and illicit production of drugs and detection equipment utilised. This included an input from the Dutch National Police specialist laboratory team and Metropolitan and Sussex Police drugs expert teams.

**2016 (November)** meeting with Southampton City drugs support working team – discussions held around current trends and substance use.

**2016 (October)** attended the South East region drug expert witness meeting held in Guilford Surrey – discussions and inputs on trends, pricing and current case law.

**2016 (October)** attended the Southampton City drug related death meeting – reports around current trends and use and inputs from agencies including Paramedics and drug user peer support groups.

**2017 (March)** attended the London Drug Gangs presentation provided by two former convicted drug gang members at Hampshire Constabulary Training HQ this event

specifically covered the gang operation techniques, recruitment of new gang members and enforcement of debt relating to organised London drug gangs.

**2017 (March and July)** attended the South East region drug expert witness meeting held in Guilford Surrey – discussions and inputs on trends, pricing, and current case law.

**2017 (June)** attended a National conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances use and trends in Northampton. This included inputs from drugs workers, law Enforcement, Government officials, Scientists / Doctors and substance users.

**2017 (July)** attended Public Health Wales (Wedinos) for input around trends relating to the use of MDMA (Ecstasy) and the rise in Fentanyl type drugs.

**2017 (July)** attended a home office approved research location specialising in the production of Cannabis Plants.

**2017 (July)** attended a training input from the National Crime Agency on drug stashes and complex vehicle drug hides and Eastern European drug supply networks.

**2018 (January)** attended a training input from the National Crime Agency on Albanian criminality and use of the Dark Web for purchasing controlled substances.

**2018 (January)** attended a continued professional development event surrounding the production and manufacture of illicit drugs and illicit drug laboratories provided by HazMat Link.

**2018 (March)** I attended a 1 day training input around the use of the Dark Web for the purchase and supply of drugs provided by the South East Regional Crime Unit.

**2018 (March)** I attended a training input around the supply of drugs and global impact of Eastern European organised crime gangs provided by the National Crime Agency.

**2018 (April)** I attended 'A Shot in the Dark' - The Hidden Harm, Open Road Conference surrounding Anabolic Androgenic Substances (Steroids), Image Performance Enhancement Drugs (IPEDs) –where I was able to listen to experts within the field of anabolic androgenic substances (steroids) and associated items, spoke with users, service providers. This included a video link to experts from Australia covering an international prospective around harm reduction.

**2018 (November)** I attended a 1 day training input provided by Liam Watson on the use and supply of MDMA and Prescription medications.

**2018 (November)** I attended the Drug Expert Witness and Valuation Association 2 day training event where I received inputs on: County Lines (Provided by former members of County Line drug supply networks), Illicit Drug Production (Hazmat), Cannabis and Medicinal Cannabis updates (Professor David Potter). This event also allows for the sharing of knowledge amongst the members around the use and supply of drugs.

**2019 (February)** I attended a home office approved research location specialising in the production of Cannabis Plants. During which I saw and handled both THC and CBD plants at varying stages of growth from cutting to fully mature and harvested crops. I also observed Cannabis 'Mother Plants' being prepared and used to provide cuttings.

I received inputs from specialists in the production of Cannabis plants, life cycle, timings, equipment and this included an overview on risks from infestations.

**2020** I took part in fortnightly multi agency group meetings covering the use and supply of illicit substances during the Covid pandemic.

**2020 (January)** Attended a multi-agency approach summit on serious violence relating to the supply of drugs by county lines gangs hosted by Hampshire Constabulary.

**2020 (January)** Attended a meeting with HMP liaison officers to discuss the supply and pricing of illicit drugs within HMP.

**2020 (September)** Attended and participated in the national drugs intelligence meeting hosted by DEWVA at Stratford upon Avon. During this event, I gained an insight on the trends relating to the use and supply of drugs across the UK and from an international view as well.

**2021 (January)** I attended an online training input provided by St Giles Trust covering county lines: recruitment/grooming/slang terminology and lived experience.

**2021 (March)** I attended an online training input covering the supply of drugs and methodology during the coronavirus pandemic.

**2021 (September)** Attended a 2-day drugs intelligence and information briefing held by DEWVA where I received inputs from regions across the United Kingdom on prevalence and pricing for substances.

**2021 (November)** I attended the Drug Expert Witness and Valuation Association 2-day training event where I received inputs on: Drugs supply across the UK, had an input from a former user and supplier of class A drugs. Received an update on the current situation regarding the use and supply of cannabis and the emerging threat of cannabis edibles.

**2022 (February)** I attended an online continued professional development event hosted by the Metropolitan Police relating to the supply of controlled drugs by organised crime gangs and exploitation of individuals coerced into this activity.

**2022 (March)** I attended and delivered an input on county lines drugs supply for the International Association of Crime Analysts. During this 1-day online event I gained an insight into the methods employed by analysts to research and gather information on organised crime methods and data.

## **Music Festival History**

**2001 and 2002** –Part of the custody interview team at Alton Police station for the Creamfields Music event – interviewing those detained for suspected drugs supply offences.

**2004** I worked at the Isle of Wight Festival and Bestival in the role of on-site investigations, conducting searches and interviews of those detained suspected to be in possession of controlled drugs.

**2005 - 2011** I worked at the Isle of Wight Festival and Bestival in the role of Drugs Intelligence Officer, involving planning for the event and gathering of intelligence and information around those suspected to be involved in the supply of controlled drugs, including planning and executing drug enforcement tactics utilised at these events.

**2012** – I worked at Isle of Wight Festival and Boomtown in the role of a Drug Expert Witness – alongside other drug expert witnesses, civilian security staff, welfare staff and passive drug dog handlers at the Police Search Area in the role of Dedicated Decision Maker and conducted on site testing of seized suspected controlled substances.

**2012** – I worked at Bestival as part of the planning and execution team for a covert tactic deployed at this event.

**2013** – I was deployed at the Isle of Wight Festival in a role gathering intelligence to support policing activity at the event.

**2013** – Deployed at Boomtown Festival in the role of a Drug Expert Witness – alongside other drug expert witnesses, civilian security staff, welfare staff and passive drug dog handlers at the Police Search Area in the role of Dedicated Decision Maker and conducted on site testing of seized suspected controlled substances.

**2015** – Attended Bestival and conducted a site visit and liaison with on-site drug expert witnesses.

**2016** - Worked at the Isle of Wight Festival, Boomtown and Bestival alongside other drug expert witnesses, civilian security staff, welfare staff, on site Medical team and civilian passive drug dog handlers at the Police Search Area in the role of Dedicated Decision Maker and conducted on site testing of seized suspected controlled substances.

**2016 (June)** Attended Glastonbury Music Festival in relation to drug enforcement activity at this event.

**2016 (August)** Attended Creamfields Music Festival in relation to drug enforcement activity at this event.

**2017** - Worked at the Isle of Wight Festival, Boomtown and Mutiny events alongside other drug expert witnesses, civilian security staff, welfare staff, on site Medical team

and civilian passive drug dog handlers at the Police Search Area in the role of Dedicated Decision Maker and conducted on site testing of seized suspected controlled substances. Deployed at Bestival (Lulworth Castle) – Dorset to work alongside drug expert colleagues from Dorset Police in an advisory role had daily contact with users and suppliers of substances including but not limited to MDMA, Cocaine, LSD and Cannabis.

**2018** - Worked at the Isle of Wight Festival, Boomtown and Mutiny events alongside other drug expert witnesses, civilian security staff, welfare staff, on site Medical team and civilian passive drug dog handlers at the Police Search Area in the role of Dedicated Decision Maker and conducted on site testing of seized suspected controlled substances. Deployed at Bestival (Lulworth Castle) – Dorset to work alongside drug expert colleagues from Dorset Police in an advisory role had daily contact with users and suppliers of substances including but not limited to MDMA, Cocaine, LSD and Cannabis.

**2019** - Worked at the Isle of Wight Festival and Boomtown events alongside other drug expert witnesses, civilian security staff, welfare staff, on site medical team and civilian passive drug dog handlers at the Police Search Area in the role of Dedicated Decision Maker and conducted on site testing of seized suspected controlled substances.

**2022** – Employed at Creamfields South (Essex) working within a substance identification and advisory capacity in support of event security, welfare and medical. During this deployment I examined hundreds of seizures of MDMA tablets, individual deals of cocaine, ketamine and MDMA crystals and personally witnessed persons under the influence of substances and observed those engaged in the supply and use of drugs at the event. I also had the opportunity to speak with those in possession of drugs and gained an insight into use of drugs such as cocaine, ketamine and MDMA along with prices being paid for the drugs both within the event and externally.

**2022** – Employed at Boomtown Festival (Hampshire) working as an Event Drug Expert reviewing seizures of suspected controlled drugs and providing assistance to the event and private security on site. During this deployment I examined hundreds of seizures of MDMA tablets, individual deals of cocaine, ketamine and MDMA crystals and personally witnessed persons under the influence of substances and observed those engaged in the supply and use of drugs at the event. I also had the opportunity to speak with those in possession of drugs and gained an insight into use of drugs such as cocaine, ketamine and MDMA along with prices being paid for the drugs both within the event and externally.