



OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

EXPERT WITNESS REPORT

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

Drug Trafficking & Data Interpretation Report

Case Reference:

Upon request of:

Date:

Prepared by: Gary Carroll of Claymore Advisory Group

This report (consisting of page(s) each signed by me), is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it, which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: _____

Signature: Gary Carroll

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1. Declarations

Duty to the Court

I am a Drug Expert Witness and have been enlisted to assist in this case.

I understand that my duty is to help the Court achieve the overriding objective (namely, that criminal cases be dealt with justly) by being independent of the case team and giving impartial objective, unbiased opinions on matters within my expertise, both in preparing reports and giving oral evidence.

I understand that this duty overrides any obligation to the party by whom I am engaged or the person who has paid or is liable to pay me.

I confirm that I have complied with and will continue to comply with that duty.

I have read Part 19 of the Criminal Procedure Rules and I have complied with its requirements. I will actively assist the court in fulfilling effective case management by complying with any direction of the court given to me and notifying the court of any significant failure to comply with its direction at once.

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2. Professional Experience Overview

Until March 2023 I was a full time Expert Witness and member of the Drug Expert Witness & Valuation Association when employed with West Midlands Police. For over 6 years I specialized in providing reports for drug trafficking and related investigations.

Whilst in this dedicated team I served the entire West Midlands region in what can be considered one of the busiest areas to operate as a Drug Expert in the UK which resulted in me completing over 200 reports most years ranging from standard street supply to national drug trafficking across the UK / importation / production / modern day slavery and international organised crime groups.

This expertise was extended to data interpretation where I consulted in related cases that involved serious violence including homicide, organised crime, and other ancillary offences.

I was the principal expert witness for the latter formed County Lines Task force in 2019 / 2020 where I completed the majority of the County Line cases within the West Midlands region, which spanned regularly to towns and locations across the UK.

I am now fully independent and the principal expert/director of Claymore Advisory Group where I provide reports for the court at the request of both prosecution and defence. My expertise and knowledge extend but is not limited to

- Identifying drugs and their valuation and related paraphernalia
- Examining and decoding associated documents
- Slang terminology interpretation
- County Lines, Organised Crime Groups and Encrypted Software cases
- Methods used and roles of persons involved in drug trafficking

Through research, experience and professional application, I have maintained an up-to date understanding of the terms used and roles within the drug trade.

In addition to attending or delivering training events related to drugs I also engage with past and present drug users via local networks and youth groups. This gives me a valuable insight which supplement my experience from drug investigations.

These encounters allow my evidence to be from learnt experience and not vicariously from the knowledge of others.

For more information on my experience, please refer to **Appendix A**.

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3. Statement Introduction

4. Abbreviated Commodity Overviews

5. Drug Valuation

6. Events

7. Conclusion

8. Appendix A: Professional Experience

I am the above-named Expert Witness and the Director of Claymore Advisory Group, providing expert witness services across the UK. I was a warranted officer for the West Midlands Police for 14 years. More recently I was posted to the West Midlands Police Forensic Services Department where I held a full time Drug Expert for 6 years based at Ridgepoint House, Birmingham.

As an Expert Witness in Drugs Trafficking and Data Interpretation, I provide expert opinion, valuation evidence, and interpretation services. Throughout my time with the West Midland Police, I have developed a good working knowledge and understanding of drug supply, usage, and production. I have had and still maintain regular contact with people and groups in drug supply circles including users, dealers, and outreach workers. This has allowed me to build a good understanding of 'street terms', 'trends', and 'dealer tactics' which enables me to make distinctions between users, street dealers, and wholesale distributors.

Throughout 6 years as an Expert Witness with West Midlands Police, I provided over 1000 completed expert reports for over 650 cases / operations culminating in over 100 court appearances presenting expert evidence across the Midlands and neighbouring regions.

This knowledge and opinion have been presented in court continuously giving evidence on identification, interpretations, and gang behaviour in complex operations involving Organised Crime Groups, Gang members, Drugs, Firearms, Homicide, and Sexual Offences.

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In the interest of brevity, I will highlight sections of my experience and expand further if required to do so:

1. From 2013 I held a lead role in targeting organised drug supply across central Birmingham focusing on Handsworth, Lozells, Aston, and Ladywood. This included known Urban Street Gangs (USG) and larger criminal networks.

This included attending hundreds of cannabis farms, cases involving multiple kilogram seizures of illicit drugs, and ancillary offences including Firearms. This role gave me a solid understanding of lifestyles, prices, and terminology used in drug supply.

2. From 2015 I took a post on the Local Priority Team for central Birmingham which specialised in larger scale drug supply cases, drug lines, County Lines, and firearms operations. This team acted as a proactive arm for West Midlands Police in central Birmingham to combat the rise in gang related crime, violence, and firearm offences. The role allowed me to utilise further tactics involving covert policing to plan and execute operations which resulted in the recovery of firearms, and large quantities of Class A and B drugs intended for distribution to the next level of street dealers. This was a plain-clothed role that furthered my experience concerning larger operations, reviewing covert footage of drug dealers, progression of telecommunications (phone work), and Court procedures.

3. In 2017 I then joined the Drugs Expert Witness team and later became one of the principal Drug Experts; this gave me the advantage of being in a unique position which allowed me to observe cases from all over the West Midlands. I liaised directly with other experts and intelligence officers from various forces / agencies and HMP establishments.

4. In October 2017 I completed a Drug Expert Training Course hosted by Kent Police and Police Scotland. After this training, I joined the Drug Expert Witness & Valuation Association until 2023.

5. From 2018 I have engaged with several private companies and organisations advising on drug legislation and compliance surrounding drug based or pharmaceutical products working collaboratively with organisations such as UK Anti-Doping, Border Agency, NHS and Border Agency in criminal matters, training and intelligence sharing.

6. From 2021 I undertook the training of new Drug Expert Witnesses within West Midlands Police. This included structuring bespoke training for new experts and delivering this

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continuously throughout their employment. This also includes CPD sessions in drug investigations, testing, user awareness, Urban Street Gangs, and Organised Crime Groups. These have been attended by over 750 delegates consisting of Police Officers, PCSOs, Cadets, Investigators, and private company employees.

7. In 2021 I was integral in the creation of the West Midlands Police Drug Valuation Officer role. This required me to create the training package bespoke to this role and deliver the training to newly trained officers.
8. In 2021 I completed training for a Controlled Drug Liaison Officer and joined the CDLO national network. This role focuses more on the illegal diversion of medicines from the main routes into the illicit markets.

Brief insight into some notable cases I have acted in the role as Expert Witness, though these in no way illustrate the full extent of significant previous Operations I have been involved in:

2018 Operation Glimmer - regional drug supply Urban Street Gang also involved in the conversation and distribution of blank firearms. Multiple defendants receiving combined sentences of over 40 years.

2020 – Prostasia UGL IPED. National supply case involving the production and supply of a UGL linked anabolic steroid.

2021 Operation Bitterling – National production and distribution of Cannabis involving an international oriental crime group.

2023 - Cocaine importation of 1477 kilograms by Midlands Organised Crime Group from Columbia. Individual sentences ranged up to 23 years.

2024 - Operation Firecrest – Xanax production network in the Midlands of up to 2 million tablets sold via Darkweb around the world. All defendants convicted and sentences pending.

Mobile Phone and Written Interpretation - I provide an interpretation service offering the reviewing of street 'slang' and decoding of terminology commonly used by those involved in various acts of criminality. I have provided this service for a wide range of offences including drug production / trafficking, firearms production / trafficking, and in civil proceedings against individuals proving involvement or affiliation to urban Street Gangs.

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My eligibility for providing such bespoke service comes from personally working closely with past and present organised criminals through intelligence debriefs, prison visits, and spending several years in proactive disruption teams. I worked closely with the covert intelligence team allowed me to review intelligence submitted by informants and undercover officers, whilst also allowing me to request specific information on emerging trends or bespoke areas of criminality. I have reviewed over 500 mobile devices attributed to drug supply and provided hundreds of text interpretation reports. I also possess and maintain a live database of slang terms to ensure that I am aware of changes and trends within this field.

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