



OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

EXPERT WITNESS REPORT

IN THE CROWN COURT

AT _____

BETWEEN:

REX

-v-

DRUG & DATA INTERPRETATION EXPERT WITNESS REPORT OF

Gary CARROLL

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Dated:

Specialist Field:

Drug Trafficking & Data Interpretation

The Defendants / Case:

On the instructions of:

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Signature:

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1. Declaration

40 Duty to the Court – I am an Expert Witness in UK Drug Markets and Slang Data Interpretation, often referred to as a “Drug Expert”, and have been enlisted to assist in this case relating to ____.

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
50 direction of the court given to me and notifying the court of any significant failure to comply with its direction at once.

2. Professional Experience Overview - Abbreviated

I am the Founder and Principal Expert of Claymore Advisory Group, an independent Expert Witness practice established in March 2023, providing impartial expert evidence in drug-related matters, including complex data interpretation receiving instruction from both prosecution and defence.

Previously, I served as a full-time Expert Witness with West Midlands Police and was a member of the Drug Expert Witness & Valuation Association. Over six years, I produced more than 200 expert reports annually across one of the UK's busiest policing regions, covering offences from street-level supply to national and international drug trafficking, importation, production, County Lines, modern slavery, and organised crime.

I am now a council member of the Independent Drug Expert Alliance, assisting in the national promotion of fairness and transparency in Expert Evidence, including the delivery of CPD training for Drug Experts and other professionals across the UK.

I was a senior Expert Witness for the West Midlands, providing expertise to the County Lines Task Force from 2019 and the Regional Organised Crime Unit from 2020 on complex investigations, including those involving encrypted communications.

My expertise also extends to data interpretation in cases involving homicide, serious violence, organised crime, and associated offences.

Today, I provide independent expert evidence for both prosecution and defence, specialising in:

- Drug identification, valuation and associated paraphernalia
- Interpretation of drug-related documents and communications
- Drug slang and coded language
- County Lines, organised crime groups and encrypted messaging platforms
- Drug trafficking methods, structures and participant roles

My opinions are informed by extensive operational experience, continuous professional development, and ongoing engagement with current and former drug users through community networks and youth organisations, ensuring my evidence reflects contemporary criminal practices rather than solely academic or second-hand knowledge.

Further details of my qualifications and experience are provided in **Appendix A**.

3. Report Introduction

3.1 Instructions

3.2 Case Circumstances & Charges relating to

3.2.1 Drug Offences

3.2.2 Circumstances

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4. Analysis of Evidence

5. Conclusion

6. Statement of Truth

I confirm that the contents of this report are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I make this report knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I would be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or that I do not believe to be true.

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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 served as a warranted officer with West Midlands Police for 14 years, most recently within the Forensic Services Department, where I was a full-time Drug Expert for six years based at Ridgepoint House, Birmingham.

110 As an Expert Witness specialising in Drug Trafficking and Data Interpretation, I provide expert opinion, valuation evidence, and interpretation services. Throughout my tenure with West Midlands Police, I developed extensive knowledge and understanding of drug supply, usage, and production.

I continue to maintain regular contact with individuals and groups involved in drug markets, including users, dealers, and outreach workers. This engagement has allowed me to build an in-depth understanding of street terminology, market trends, and dealer tactics, enabling me to distinguish between end users, street-level dealers, and wholesale distributors.

During my six years as a Drug Expert Witness with West Midlands Police, I produced over 1,000 expert reports across more than 650 cases and complex operations, culminating in over
120 150 court appearances throughout the Midlands and neighbouring regions.

My expertise has been presented in complex cases involving identification, interpretation, gang behaviour, and organised crime, including drugs, firearms, homicide, and sexual offences.

Professional Experience:

2013–2015 – Lead Role in Organised Drug Supply, Central Birmingham

I focused on targeting organised drug supply in areas including Handsworth, Lozells, Aston, and Ladywood, working with Urban Street Gangs (USG) and larger criminal networks. This involved attending hundreds of cannabis farms, managing cases with multi-kilogram drug seizures, and addressing ancillary offences including firearms. This role provided extensive insight into lifestyle, pricing structures, and terminology used in drug supply.

130 **2015–2017 – Localised Priority Team, Central Birmingham**

I joined a team specialising in larger-scale drug supply cases, drug lines, County Lines, and firearms operations, proactively targeting gang-related crime and firearm offences. This plain-clothed role included covert policing, surveillance, and operational planning, resulting in the seizure of firearms and substantial Class A and B drug quantities. I further developed expertise in reviewing covert footage, telecommunications, and court procedures.

2017–2023 – Drugs Expert Witness Team, West Midlands Police

I joined the Drugs Expert Witness team in 2017, later becoming one of the principal Drug Experts. This position allowed me to observe and analyse drug and organised crime cases across the West Midlands, liaising with experts, intelligence officers, Border Force and HM Prison establishments.

- In October 2017, I completed a Drug Expert Training Course hosted by Kent Police and Police Scotland and joined the Drug Expert Witness & Valuation Association until 2023.
- From 2018, I advised private companies and organisations on drug legislation and compliance, collaborating with bodies such as UK Anti-Doping, UK Border Force, and NHS on criminal matters, training, and intelligence sharing.
- From 2021, I trained new Drug Expert Witnesses within West Midlands Police, delivering bespoke training programmes and CPD sessions on drug investigations, Urban Street Gangs, and Organised Crime Groups. Over 750 delegates, including police officers, PCSOs, cadets, investigators, and private company employees, attended these sessions.
- I was instrumental in creating the West Midlands Police Drug Valuation Officer role, developing the bespoke training package and delivering operational training.
- I also completed training as a Controlled Drug Liaison Officer (CDLO) and joined the national CDLO network, focusing on the diversion of prescription medicines into illicit markets and collaborating with the MHRA on large-scale importation, distribution, and production investigations.
- At the time of leaving West Midlands Police I specialised in complex and multi-tiered network supply groups in particularly those involved within Organised Crime and Encrypted Communications.
- I continually provide CPD and training on various drug related matters to private companies, police forces, specialist teams, government agencies, educational establishments and advise multiple national press-outlets.

Notable Cases:

- *2018 – Operation Glimmer:* Regional Urban Street Gang drug supply and blank firearms distribution; multiple defendants received combined sentences exceeding 40 years.

- 2020 – *Prostasia UGL IPED*: National case involving production and supply of UGL-produced anabolic steroids.
- 2021 – *Operation Bitterling*: National cannabis production and distribution with international criminal group involvement.
- 2023 – *R v Arnold*: Importation of 1,477 kg of cocaine by Midlands Organised Crime Group; individual sentences up to 23 years.
- 2024 – *Operation Firecrest*: Xanax production network in the Midlands, distributing up to two million tablets via the dark web.

2023–Present – Claymore Advisory Group

Since leaving West Midlands Police and founding Claymore Advisory Group, I have completed and overseen the submission of hundreds of expert reports for both prosecution and defence. To maintain up-to-date knowledge of the drug market, I continue to train police officers through CPD sessions, conduct confidential interviews and debriefs with individuals involved in drug markets, and monitor public reports and publications from law enforcement agencies. My expertise and opinion have been featured in multiple national newspaper articles, TV and Radio interviews regarding organised crime and drug trafficking.

I receive instruction from both Prosecution and Defence, and since forming in 2023, Claymore Expert Witness Services has assisted in cases across England and Wales in offences ranging from simply street level supply to international importation and distribution.

To ensure my knowledge is maintained and accurate I routinely engage with end habitual drug users in non-controlled environments, as well as former drug dealers and those with previous involvement in several key positions within the supply chain.

Mobile Phone and Written Interpretation Services

Since 2016, I have provided interpretation services for street slang and guarded terminology used in criminal activity. This has included offences related to drug production and trafficking, firearms, and civil proceedings against individuals affiliated with Urban Street Gangs. My experience is derived from working directly with current and former organised criminals, reviewing intelligence from informants and undercover operations, and proactive disruption activities. To date, I have reviewed over 1,000 mobile devices linked to drug supply and produced hundreds of text interpretation reports. I maintain a live database of slang terms to ensure awareness of emerging trends and terminology

Appendix B: Disclaimer

I confirm that I have read the guidance contained in the booklet known as *Disclosure: Expert's Evidence, Case Management and Unused Material*, which details my role and documents my responsibilities about revelation as an expert witness. I have followed the guidance and recognise the continuing nature of my responsibilities of revelation. In accordance with my duties of revelation, I confirm that:

1. I have complied with my duties to record, retain, and reveal material in accordance with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, as amended.
2. I have compiled an Index of all material. I will ensure that the Index is updated in the event I am provided with or generate additional material.
3. In the event my opinion changes on any material issue, I will inform the investigating officer, as soon as reasonably practicable, and give reasons.

I submit this report based on the information available to me at the time of compilation. I reserve the right to add, alter, or replace any explanation or opinion in the event of being informed of additional material, evidence, or facts.

I am tendering this evidence with the purpose of providing information to those who would not otherwise be expected to hold such knowledge to assist them in coming to their conclusions.

I know of no conflict of interest of any kind, other than any which I have disclosed in my report. I do not consider that any interest which I have disclosed affects my suitability as an expert witness on any issues on which I have given evidence. I will advise the party by whom I am instructed if, between the date of my report and the trial, there is any change in circumstances that affect this position.

I have exercised reasonable care and skill to be accurate and complete in preparing this report and have shown the sources of all information I have used.

I have endeavoured to include in my report those matters, of which I have knowledge or of which I have been made aware, that might adversely affect the validity of my opinion. I have clearly stated any qualifications to my opinion.

I have not, without forming an independent view, included, or excluded anything which has been suggested to me by others including those instructing me.

I will notify those instructing me immediately and confirm in writing if for any reason my existing report requires any correction or qualification.

I understand that:

- a. My report will form the evidence to be given under oath or affirmation.
- b. The court may at any stage direct a discussion to take place between experts.
- c. The court may direct that, following a discussion between the experts, a report should be prepared showing those issues that are agreed upon and those issues that are not agreed upon, together with the reasons.
- d. I may be required to attend court to be cross-examined on my report by a cross-examiner assisted by an expert.
- e. I am likely to be the subject of public adverse criticism by the judge if the Court concludes that I have not taken reasonable care in trying to meet the standards set out above.