

# The Academy of Experts

## Expert's Declaration

**‘For all Criminal cases in  
England & Wales under the  
Criminal Procedure Rules’**

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# Expert's Declaration

## EXPERT'S DECLARATION (Criminal Cases)

This Declaration should be inserted between the end of The Report and the Expert's signature.

I (Insert Full Name) DECLARE THAT:

- 1 I understand that my duty is to help the court to achieve the overriding objective by giving independent assistance by way of objective, unbiased opinion 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.
- 2 I confirm that I have not entered into any arrangement where the amount or payment of my fees is in any way dependent on the outcome of the case.
- 3 I know of no conflict of interest of any kind, other than any which I have disclosed in my report.
- 4 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.
- 5 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 which affect my answers to points 3 and 4 above.
- 6 I have shown the sources of all information I have used.
- 7 I have exercised reasonable care and skill in order to be accurate and complete in preparing this report.
- 8 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.
- 9 I have not, without forming an independent view, included or excluded anything which has been suggested to me by others including my instructing lawyers.
- 10 I will notify those instructing me immediately and confirm in writing if for any reason my existing report requires any correction or qualification.
- 11 I understand that:
  - 11.1 my report will form the evidence to be given under oath or affirmation;
  - 11.2 the court may at any stage direct a discussion to take place between experts;
  - 11.3 the court may direct that, following a discussion between the experts, a statement should be prepared showing those issues which are agreed and those issues which are not agreed, together with the reasons;
  - 11.4 I may be required to attend court to be cross-examined on my report by a cross-examiner assisted by an expert.
  - 11.5 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.
- 12 I have read Part 19 of the Criminal Procedure rules and I have complied with its requirements.
- 13 A I confirm that I have complied with the disclosure obligations listed in paragraph 7.1.4 of the Criminal Practice Directions.  
B [For experts to whose reports the code published under section 2 of the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021 does not apply.]  
I confirm that I have complied with the code of practice or conduct for experts of my discipline, namely [identify the code], in all respects save as identified in [schedule][annexe][x] to this report. That

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\* This Declaration applies from 18th November 2025

[schedule][annexe] identifies any respect in which I have not complied with that code, explains why I have not done so, and either:

- (a) explains why I do not think that that non-compliance creates any material risk to the reliability of my opinion, or
- (b) gives details of the action taken to mitigate any such risk.

[Reports to which the code published under section 2 of the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021 applies will include a compliance declaration in the terms required by that code.]

- 14 [For Experts instructed by the Prosecution only] I confirm that I have read the CPS Guidance on Disclosure, Unused Material and Case Management which details my role and

documents my responsibilities, in relation to revelation as an expert witness. I have followed the guidance and recognise the continuing nature of my responsibilities of disclosure. In accordance with my duties of disclosure, as documented in the guidance booklet, I confirm that:

- 14.1 I have complied with my duties to record, retain and reveal material in accordance with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, as amended;
- 14.2 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;
- 14.3 in the event my opinion changes on any material issue, I will inform the investigating officer, as soon as reasonably practicable and give reasons.

## 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.

## Discussions Between Experts

### Joint Statement Declaration

For all criminal cases in England & Wales under CrimPR, in accordance with the Criminal Practice Directions 2015 [2015] EWCA CRIM 1567 Consolidated with Amendment NO. 2 [2016] EWCA CRIM 1714 Div V 19C.7, should be inserted into the Joint Statement issued following the discussion(s) of experts immediately before the experts' signatures.

- 1 We the undersigned experts individually here re-state the Expert's Declaration contained in our respective reports that we understand our overriding duties to the court, have complied with them and will continue so to do.
- 2 We further confirm that we have neither jointly nor individually been instructed to, nor has it been suggested that we should, avoid or otherwise defer from reaching agreement on any matter within our competence.

# The Academy of Experts

## The Academy

Located in Gray's Inn TAE was founded in 1987 with the objective of providing, for the first time, a professional body for experts to establish and promote high objective standards.

Although there is representation on the Academy's Council from the legal profession the majority of the officers, including the Chairman, are practising Experts - The Academy of Experts (TAE) is run by Experts for Experts and those using them.

## Training and development

TAE offers a comprehensive range of training programmes to enable members to develop their expert skills, and undertake Continuous Professional Development activity. Courses range from basic Role and Responsibilities through to the requirements of Procedure Rules and the practice of Giving Evidence.

TAE is also a training and accreditation body for ADR Neutrals, including Mediators, Conciliators and Expert Determiners. It publishes and maintains The Register of Qualified Dispute Resolvers and awards the designatory letters QDR to those achieving the approved standard. Standards are enforced in exactly the same way as for experts.

## Accreditation of experts

All applicants to TAE who wish to become Accredited Practising Expert Witnesses undergo a rigorous vetting procedure to ensure standards of excellence are maintained. This is the process which gives the officially recognised full accreditation as a Practising Expert. Those achieving it are awarded the designatory letters MAE. Ethical and professional standards are underlined by Codes of Practice and enforced by a disciplinary committee.

## ADR

The promotion of Cost Efficient Dispute Resolution became increasingly important to TAE. It is now a major force in the introduction and development of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and has led to the development of the Faculty of Mediation and ADR.



## Range of services

TAE provides a full range of services to its members including:

- Technical Helpline
- Bespoke Training
- Technical Meetings
- Magazine and regular newsletters
- A detailed Expert's Handbook for Practical Guidance
- A regular survey of expert's fees
- Regular meetings on matters of expert interest
- Social functions

TAE provides a number of services which assist both Academy members and the legal profession including:

- ExpertSearch Finding and matching the right accredited expert to the case.
- Full training & accreditation of Commercial Mediators. The Academy awards the qualification QDR (Qualified Dispute Resolver) to members on its register.
- Mediator Appointment Service - Finding the right accredited mediator.
- Membership also open to the legal profession.