

# Recognised Training for Expert Witnesses Acting in Scotland

University certificated training and CPD courses for expert witnesses acting in civil and criminal proceedings in Scotland





*Along with my other qualifications I cite my accreditation as an expert witness every time I give evidence in court and often get an approving nod of recognition from the judge.*

*This is always reassuring when it happens. Overall the course has boosted my confidence and increased my expertise and for this I am immensely grateful.*

**Richard J. Marshall**  
**Clinical Psychologist**

*With over 8 years' experience acting as an expert witness, one of the most valuable pieces of advice I would pass on to new and even to experienced experts is that being an expert in your field is only the start of being an expert witness. The role and duties of an expert witness go well beyond just advising on an expertise. I would recommend all experts to undertake accredited Expert Witness Training with Bond Solon. This has greatly assisted me in fulfilling my duties as an expert witness, has enhanced the credibility of my Expert Reports and has been invaluable in developing this aspect of my practice.*

**John Williams FRICS ACI Arb**  
**Chartered Surveyor**

## Why undertake expert witness training?

As well as having the relevant qualifications and expertise in their professional field, it is now regarded as essential that experts, however experienced, undertake recognised expert witness training.

Solicitors increasingly look for experts who can demonstrate that they are able to meet deadlines, can produce reliable and effective reports, present (if necessary) those reports in court and other legal forums, and demonstrate an understanding of the Law Society of Scotland Code of Practice: Expert Witnesses Engaged by Solicitors.

Bond Solon expert witness training will enable the expert to comply with their legal obligations, assuring the instructing parties and the courts of the individual's ability as an expert witness. Undertaking the Certificate will also help differentiate oneself from other expert witnesses in the same field.

## What training should I undertake as an expert witness?

Expert witnesses play a fundamental role within the legal system by providing opinion-based evidence to assist the courts in reaching decisions. Expert witnesses write reports/statements and are called to give evidence in a wide variety of legal forums including: civil, criminal courts, tribunals, arbitrations, fatal accident and public inquiries, professional conduct and practice hearings. In undertaking this role we recommend experts should undertake, as a minimum, training covering:

- Expert report/statement writing
- Giving evidence in court
- Law and procedure

## Can these training courses lead to a university certificate?

Yes – experts who attend 4 training days and successfully complete 3 assessments will be eligible for the University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate.

This is the first university certificated expert witness training programme in Scotland. Experts who obtain this certificate will be able to demonstrate to both instructing solicitors and the courts that they have undertaken specific expert witness training, and that they have been assessed and hold the core and requisite competencies to act as an expert witness in Scotland.

The certificate must be completed within a 2 year time frame. Further details on the University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate can be found on pages 6 & 7.

## Public and in-house courses

Public courses are currently being run virtually. Each course is delivered to small groups to ensure that there is sufficient time for focused tuition, feedback and questions.

If you have four or more experts interested in a course it may be more cost effective to run the training as a closed course for your organisation. Closed courses are delivered either virtually or anywhere in the UK and can be tailored to meet the specific needs of those attending.



## Excellence in Report Writing (1 day)

An expert's report is an essential element in litigation. It must be clear, succinct, independent and well presented. An excellent report is also one of the most effective marketing tools that an expert will have in their career. Reports are seen by many professionals during litigation and often new instructions are received from opposition lawyers.

Many experts create their own report writing style or adopt other experts' formats and styles, having rarely received constructive feedback from lawyers on what is required from their written report.

This course explores what lawyers and the courts expect and require from an expert's report. You will be taught how to assess your own and other experts' reports.

Working with our model format and techniques received during the training you will be able to produce, quickly and consistently, reports that are appropriate for use in litigation and can withstand cross examination.

### KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Identifying the issues to be addressed in your report
- A structured approach to preparation and report writing
- Expressing a fair and independent view and justifying your conclusion
- Dealing with supporting information
- Developing an objective and critical eye in relation to your report
- Insulating your report against cross-examination

Public courses: Virtual  
Cost: £395+VAT  
Delegates: maximum of 14

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on running a closed course for your organisation

6 hours CPD

*Following the training the feedback on my reports from instructing solicitors has been so great that they in turn have recommended me to other law firms.*

**Simon Thackeray**  
Dentist

*This training offered real, practical insight into how to take instruction, structure and deliver accurate, concise and robust reports which can withstand the highest level of scrutiny. Result!*

**Mike Flannery**  
Lead Accident Investigator

*As a niche expert witness, providing reports and evidence in Scotland, England and Wales, the training which we received from Bond Solon was second to none, and has provided me and my team with an understanding of the courtroom skills that gives us credibility in the legal forum and has enhanced our professional status.*

**Professor Lorna Dawson**  
The James Hutton Institute



*The Courtroom Skills training has given me the knowledge, skills and confidence to be able to give effective evidence in court. Owing to this training, the QC in a recent hearing specifically commended my performance in the witness box and stated that in the future he is going to recommend all his expert witnesses receive formal training from Bond Solon*

**Jean McConville**  
Consultant Midwife

*As an independent psychiatrist looking to become an expert witness it was recommended by a colleague that I attend Bond Solon expert witness training. I now fully understand the importance and implications of being an expert witness and am now confident in my ability to write a court compliant report and to stand up against cross examination.*

**Una McDermott**  
Independent Psychiatrist

## Courtroom Skills (1 day)

The witness box is a lonely place. Many experts feel they are on trial, rather than giving independent testimony to assist the court. Often, experts are unfamiliar with this environment, as few cases go to trial. But a poor performance can undermine your confidence and credibility.

Courtroom Skills is an intensive and highly practical training day. First we examine the theory, practice and procedure of giving evidence, demystifying the process. Then you are cross-examined on a case study you prepare on your field of expertise. A professional trainer, who is also an experienced lawyer, gives constructive feedback on your witness box presentation. As with all our courses, you will receive a comprehensive workbook.

### KEY LEARNING POINTS

- How the Scottish court system works
- Your role as an independent educator of the court
- Key skills of presenting effective evidence
- Techniques advocates use in cross-examination and how to handle them
- Expressing an opinion based on the foundation of fact
- Giving confident, clear testimony under cross-examination
- If required, explaining your methodology and analysis of the facts and how you arrived at your opinions

Public courses: Virtual  
Cost: £395+VAT  
Delegates: maximum of 8

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on running a closed course for your organisation

6 hours CPD



## Cross-Examination Day (1 day)

The Cross-Examination Day is a follow-on course to the Courtroom Skills Training. The day involves intensive cross-examination experience which enables experts to refine and enhance their evidence giving performance, and gain mastery of their presentation.

Each expert is cross-examined on one of their own reports, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. The second cross-examination is recorded. If undertaking the University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate then this will be submitted for assessment; experts not working toward the UABS Certificate can keep their recording.

### KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Dealing with in-depth cross-examination on a full report or statement
- Making full use of supporting documents, plans, photographs, etc.
- Getting to the essence of a complex case and communicating clearly with the judge or decision-maker
- Handling difficult cross-examination techniques confidently

Public courses: Virtual  
Cost: £395 + VAT  
Delegates: maximum of 8

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on running a closed course for your organisation

6 hours CPD

## Law and Procedure (1 day)

Experts involved in civil and criminal proceedings in Scotland need to understand the basics of law and legal procedure to work effectively and confidently and comply with various mandatory requirements.

The practical implications of The Law Society of Scotland Expert Witness Code of Practice, guidance and judicial comment on the roles and responsibilities of experts are studied.

### KEY LEARNING POINTS

- The role of the expert
- Evidence and procedure in the Civil and Criminal Courts
- Relationships between the expert, court and solicitor
- The Law Society of Scotland Expert Witness Code of Practice

Public courses: Virtual  
Cost: £325+VAT  
Delegates: maximum of 20

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on running a closed course for your organisation

6 hours CPD

*I was recommended to go on the Bond Solon courses by a barrister when I started undertaking expert witness work and found the training in report writing and courtroom skills to be extremely useful in helping me understand the correct procedures and potential pitfalls when undertaking such work.*

**Alastair Hayton**  
Veterinary Surgeon

*Whether you complete the full course or selected modules, you will receive a thorough and rigorous training in the requirements of expert witnesses in court proceedings.*

**Dr Yvonne Walker**  
Educational Psychologist



## The University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate

In conjunction with The University of Aberdeen, Bond Solon offers the first university certificated expert witness training programme in Scotland.

The certificate is made up of 4 days of training. Experts who successfully complete the corresponding assessments are awarded the certificate.

This unique expert witness certificate enables you demonstrate to both instructing solicitors and the courts that you have been assessed and hold the core and requisite competencies to act as an expert in Scotland.

To date over 1,500 experts from a wide variety of professions have completed the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate, a corresponding certificate for expert witnesses who act in English and Welsh jurisdiction.

### The Training:

In order to qualify for a Certificate it is necessary for you to complete the following compulsory training modules:

- Excellence in Report Writing (1 day)
- Courtroom Skills (1 day)
- Cross Examination Day (1 day)
- Law and Procedure (1 day)

Public courses are held virtually

#### Cost:

£1,980 + VAT if the 4 modules are booked separately.

£1,782 + VAT if the 4 modules are booked together.

These fees include the £470 + VAT accreditation fee to The University of Aberdeen.

The training can also be run as a closed course for your organisation - for details please contact us.

### The Assessment Process:

The certificate is assessed in three parts, all of which must be submitted to the University of Aberdeen within a two year period.

#### Part 1 - assessment of your expert witness report

You can submit your expert witness report at any time during this two year period, but we recommend doing so after you have attended the Cross-Examination Day. You are required to submit two copies in court-ready condition including any photographs, plans etc.

#### Part 2 - review of your performance under cross-examination

A video of your performance will be made during the Cross-Examination day.

#### Part 3 - multiple choice examination on the law and procedure course

A multiple-choice examination is sat at the end of the Law and Procedure day.

Providing a pass standard is reached in all three assessments, you will then be awarded the University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate. You will also be provided with the certificate logo and specific wording, which can be used on all your marketing material. Holders of the certificate can take advantage of discounts for other expert witness services and products with our partners including: listings in a number of expert witness directories and adverts in the legal press.

### Continuing Professional Development:

Expert witnesses who hold the certificate are expected to keep up to date with any developments and changes in law and procedure affecting their work. It is also essential that they keep their expert witness skills honed and refreshed. In order to achieve this, experts are required to undertake 6 hours of ongoing expert witness training every 2 years.

### Benefits of The University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate:

- Demonstrates you are able to fulfil your duties as an expert witness in Scotland
- Increases confidence in your skills and knowledge, both to yourself and to instructing solicitors
- Highly-regarded certificate logo and wording for CVs, websites, reports and correspondence to solicitors, and therefore a useful marketing tool



- Will differentiate you from other experts in the same field
- You are eligible for discounted expert witness professional indemnity insurance with Ntegrity Insurance



## Frequently asked questions about The University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate:

### **Q: How long do I have to complete the UABS Certificate?**

A: All assessments must be passed within two years of the date on which the candidate's first pass is achieved. The period may be extended in exceptional circumstances at the entire discretion of The University of Aberdeen.

### **Q: Will I be required to complete any pre-course work**

A: In advance of the Courtroom Skills course you will be required to send to Bond Solon a 1-2 page case study on which you will be cross-examined on the training. For the Excellence in Report Writing course you are asked to bring along with you to the training a copy of one of your expert witness reports from a past case. If you don't have a report then you could either borrow one from a colleague or Bond Solon can supply you with one. Similarly, for the Cross-Examination Day we request that you send us a fully court compliant report in advance of the course on which you will be cross-examined. Finally, the course manual for the Law and Procedure day is sent to you as a pre-read a month before the training.

### **Q: Do I have to take the training in any particular order?**

A: The Excellence in Report Writing, and Courtroom Skills training must precede the Cross Examination Day. We also recommend that you allow a gap of at least 2 months between Report Writing and the Cross Examination Day. The Law & Procedure course can be attended at any time.

### **Q: When and where are the courses run?**

Public courses are currently being held virtually. Alternatively, if you have a group of 4 or more colleagues interested in a course it may be more cost-effective to deliver the training as a closed course for your organisation. Closed courses can be delivered at your premises or run virtually.

### **Q: I have taken expert witness training courses with Bond Solon in the past. Do I get credit for these courses?**

A: If you have attended expert witness training with Bond Solon previously, then you may be exempt from attending certain courses which comprise the UABS Certificate. Please contact Bond Solon to discuss possible exemptions that may apply to you in completing the Certificate.

### **Q: Is the Certificate appropriate for new or more experienced expert witnesses?**

A: The Certificate is suitable for both new experts and those who have been undertaking this work for many years.

### **Q: What happens if I fail any of the assessments?**

A: You will be able to resubmit any of the assessments and can retake the training (optional), subject to additional fees.

### **Q: How do I enrol on the programme?**

A: Call Bond Solon on 0800 731 2095 for further information or to enrol. Alternatively visit our website at [www.bondsolon.com](http://www.bondsolon.com)

## A selection of our clients...

### PROFESSIONAL/AWARDING BODIES, INSTITUTES, ASSOCIATIONS

British Medical Association, British Psychological Society, Royal College of Midwives, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Society of Biology, Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists, Society of Radiographers, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, Scottish Spine Surgeons

### LAW FIRMS

Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Brodies LLP, BTO Solicitors LLP, Burness Paull, Clyde & Co LLP, CMS, Dentons, DLA Piper Scotland, DWF, Macroboberts LLP, Pinsent Masons LLP, Shepherd & Wedderburn LLP

### COMPANIES

Atkins, Braemar, Burgoynes, Carter Brown, Deloitte, Diales, FTI Consulting, Hawkins, HKA, Jacqueline Webb, Jane James & Associates, Key Forensics, London Offshore Consultants, Nera, Ottobock, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Resolve Medicolegal, Somek & Associates, The Havens, Wilkins Kennedy, Yorkshire Psychology Practice

### CENTRAL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aberdeen City Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Glasgow City Council, The Highland Council, Insolvency Service, Maritime & Coastguard Agency, MOD, NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, Ofgem, Ofsted, Pensions Regulator, Rural Payments Agency (Scotland), Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture, Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Information Commissioner, Scottish Legal Complaints Commission, Scottish Police College, Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, Scottish Social Services Council, Serious Fraud Office.

## About Bond Solon

Bond Solon is the UK's leading expert witness information and training company. Since 1992 Bond Solon has been at the forefront of improving the standards of expert witnesses in the UK through the provision of high quality and up-to-date information, training and certification. Over 250,000 delegates have received training from Bond Solon.

## University of Aberdeen

One of four "ancient" universities of Scotland, law was first taught at the University of Aberdeen when it was founded in 1495. Nowadays, the School of Law's aim is to provide an excellent education in law, and it takes pride in delivering high quality, engaging and academically challenging learning opportunities. Our close links with the legal profession, industry and policymakers means that our recognised excellence in teaching and research remains aligned to sector and governmental needs. With around 50 academic staff and 1,250 students, Aberdeen is ranked 6th in the UK for Law by the Complete University Guide 2021.

0800 731 2095  
[www.bondsolon.com](http://www.bondsolon.com)

