

Bond Solon

Expert Witness Training and Certification

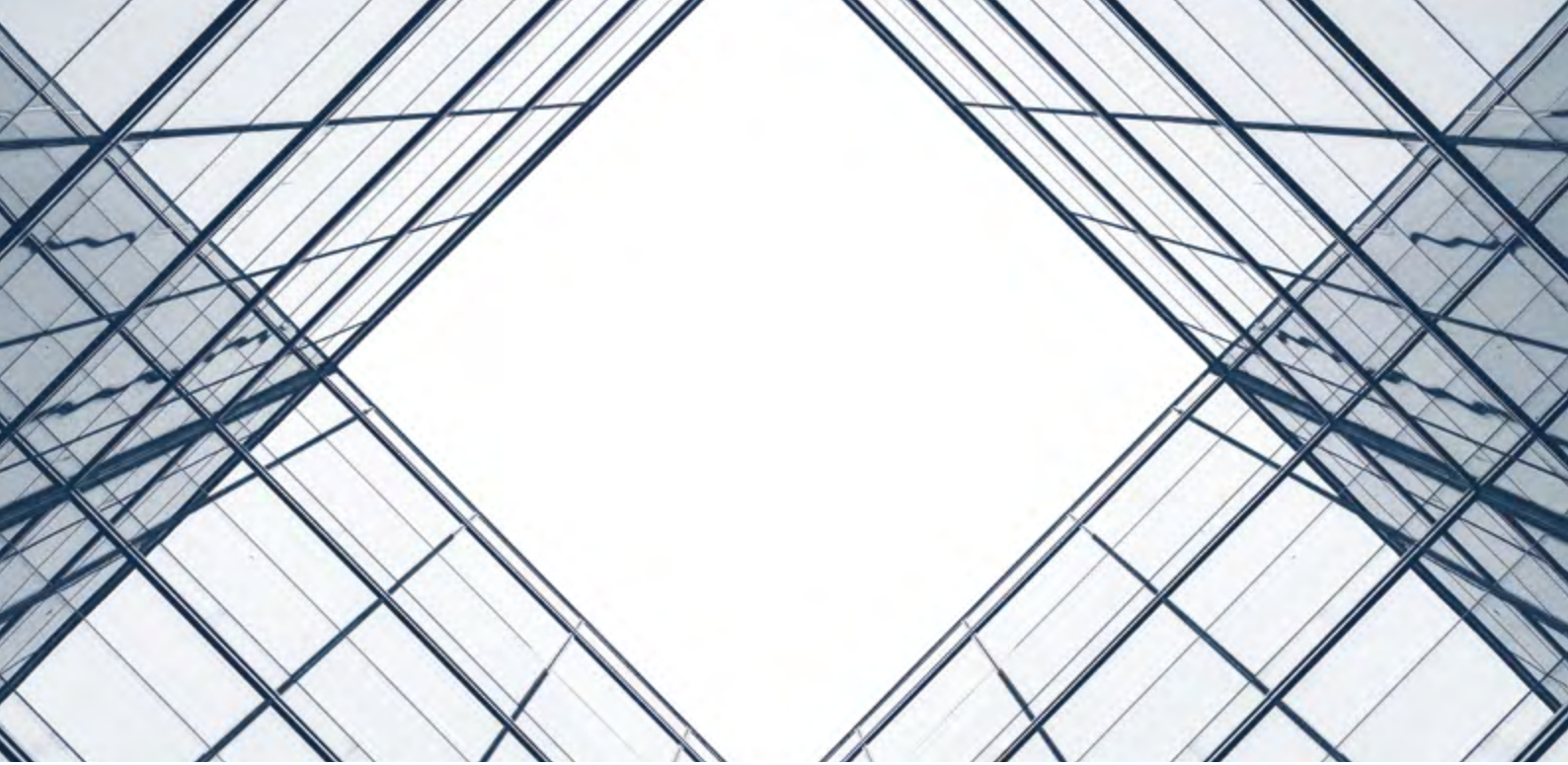
CPD courses, university certificates and conferences for expert witnesses acting in civil, criminal and family proceedings.

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Overview



Who are we?

Bond Solon is the UK's leading expert witness training, certification and information company. Since we were established in 1994, we have been at the forefront of improving the standards of expert witnesses through the provision of high quality training and up-to-date information. Our training provides experts with all the key skills and knowledge required to work effectively and compliantly as an expert witness.

We offer university certificated training programmes for expert witnesses that are widely regarded as the gold standard within the expert witness community and by instructing parties and the courts.

We train individual experts across all professional disciplines and also arrange courses for professional bodies, law enforcement, governmental organisations and commercial businesses of all sizes.

Our trainers are experienced lawyers from a wide array of practice areas and all are professionally trained trainers.



When looking to instruct experts, we specifically look for those that have undertaken formal training and accreditation through Bond Solon.

Katie Parr, Royds Withy King



I would urge all experts to receive training from either Bond Solon or a similar organisation. I think you will find it critical that you do so.

Lord Woolf, former Lord Chief Justice and Master of the Rolls

Why is expert witness training required?

In addition to having the relevant qualifications, knowledge and experience in their professional field, expert witnesses should also undertake specific training and CPD for being an expert witness, to ensure they possess the skills and knowledge required to work compliantly and effectively in this area. This training should be regularly refreshed and kept up-to-date.

Expert witness work, as with any professional service, needs to be underpinned by professional training and CPD. In fact, instructing parties generally expect those that they instruct to have received formal training for being an expert witness.

In 2011, expert witnesses lost their immunity from being sued over matters arising in the course of legal proceedings and in addition to this there are other inherent risks facing expert witnesses who fall short of their duty, including: judicial criticism, court ordered fines and sanctions imposed by professional bodies.

Undertaking expert witness training with Bond Solon will help mitigate the risks to the expert and their practice. It will also give the expert witness the skills and knowledge required to carry out their role compliantly, effectively and to the very highest standards.

Benefits of undertaking expert witness training with Bond Solon

- Reassures instructing parties and the courts that the expert is aware of their duties and responsibilities
- Enables compliance with the expert witness training requirements laid out in the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges' Guidance for Expert Witnesses (medical experts only)
- Differentiates the expert from others in the same field
- Qualifies experts for discounted professional indemnity premiums for their expert witness work
- Assists expert witnesses in working more efficiently, thereby increasing the amount of work they can perform
- More effectively market expert witness services

What training should I undertake as an expert witness?

Expert witnesses play a fundamental role within the UK's judicial system by providing opinion-based evidence to assist the courts in reaching decisions. Expert witnesses may be asked to write reports or statements and be called to give evidence in a wide variety of legal forums including: civil, criminal and family courts, tribunals, arbitrations, inquiries and professional conduct hearings. In carrying out this role we recommend experts should undertake, as a minimum, training covering:

- Expert report/statement writing
- Relevant law and procedure
- Discussions with experts/Experts' meetings
- Giving evidence in court

Who should attend training?

Any professional who is either considering starting work as an expert witness or who has been carrying out the role for some time, needs to ensure they have been appropriately trained to fulfil the role of the expert witness and comply with all their duties and responsibilities.

Can these training courses lead to a recognised certificate?

Yes – expert witnesses can work towards achieving one or more of the following university certificates, which are widely regarded as the gold standard within their respective jurisdictions.

For those who act in English and Welsh jurisdiction:

- Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Civil Expert Witness Certificate
- Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Criminal Expert Witness Certificate
- Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Family Expert Witness Certificate



Further details on the CUBS Certificate can be found on [page 26](#).

For those who will act in Scottish jurisdiction:

- University of Aberdeen Bond Solon (UABS) Expert Witness Certificate

Further details on the UABS Certificate can be found on [page 27](#).



Experts producing reports should undertake recognised expert witness training. MLP Injury Lawyers will now only instruct an expert who can demonstrate an understanding of the law and the requirements of being an expert. I would be happy to recommend all experts to take Bond Solon training.

Kevin Walker, Serious Catastrophic Injury Lawyer, Optimal Solicitors

Different training options

Public courses are run throughout the year via virtual classrooms. 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 convenient and cost effective to run the training in-house for your organisation. In-house courses can either be delivered face-to-face or virtually, and we can tailor the training to the specific learning needs of those attending.

Bond Solon offers various expert witness e-learning products addressing subjects such as GDPR, an Annual Legal Update and Civil Procedure Rules.

We run an Annual Expert Witness Conference each November in Westminster, which is the largest gathering of experts anywhere in the UK.



We always look for experts who can demonstrate that they have a thorough understanding of Practice Direction 35, and are able to produce court compliant reports and give evidence in court.

Steven Murrell, Litigation Solicitor, Macfarlanes LLPs



We prefer to instruct experts who have been formally trained to be experts. Training can make the difference in our choice between two experts with similar experience and expertise.

Toby Graham, Farrer & Co



Classroom Courses

Excellence in Report Writing - England and Wales (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£399 + VAT

[Book now](#)

An expert's report is a vital 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 people's generalised formats, having rarely received constructive feedback from lawyers on what is required from their written evidence.

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 court compliant and can withstand cross-examination.

Key learning points

- Identifying the issues to be addressed in your report
- Using a structured approach to preparation and writing
- Expressing an independent view and arguing your conclusion
- Handling supporting information
- Developing an objective and critical eye in relation to your report
- Insulating your report against cross-examination
- Dealing with procedural requirements, including The Expert's Declaration



Delegates: maximum of 16

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for one or more of the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificates. Please see [page 26](#) for further details.

Courtroom Skills - England and Wales (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

**Public Course: Virtual
Classroom or Face-to-Face**

Cost

**£399 + VAT (virtual classroom)
or £415 + VAT (face-to-face)**

[Book now](#)

The witness box is a lonely place. Many experts feel they are on trial, standing in the dock rather than giving independent testimony to assist the court. Often, experts are unfamiliar with this environment, as few cases go to a full trial. But a poor performance can undermine 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. You will then prepare to be cross-examined on a case study based on your field of expertise. Our professional trainer (who is also an experienced lawyer) will give constructive feedback on your witness box presentation. You will gain the confidence you need to perform well in court.

Key learning points

- Gaining an overview of how the court systems works
- Understanding your role as an independent educator of the court
- Identifying key skills of presenting effective evidence
- Determining the techniques lawyers use in cross-examination and how to handle them
- Expressing an opinion based on the foundation of fact
- Learning how to give confident, clear testimony under cross-examination



Delegates: maximum of 8

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for one or more of the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificates. Please see [page 26](#) for further details.

Cross-Examination Day - England and Wales (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£399 + VAT

Book now

The Cross-Examination Day is a follow-on course to the Courtroom Skills Training. Experts seeking intensive training in cross-examination skills use this course to refine and enhance their performance and gain mastery of their presentation.

Each expert is cross-examined on one of their completed reports, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. The second cross-examination is recorded. If undertaking the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate then this will be submitted for assessment; experts not working toward the 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
- Handling difficult cross-examination techniques confidently



Delegates: maximum of 6

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for one or more of the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificates. Please see [page 26](#) for further details.

Civil Law and Procedure - England and Wales (2 days)

CPD

12 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£599 + VAT

Book now

The training has been designed to provide experts with a clear understanding of the legal landscape, and the procedural framework, within which an expert witness operates. You will gain an overview of how law is made and enforced; the court structure; the stages through which a case in court must pass; and detailed knowledge of the rules relating to the expert witness.

Key learning points

- Describing the civil court structure in England and Wales
- Describing the civil litigation process in England and Wales
- Identifying the stages in the civil litigation process in England and Wales which involve the expert witness
- Applying the legal duties of the expert witness to the court in a civil litigation scenario
- Applying the procedural rules applicable to an expert witness in a civil litigation scenario



Delegates: maximum of 14

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for one or more of the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificates. Please see [page 26](#) for further details.

Criminal Law and Procedure - England and Wales (2 days)

CPD

12 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£599 + VAT[Book now](#)

Experts involved in criminal proceedings in England and Wales need to understand the basics of law and legal procedure to work effectively, confidently and comply with various mandatory requirements. Experts will consider the practical implications of their duties and responsibilities to the court as set out in the Criminal Procedure Rules. They will learn the essentials of disclosure, continuity of evidence and how to maintain professional objectivity and impartiality.

Key learning points

- Gaining an overview of the criminal justice system and criminal prosecution
- Understanding the Criminal Procedure Rules, legislation and codes of practice
- Recognising the relevance of the Human Rights Act 1998
- Differentiating between different types of evidence, including oral, documentary and real evidence and issues relating to the admissibility of hearsay and evidence of bad character
- Distinguishing between facts, inferences and opinion



Delegates: maximum of 14

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for one or more of the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificates. Please see [page 26](#) for further details.

Family Law and Procedure - England and Wales (2 days)

CPD

12 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£599 + VAT

[Book now](#)

As an expert witness involved in family law cases in England and Wales you are required to have an understanding of the relevant legislation and procedures that are referenced and applied each day in the family courts. This will not only assist you in working more effectively and confidently but will also ensure you are compliant with mandatory requirements of the Family Procedure Rules.

This two day structured training course has been designed to provide you with a clear understanding of the legal landscape and the procedural framework, within which an expert witness in the family court operates. You will gain an overview of how law is made and enforced; the court structure; the stages through which a case in court must pass and the different types of proceedings heard within the family courts.

Given some recent cases in the family courts have been rather critical of expert witnesses we will provide you with detailed knowledge of the rules relating to the expert witness including the sanctions that could be imposed.

In addition, you will learn the legal principles applied in children's cases, the impact of the Human Rights Act, the different types of evidence and their admissibility plus the practical implications of Part 25 of the Family Procedure Rules.

Key learning points

- Describe the family court structure in England and Wales
- Describe the family litigation process in England and Wales
- Identify the three distinct and separate sets of proceedings that are conducted in the family court – public law, private law and financial disputes
- Identify the stages in the family litigation process in England and Wales which involve the expert witness
- Apply the legal duties of the expert witness to the court within family litigation to different case scenarios
- Apply the procedural rules applicable to an expert witness in a family litigation scenario



Delegates: maximum of 14

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for one or more of the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificates. Please see [page 26](#) for further details.

Discussions Between Experts (Half-day)

CPD

3 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£275 + VAT[Book now](#)

Meetings and discussions between experts are increasingly being requested by the courts in an attempt to save court time, reduce legal costs and bring about a settlement between the parties. These discussions between experts may feel more informal than the courtroom, but can be just as important to the outcome of the case.

This course will provide experts with a comprehensive overview of what these discussions entail, possible pitfalls and the implications if best practice is not followed. Experts will gain a thorough understanding of the court procedure rules, governing discussions between experts and the court's intention behind them. Role play exercises on the course will enable experts to apply newly acquired knowledge and practice the skills necessary to conduct effective discussions.

Key learning points

- Understanding the legal requirements and implications of discussions between experts
- Preparing for the discussion between experts
- Outlining the agenda of the discussion between experts
- Gaining an overview of the Statement of Agreement and Disagreement, and minutes of the meeting
- Being able to confidently respond to an instruction from the solicitor to avoid reaching agreement
- Working with an expert who is not complying with their duties to the court

Delegates: maximum of 16

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Report Writing Refresher (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£399 + VAT[Book now](#)

This course is for expert witnesses who have already attended the Excellence in Report Writing course two or more years ago. It is designed to enable experts to refine their report writing skills and improve the quality of their reports.

There will be an in-depth critique of each experts' report by our experienced lawyer-trainer, as well as peer-to-peer feedback, all based on objective assessment criteria for writing expert witness reports.

Expert witness skills and knowledge can be lost over time if they're not refreshed and sharpened regularly. This course will allow experts to revisit the key principles that apply to expert witness reports and help ensure them understand the latest rules and conventions of expert evidence.

This CPD course will enable you to keep your report writing skills up-to-date, and undertake reflections to help you think about areas for improvement in your report writing as well as what you are doing well.

Key learning points

- Identify areas for improvement in your reports as well as what you are doing well
- Analyse areas of reports most likely to be subject to scrutiny under cross-examination
- Revisit the key principles that apply to expert witness reports
- Understand recent developments in legislation, procedures, practices and case law and their impact on report writing
- Identify how to address/respond appropriately to complex and difficult issues
- Acquire the ability to scrutinise expert reports from the position of the decision maker and instructing lawyers, and understand what the judiciary require from experts' reports

Delegates: maximum of 6

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Courtroom Skills Refresher (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

In-house Course

[Book now](#)

This course is designed as a refresher for expert witnesses who have already attended the Courtroom Skills course two or more years ago.

For many experts, giving evidence is an infrequent occurrence, but it is essential that they keep their skills honed in this area, should the need arise in the future. Coupled with this, experts need to be able to demonstrate to instructing parties that they possess the skills to give clear and effective oral evidence if required.

You will be part of a small group undertaking this training, which includes a brief refresher of key courtroom skills. An experienced lawyer-trainer will then cross-examine each delegate on a report they have submitted before the training and provide feedback enabling delegates to enhance their competencies when giving expert evidence in court and other legal forums.

This CPD course will enable you to keep your courtroom skills up-to-date, and undertake reflections to help you think about areas for improvement in your evidence giving as well as what you are doing well.

Key learning points

- Refresh key courtroom skills
- Practise evidence giving in the safe confines of the training room
- Identify areas of reports most likely to be subject to scrutiny under cross-examination and where they can be improved
- Get to the core of your evidence and clarify the issues in dispute
- Explain complex and specialised areas of expertise succinctly and clearly
- Build a relationship of trust with the judge
- Give evidence to best practice standards

Personal Injury Essentials: The law and a practical guide to the expert's role from instruction to settlement (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£415 + VAT

[Book now](#)

This course has been designed for expert witnesses specialising in personal injury (both new and experienced). It is aimed at medical and non-medical experts, and it will be of particular interest to those wishing to develop their skills in dealing with high value and complex cases.

The course focuses on what makes a good expert witness and goes beyond discussing the duties imposed by CPR Part 35 to really unpicking what the expectations are of an expert by lawyers, clients, the court and other experts.

The course will provide a refresher of the law relating to liability and causation and look at some recent cases and developments. The role of an expert witness will be considered and in particular how evidence from different disciplines jigsaw together to help quantify and resolve a claim from the outset to resolution. The course will end with a discussion of how experts can best market themselves to obtain good sources of work.

The course is designed to be interactive using case studies, a breakout session and a Q&A session. Delegates are encouraged to ask questions throughout the session to maximise the relevance of the training to their practice area.

Key learning points

- The law relating to personal injury – an expert's guide to liability and causation
- A discussion of the different expert disciplines commonly instructed in personal injury claims and an overview of how these different disciplines interact
- An explanation of how lawyers build cases and how the role of an expert fits within that construct
- Recent developments in the law including fundamental dishonesty and update to the Ogden tables
- An explanation of case management and an analysis of a typical directions Order with particular reference to the identification of key stages of expert involvement
- Joint discussions and statements – how to prepare
- The importance of compliance with duties and deadlines including a discussion of potential consequences of failures and how to avoid them
- A brief summary of the expert's role in court proceedings – expectation, preparation and performance

Delegates: maximum of 16

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Clinical Negligence Essentials Part 1: substantive legal principles and case law for the expert witness (half-day)

CPD

3 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£260 + VAT[Book now](#)

This half day course has been specifically designed for clinical negligence expert witnesses (both new and experienced). By way of both case examples and a Q&A session, this interactive course will review substantive clinical negligence law. In particular, it will explore the legal concepts and principles applicable to clinical negligence cases, which it is essential the expert witness understands and is up to date with. It will also explore the practical effect and impact of those concepts and principles on clinical negligence cases.

The course can be attended either as a free-standing course or in conjunction with Clinical Negligence Essentials Part 2: the practical aspects of being a clinical negligence expert.

Key learning points

- The law relating to clinical negligence and the practicalities for you as a clinical negligence expert
- What is required to be proved in clinical negligence claims
- Duty of care owed by medical and health professionals, including when a duty is owed, to whom and for what
- Breach of duty and standard of care, including the tests applied with particular consideration of Bolam, Bolitho and Montgomery
- Consent post-Montgomery
- Causation, including the 'but for' and 'material contribution' tests, remoteness and scope of duty
- An interactive case example helping demonstrate the above

Delegates: maximum of 16

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Clinical Negligence Essentials Part 2: the practical aspects of being a clinical negligence expert witness (half-day)

CPD

3 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£260 + VAT[Book now](#)

This half day course has been specifically designed for clinical negligence expert witnesses (both new and experienced). By way of both case examples and a Q&A session, this interactive course will look at the practicalities of being a clinical negligence expert witness. In particular, it will explore the expert's duties and responsibilities, provide practical tips on the preparation of CPR-compliant reports and highlight pitfalls and traps to be avoided by reference to recent case law.

The course can be attended either as a free-standing course or in conjunction with Clinical Negligence Essentials Part 1: substantive legal principles and case law for the expert witness.

Key learning points

- The duties and responsibilities of an expert in clinical negligence cases
- How to apply the law and legal principles to an expert report
- The practical impact of Montgomery and valid consent
- Evidence and the use of medical records and other documents
- Setting out a report in practice and tips on report writing in a clinical negligence setting
- Procedural steps and the expert, including the expert discussions
- Recent case law from the judiciary on what experts should and should not be doing
- An interactive case example helping demonstrate the above

Delegates: maximum of 16

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Excellence in Report Writing – Scotland (1 day)

CPD

Location

6 hours**In-house Course**

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.

This course can count towards the University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate.

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



Delegates: maximum of 16

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate
Please see [page 27](#) for further details.

Courtroom Skills - Scotland (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

In-house Course

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 witnessbox presentation.

This course can count towards the University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate.

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
- An interactive case example helping demonstrate the above



Delegates: maximum of 18

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate
Please see [page 27](#) for further details.

Cross-Examination Day - Scotland (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

In-house Course

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 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
- Handling difficult cross-examination techniques confidently



Delegates: maximum of 6

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

Compulsory day for University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate
Please see [page 27](#) for further details.

Law and Procedure - Scotland (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

**Public Course:
Virtual Classroom**

Cost

£350 + VAT

Book now

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



Delegates: maximum of 14

4 or more experts? Contact us for more information on in-house training for your organisation - either virtual or face-to-face delivery options are available

**Compulsory day for University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate.
Please see [page 27](#) for further details.**



Certificates

The Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Expert Witness Certificates

Individual Delegate Rate – Public Courses

[Book now](#)

Cost: **£2295 + VAT** if the 5 days are booked separately
(includes the £499 + VAT assessment marking and certification fee)

Cost: **£2065 + VAT** if the 5 days are booked together
(includes the £499 + VAT assessment marking and certification fee)

Established in 2002, the CUBS Certificate is specifically designed for those who act as expert witnesses in English and Welsh jurisdiction. It has been completed by over 1,500 experts from across all professional disciplines and is widely regarded within the expert witness industry and by instructing parties as the gold standard.

Benefits of achieving the Certificate are as follows:

- Enables you to comply with the expert witness training requirements laid out by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleagues.
- Demonstrates to instructing parties and the courts that you are competent to perform the role of the expert witness
- Register for free on the [National Register of University Certified Expert Witnesses](#)
- Widely recognised certificate logo enables you to more effectively market your expert witness services
- Makes you eligible for discounted professional indemnity premiums for your expert witness work

The programme is made up of five days of training and 3 assessments. Our public courses are delivered virtually and delegates are not required to travel to Cardiff at any point.

The Training

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

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

Experts can then work toward one or more of the Certificates by completing the relevant two-day Law and Procedure days:

- Civil Law and Procedure
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Family Law and Procedure

See [page 28](#) for details of the assessment process.



University of Aberdeen Bond Solon (UABS) Expert Witness Certificate

Individual Delegate Rate – Public Courses

[Book now](#)

Cost: **£2017 + VAT** if the 4 days are booked separately
(includes the £470 + VAT assessment marking and certification fee)

Cost: **£1815 + VAT** if the 4 days are booked together
(includes the £470 + VAT assessment marking and certification fee)

Following the success of the Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Expert Witness Certificate over the past two decades, in 2020 Bond Solon launched the University of Aberdeen Bond Solon (UABS) Expert Witness Certificate for those who act as expert witnesses in Scottish jurisdiction.

Benefits of achieving the Certificate are as follows:

- Demonstrates to instructing parties and the courts that you are competent to perform the role of the expert witness
- Register for free on the National Register of University Certified Expert Witnesses
- Widely recognised certificate logo enables you to more effectively market your expert witness services
- Makes you eligible for discounted professional indemnity premiums for your expert witness work

The programme is made up of four days of training and 3 assessments. Our public courses are delivered virtually and delegates are not required to travel to Aberdeen at any point.

The Training

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

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

See [page 28](#) for details of the assessment process.



The Assessment Process for CUBS and UABS

Each certificate is assessed in three parts, and all three assessments must be successfully completed with 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. You are required to submit the report in court-ready condition including any photographs, plans etc.

Part 2 - review of your performance under cross-examination

An audio-visual recording of your performance will be made during the Cross-Examination day.

Part 3 - multiple choice examination on law and procedure

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

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

Continuing Professional Development

Experts who hold the UABS or CUBS Certificate are expected to keep up-to-date with any developments and changes to ensure their skills and knowledge are current. In order to achieve this, experts are required to undertake six hours of ongoing expert witness training every two years.

National Register of University Certificated Expert Witnesses

The register is an exclusive online list of expert witnesses who have been awarded the widely recognised Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) and/or University of Aberdeen (UABS) Expert Witness Certificates.

Registration is free, but to remain on the register, in addition to having achieved the CUBS and/or UABS Certificates, experts must commit to completing six hours of expert witness continuing professional development every two years.

Visit www.bondsolon.com/expert-witness/national-register to learn more.



The main benefit for me has been in 'seeing the medico-legal process from the other side' and in understanding more completely what instructing solicitors want and the language they use. This has also been of great benefit in Barristers conferences.

Andrew Quaile, Spinal Orthopaedic Surgeon

Frequently asked questions about the Cardiff University and University of Aberdeen Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificates

Q: How long do I have to complete the 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 board. Due to the nature of the training, we strongly advise you to undertake the training over a period of time (usually 3-6 months) and not in one block.

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 recommend that you allow a gap of at least 2-3 months between the Excellence in Report Writing and the Cross Examination Day, due to pre-course requirements for the Cross-Examination Day. The Law & Procedure course can be undertaken at any stage.

Q: When and where are the courses run?

A: Public courses are held throughout the year in virtual classrooms. Alternatively, if you have a group of four or more colleagues interested in a course it may be more cost-effective to deliver the training in-house. In-house training can be delivered anywhere in the UK.

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

A: Please ring Bond Solon on 020 7549 2549 or email us at experwitness@bondsolon.com to ascertain if we will be able to recognise any prior learning toward one of the Certificates.

Q: Are the certificates appropriate for new or more experienced expert witnesses?

A: The certificates are 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 repeat the relevant days and resubmit any of the assessments, subject to an additional course and marking fee.

Q: I act as an expert in Civil, Criminal and Family proceedings, can I hold more than one Cardiff certificate?

A: Yes. Once you have completed the three core days (Report Writing, Courtroom Skills and Cross-Examination) you are able to complete the relevant Law and Procedure training days to achieve one or more of the certificates.

Q: How do I enrol on the programme?

A: Call Bond Solon on 020 7549 2549 for further information or to enrol.



I am always surprised and in admiration of how Bond Solon bring together such a diverse group of professionals and manage to make the entire day useful and relevant. Many thanks.

Dr Sharon Pope, Clinical Psychologist



Particularly useful were the opportunities to review real cases and get constructive feedback from the trainer. I will have no hesitation to recommend Bond Solon to anyone who should ask in the future.

Christine Webb, Modern Matron, Rotherham Doncaster & South Humber NHS, Foundation Trusty



E-Learning Courses

Introduction to Civil Procedure Rules – England and Wales

CPD

6 hours

Location

E-learning

Cost

£195 + VAT

[Book now](#)

The Courts are increasingly vigilant at ensuring that expert witnesses fully understand and fulfil their duty to the court, and all their obligations under the Civil Procedure Rules. They have taken serious action against those experts who have failed to do so, including criticism in the final judgement, making costs orders against the expert witness and considering ordering imprisonment for contempt of court.

Expert witnesses are required to sign a Statement of Truth, a Declaration that they are aware of Civil Procedure Rule 35, Practice Direction 35 and the Guidance, and a statement that they have complied with their duty to the Court in their reports. If called to give evidence, they could be cross-examined on their understanding of the Rules. Expert Witnesses therefore cannot sign those declarations without reading and fully understanding CPR35, PD35 and the Guidance.

Instructing solicitors also require evidence that expert witnesses have a full understanding of the Rules and know how to comply with them.

To provide experts with the knowledge they require to comply with the Civil Procedure Rules, and to satisfy instructing solicitors and the courts, Bond Solon has developed an interactive e-learning course - Introduction to Civil Procedure Rules (England and Wales).

Key learning points

- 8 modules: (1) Background (2) Overriding objective, the need for expert evidence, overriding duty (3) Instructions, information, orders and directions (4) Reports and written questions (5) The single joint expert (6) Discussions between experts (7) Concurrent expert evidence (8) Sanctions
- Videos, self-study materials and knowledge tests that enable you to evaluate your understanding of the subject
- Certificate of completion for your training records, appraisals and revalidation (if applicable) – upon successful completion of the modules and knowledge tests

Legal Update for Expert Witnesses

CPD

1.5 hours

Location

E-learning

Cost

£45+ VAT

[Book now](#)

As an expert witness, it is essential that you keep up-to-date with the key legal cases that affect your role.

This recorded webinar will provide you with a comprehensive overview of the key cases and developments in relation to expert witnesses that have taken place in the past 12 months.

If you are a medical expert witness, by completing the Annual Legal Update for Expert Witnesses, you will be able to demonstrate that you are current and meeting the new expert witness CPD training requirements which were introduced back in May 2019 in "Acting as an expert or professional witness – Guidance for healthcare professionals"

After completing the course, you will receive a CPD Certificate of completion for your training records, appraisals and revalidation (if applicable).

GDPR for Expert Witnesses Toolkit

CPD

3 hours

Location

E-learning

Cost

£155 + VAT

[Book now](#)

Under GDPR, which came into force on the 25th May 2018, expert witnesses are now obliged to comply with new rules around the collection and processing of personal data.

In collaboration with top solicitor and subject matter expert Mariel Irvine, Bond Solon has created the GDPR for Expert Witnesses Toolkit. This will:

- Help expert witnesses understand what the General Data Protection Regulations means to them as an expert witness
- Provide them with tools they are most likely to need to comply with the GDPR.

This toolkit includes:

1. Videos

- Introduction video - What does GDPR mean for expert witnesses?
- Video lecture series - GDPR in three parts which cover the key requirements of GDPR

2. Templates for documents you will need:

- Contract terms for data processors
- Data breach policy
- Data protection policy
- Data subject request policy
- GDPR contract clauses with solicitors and others who instruct you
- Privacy notice
- Security policy

3. Resources you can refer to:

- ICO Guide to GDPR
- Video lectures - power point slides

4. Knowledge Check

- Knowledge assessment - multi-choice questionnaire to self-check your knowledge

5. Certification

- Certificate of completion

Online Training: available at any time and from any computer via secure login

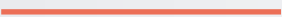


It is difficult to separate useful and exploitative webinars and courses on GDPR. I suspect that it is quite a money spinner for some companies and is being made to appear highly "frightening" (as you alluded to in the course) and more complex than necessary. Having a reasonably priced option that had straightforward and clear content from Bond Solon was a relief!

Dr Kathryn Newns, DCLinPsy. Clinical Psychologist Director, Applied Psychology Solutions Ltd



Conference



The Annual Bond Solon Expert Witness Conference (1 day)

CPD

6 hours

Location

In person and Virtual

Cost

See website for full details

[More details](#)

This is the largest annual gathering of expert witnesses in the UK and an established event: it has been held every year since 1994.

The conference takes place within the first two weeks of November each year.

The conference is an excellent opportunity to hear from high-profile speakers and keep abreast of the current developments and key issues that are affecting expert witnesses. The conference is a fantastic networking opportunity as well as enabling you to keep up to date with what is happening on the expert witness landscape.

The conference includes parallel sessions for experts working in medico-legal, commercial, criminal and family courts. This is an essential and extremely worthwhile day for any expert witness.

For details of this year's conference, please contact Bond Solon or visit www.bondsolon.com/annual-expert-witness-conference.

An early booking discount is available

BB

This is the only conference I have ever been to where I have concentrated on, attended to, and hung upon every word spoken.

Dr Paul Watts, Neurologist

A selection of our clients...

Professional Bodies, Institutes, Associations

- British Medical Association
- British Psychological Society
- Institution of Mechanical Engineers
- Institution of Structural Engineers
- International Institute of Marine Surveying
- Royal College of Midwives
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- Royal Society of Biology
- Society of Radiographers
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Health

- Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
- Mid and South Essex University Hospitals Group
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
- University Hospitals of Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
- West London NHS Trust

Companies

- Atkins
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- Burgoynes
- Carter Brown
- Deloitte
- Diales
- FTI Consulting
- Gerald Eve
- Hawkins
- HKA
- Jacqueline Webb
- Jane James & Associates
- Key Forensics
- Nera
- Ottobock
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Somek & Associates
- The Havens
- Wilkins Kennedy
- Yorkshire Psychology Practice



I attended Bond Solon Excellence in Report Writing and Courtroom Skills training and having recently given evidence in the High Court I would recommend the training to all those who provide written and oral evidence in a professional capacity. The trainer was excellent and the skills learnt were invaluable when being cross-examined.

Dr Jane Hood, Consultant Paediatric, Neuropsychologist

Police

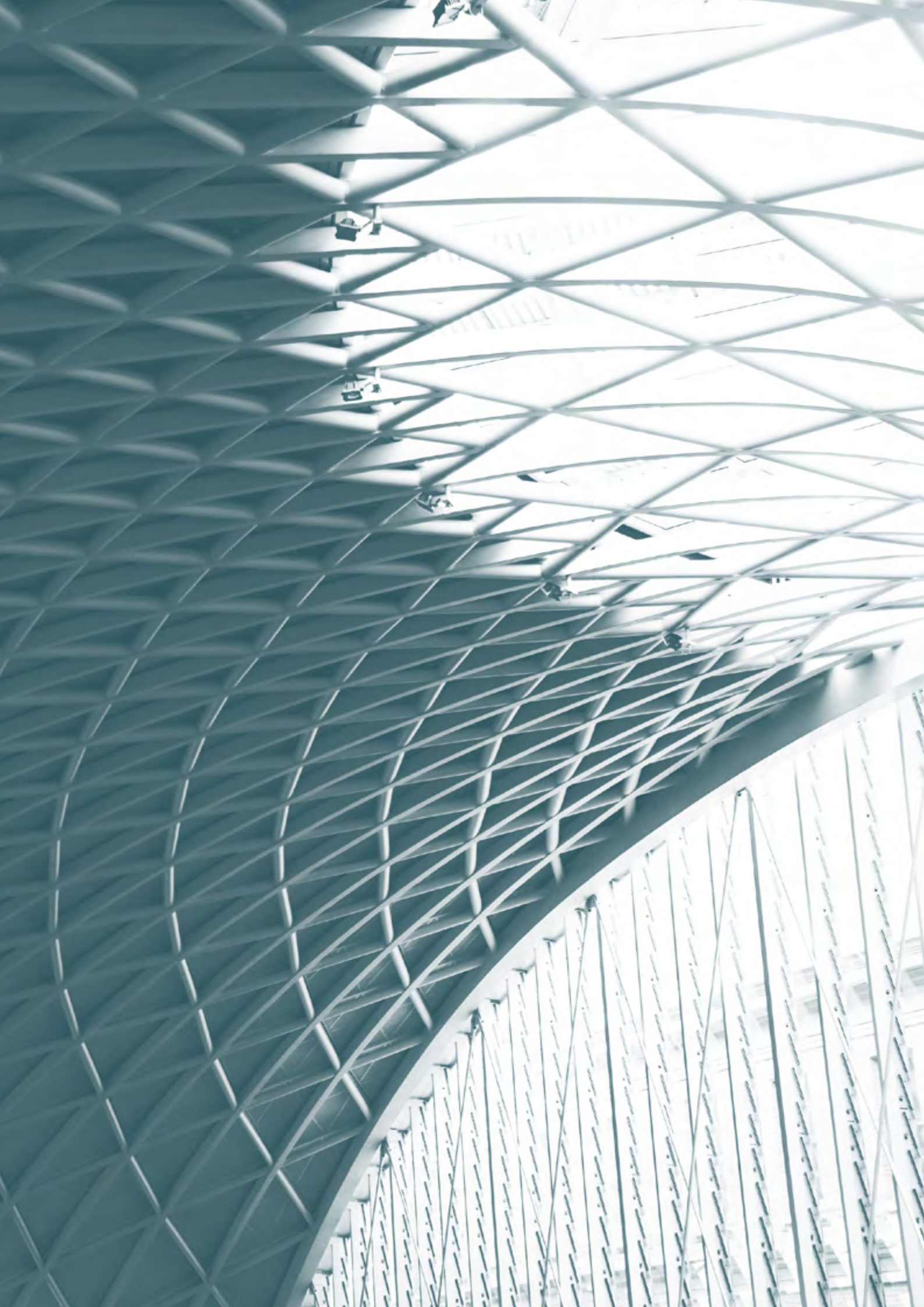
- British Transport Police City of London Police
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
- Dorset Police
- Durham Constabulary
- Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Greater Manchester Police
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Merseyside Police
- The Metropolitan Police
- National Crime Agency
- PSNI
- South Wales Police
- Surrey Police
- Staffordshire Police
- Thames Valley Police
- West Midlands Police
- West Yorkshire Police

Central Government

- Air/Marine/Rail Accident Investigation Branch
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
- Environment Agency
- Health and Safety Executive
- HM Revenue and Customs Home Office
- Insolvency Service
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- MOD
- Public Health England
- Valuations Office Agency


Law Firms


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- Clifford Chance
- Clyde & Co
- CMS Cameron McKenna
- DLA Piper
- Eversheds
- Farrer & Co
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Hogan Lovells
- HFW
- Ince & Co
- Linklaters
- Mishcon de Reya
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- Paynes Hicks Beach
- Reed Smith
- Slaughter & May
- Stephenson Harwood
- Withers





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www.bondsolon.com | info@bondsolon.com | 020 7549 2549