

FFEW Welcomes Mr Adrian Lugg

Drug Expert Witness and Founder of The Drug Expert Witness Service

The Federation of Forensic & Expert Witnesses (FFEW) is pleased to welcome Mr Adrian Lugg, an independent Drug Expert Witness and founder of The Drug Expert Witness Service, to its professional expert witness network.

Adrian brings a combination of operational policing experience, specialist drug expertise, report writing, peer review and courtroom evidence that is highly relevant to modern criminal litigation. Based in Hampshire and available for instructions across the UK, he accepts work for both prosecution and defence and provides independent opinion across a broad range of drug-related investigations.

Before establishing himself as an independent expert, Adrian served for 14 years as a police officer. His career included work as a Detective Constable investigating drug crime and, after training as a Drug Expert Witness in 2018, he became one of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary's full-time drug experts. Prior to retiring from the force in February 2025, he held the roles of Drug Expert Witness Coordinator and Force Drug Advisor.

That background gives Adrian an unusually practical understanding of how drug evidence is generated, interpreted and challenged. His experience is not limited to identifying substances or commenting on values. He is able to consider the wider context of supply, trafficking methodology, communication, hierarchy, packaging, terminology and the significance of material recovered during criminal investigations.

His areas of expertise include possession and supply cases, organised crime and drug trafficking, County Lines, drug line quantification and valuation, cannabis cultivation and the distinction between CBD and THC products. He also provides opinion on common illicit drugs including cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, cannabis, MDMA or ecstasy, ketamine and amphetamine.

A particularly important area of Adrian's work is the interpretation of complex drug trafficking evidence. He has experience of organised crime cases involving encrypted communications, including EncroChat material, where the volume and context of messages can require specialist analysis. He can assist with terminology, coded language, dealer and tick lists, images, packaging and the roles and responsibilities that may be attributed to individuals within a drug supply organisation.

His work also extends to drug supply and use in specific environments, including prisons and music festivals, and to issues associated with proceeds of crime. This breadth is valuable in cases where individual pieces of evidence cannot sensibly be considered in isolation and where the court requires an expert to explain how the material fits within established patterns of drug supply or use.

Adrian has prepared expert evidence in hundreds of cases and has substantial experience in the quality assurance and peer review of other drug expert reports. His published professional profiles record extensive casework and live evidence in Youth, Magistrates' and Crown Courts. He is therefore familiar with the need to present complex evidence in a clear, balanced and court-focused manner.

For solicitors and counsel, one of the most valuable aspects of a specialist expert is the ability to identify what the evidence does - and equally importantly does not - support. A properly instructed expert witness is not an advocate for the instructing party. The expert's role is to provide an independent opinion within their area of expertise and to assist the court by explaining matters that fall outside ordinary knowledge.

Adrian's experience working for both prosecution and defence reflects that principle of independence. His services may be particularly useful where legal teams require a review of the prosecution interpretation of drug

evidence, an independent valuation, analysis of alleged supply activity, consideration of encrypted messages, assessment of a cannabis cultivation operation or expert comment on the significance of drug-related items and communications.

Through The Drug Expert Witness Service, Adrian is able to provide both routine and urgent reports, including matters where trial dates are approaching. His nationwide availability also makes his expertise accessible to instructing solicitors and agencies throughout England, Wales and the wider UK.

FFEW's directory and professional network are designed to help the legal profession identify experienced specialists across forensic, technical, medical and professional disciplines. Adrian's addition strengthens the Federation's coverage within criminal drug evidence, organised crime and specialist policing-related expert work.

The Federation is delighted to welcome Mr Adrian Lugg and The Drug Expert Witness Service. His combination of practical investigative experience, specialist drug knowledge, report preparation, peer review and courtroom evidence adds a valuable resource for legal professionals seeking independent expert opinion in drug-related criminal cases.

Key Areas of Instruction

- Drug possession and supply
- Organised crime and drug trafficking
- EncroChat and encrypted communications
- County Lines
- Drug valuation and line quantification
- Cannabis cultivation and CBD / THC
- Drug terminology, slang, dealer and tick lists
- Roles within drug supply organisations
- Prison and festival drug supply
- Prosecution and defence expert evidence

The Drug Expert Witness Service | UK-wide instructions