

# Dr Peter James Smyth

## Summary

- Over 15 years of medico-legal experience
- Personal injury – involved with complex and high value cases (6 figures)
- Dental negligence – complex and high value cases
- Acts for the claimant and defendant, SJE
- Writing over 80 reports each year and increasing
- Accredited, APIL 1<sup>st</sup> tier, S&W checked, UK register with references & AVMA
- Qualified & regular training e.g. Civil Expert Witness Certificate
- Consultation rooms throughout North West of England & North Wales
- No waiting time in private practice, aim to report within 4 weeks
- Professional reports, terminology explained and easy to understand
- Have experience of expert meetings, attending court and giving oral evidence
- Quantum determined by a working clinician has the benefit of accurately reflecting exactly what clients can expect to pay for remedial dental care based on fees for similar cases in private practice
- Reports for the General Dental Council

## Details

Date of Birth: 28<sup>th</sup> March 1969  
Nationality: British  
GDC no 68329 22 December 1992

## QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Dental Surgery Degree	<b>Dundee 1992</b>
Masters Degree, Prosthodontics	<b>Manchester 2001</b>
Civil Expert Witness Certificate	<b>Cardiff University Law School 2010</b>
Diploma of Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties	<b>Royal College of Surgeon, England 2011</b>
PGCE Teaching and Learning in Clinical Practice	<b>Edge Hill University 2014</b>

## **Career**

I have practiced NHS and Private dentistry for the last 23 years in the North West of England and run a private referral clinic in Liverpool and as a practicing clinician my knowledge remains contemporary. In addition I teach postgraduate dentists clinical skills and over the last 15 years I undertake claimant and defendant work for personal injury and dental negligence cases.

## **Medico-legal experience**

Over the last 15 years I have been involved in many complex, high value personal injury and dental negligence cases. Over the last 3 years I have written over 180 reports and this is increasing. I remain up-to-date with regular training, for example I refreshed my knowledge by repeating the Cardiff University Law School & Bond Solon certificate course in 2010.

There is no waiting time for consultations in private practice, reports are usually complete 4 weeks from instruction. My service is accessible, I offer initial free of charge advice and I have consultation rooms throughout the North West of England and Wales:

<b>Liverpool (our main clinic)</b>	<b>Shropshire</b>
<b>Cheshire</b>	<b>North Wales</b>
<b>Manchester</b>	

I am also studying for a diploma in Forensic Medical Science to broaden my knowledge of this area of the law, trauma and pathology, examining evidence and dental issues e.g. adult and child neglect.

## **Reporting for the General Dental Council**

5 years ago I achieved the status of being selected for inclusion on the list of UK dental experts who are instructed to report on behalf of the General Dental Council.

## **Personal Injury**

I have over 15 years of experience of complex and high value cases. My claimant to defendant ratio for PI work is 95% to 5%. I have acted for the claimant, defendant and as a single joint expert.

Dentists often refer dental trauma cases to me and in addition to PI cases this has provided extensive experience of mild to severe child and adult dental injuries. My masters degree enables me to apply my Prosthodontic knowledge (replacing missing teeth) and restorative knowledge (repairing failing teeth) when producing a comprehensive prognosis report.

**Quantum** – my clinical work means I am regularly providing treatment plans with costs for dental care and this skill transfers to report work when producing schedules of treatment with authentic dental costs that are needed by clients who face remedial/ restorative treatment for life as a result of negligence or injury. My report work reflects exactly what regular dental patients would expect to pay for similar treatment in private practice.

### **Dental Negligence**

Over the last 15 years I have reported for claimants with a small amount of defendant work for some exceptionally complex and high value dental cases. I have a thorough knowledge of clinical dentistry, standards and assessing liability, causation, condition and prognosis in relation to **cosmetic dentistry, implants, wisdom teeth, crowns and bridges, orthodontics, undiagnosed periodontal diseases, extractions, root canal treatment, misdiagnosis, child neglect, veneers, broken instruments, tooth whitening, dental sedation and local anaesthetic/surgery nerve injuries. Record keeping & consent.**

**My Civil Law certificate** has enabled me to provide professional concise report work following instructions and highlighting issues in a court format written in a style which is easy to understand for non-dentists.

**Meetings** – I have chaired telephone meetings with other experts in order to prepare a joint document. I have met with clients and their solicitors and Barristers in order to discuss complex dental cases.

**Report writing** – reports are professionally presented, often clinical photographs are included, and they are written in a clear style and where terminology is used it is also explained in simple language for the non-dentist reader.

**Court attendance & giving oral evidence** - I have attended a civil court on three occasions and given oral evidence twice. I have given oral evidence based on my report work in a criminal court on one occasion. I regularly undergo courtroom training and this has provided valuable practical experience.

**Accreditations** – I am registered with **The Expert Witness Directory** with a checked status and **the UK Register of Expert Witnesses** with 4 solicitor references on file.

**Teaching** – In addition to simulated clinical skills I teach postgraduate dentists the legal issues surrounding the dental profession. I am a confident public speaker.

**Standards** - my clinic and expert witness service has achieved the following safety and quality awards



### Specialities

Conservative dentistry

Orthodontics (braces)

Restorative dentistry (fillings, crowns and veneers)

Prosthetic Dentistry (replacing missing teeth, bridges, implants, dentures)

Periodontology (gum disease)

Endodontics (root fillings and dental nerve problems, trauma)

Surgery (tooth extractions, wisdom teeth)

Cosmetic dentistry (tooth whitening, white fillings)

Dental records

Dental competence

Dental negligence

Dental accidents

Ethics

Personal injury

Road Traffic Accidents

Falling / Tripping / Slipping

Sports & leisure Injuries

Criminal Assault

Clinical photography

**Faculty activities at divisional/national level**

1. Board member of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners, this organisation publishes the standards for dental practice
2. Regular attendee of Mersey Deanery section 63 courses
3. Involved with training programmes in the North West and providing lectures and hands-on simulated clinical skills for postgraduate dentists
4. President Elect of Liverpool & District Odontology Society
5. Founder of Merseyside Endodontic Study Club sponsored by The British Endodontic Society

**Professional memberships**

1. Society of Expert Witnesses
2. Association of Dental Implantology UK
3. British Society for Dental & Maxillofacial Radiology
4. British Endodontic Society
5. British Society of Periodontology

**Main Practice Address:**

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**Home address for medico-legal documents**

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