



## **Adrian Richard Parsons – Professional Curriculum Vitae**

1. I am the director of Appropriate Training & Consultancy Ltd, having retired from Kent Police in October 2020, following over 26 years of drugs policing. In my current role, I deliver drug expert & court witnessing skills training to UK law enforcement agencies, and partners, and I am a drugs consultant and independent expert witness for both prosecution and defence.
2. Since my retirement, I have become a registered expert with CEPOL (the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training) and I continue to sit on the UK committee of the Association of Police Controlled Drug Liaison Officers (APCDLO) responsible for enforcing compliance standards around the safe custody of controlled drugs within healthcare and pharmacy settings.
3. Up until my retirement I held the position of association secretary of the National Law Enforcement Drug Expert Witness and Valuation Association (DEWVA) as well as being the association regional representative. I have been delivering opinion evidence within the criminal justice system for over 15 years.
4. In the 13 years prior to retirement, I carried out the role of Kent & Essex Police drugs coordinator which involved delivering training to police colleagues and partner agencies, drug data analysis and the monitoring of drug forensic submissions and returns. I am a qualified DTLLS trainer. I was also responsible for collating data and producing the annual force drug price lists and glossary of drug related terms.
5. I am a member of the Expert Witness Institute (EWI) and an active committee member of the EWI Training & Events committee, delivering Continued Professional Development (CPD) events and expert witness specific training to EWI members in all areas of expertise.
6. I provide below, a chronological timeline of my career to date:
7. In November 1997, during my service with Lincolnshire Police, I was selected to form part of a new Pro-Active Drugs enforcement unit in the South Kesteven Policing area. The unit had a specific responsibility to target local controlled drugs supply markets.

8. In June 1998 I took over the role of area Drugs Liaison Officer in Stamford, Lincolnshire as well as the dedicated local intelligence officer. I dealt directly with drugs intelligence and the first ten months in this post saw me responsible for the execution of 25 misuse of drugs act warrants resulting in tens of thousands of pounds of recovered drugs & property.
9. Between March 1999 and January 2002, whilst still in Lincolnshire Police, I received four area commanders' notes of good work for commitment to my role.
10. Following my transfer to Kent Police in May 2002 I returned to a drugs-based role in May 2004 when I took over the role of area Drugs Liaison Officer at Maidstone. It was at that time that I took on the responsibility of assessing, and the subsequent supervision of, drug using clients on Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO's) now referred to as Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRR's). Throughout my career I have worked closely with treatment providers who monitor and subscribe to heavy & chaotic drug users.
11. I was authorised to carry out mandatory oral drug tests on clients on the programme, which were evidential within the criminal justice process. This caused my interaction with drugs users to be on a daily basis which continued to enhance my knowledge on drugs and drug addiction.
12. In December 2005 I was responsible for one of the UK's first Crack House Closures on a licensed premise, using the then relatively new, Anti-Social Behaviour Act powers. This led to much recognition and acclaim which resulted in an Area Commanders Certificate of Merit for 'outstanding performance and commitment to combating drug related crime'.
13. I received a further commendation in March 2006 from the Assistant Chief Constable of Kent Police for a highly successful police and multi-agency night-time economy operation utilising over 100 staff resulting in over 60 criminal prosecutions.
14. In April 2006 I was formally nominated for a Home Office 'Tackling Drugs Supply Award' for 'bringing to the drug liaison role a dynamic dimension'. I was commended for being 'dedicated and with it meticulous in my approach'. In May 2009, I was awarded a Chief Constables certificate of Merit for my commitment to tackling drugs.
15. Throughout my career I have delivered drugs awareness training for Police Officers and updated them on emerging trends. I have produced and distributed regular forensic drugs information bulletins and ensured colleagues receive official Law Enforcement documents and reports specific to drugs.

16. As well as police officers, I have delivered drugs education and awareness training to community groups, colleges and educational establishments including Drugs in the Workplace training events within the business sector both in UK & Europe.
17. I have liaised specifically, on a regular basis, with county treatment providers and drug street workers to discuss drug street prices, trends and consumption. This information was then used to update drug street price charts for drug experts & operational officers across Kent & Essex.
18. In 2005, I took on the role of national police liaison officer to GW Pharmaceuticals, Kent based licensed cannabis growers for medicinal applications. As a result, I have worked closely with Dr David Potter, the companies Botanical director and have with him, delivered over 60 cannabis training courses to over 1000 UK police officers, partners and members of the Kent Judiciary.
19. During my time working with Dr Potter, I have been involved in many aspects of both UK and international cannabis research studies, television programmes and documentaries.
20. I have received one-on-one instruction relating to the specific production of plants both within the laboratory and at illegal production sites. I have on many occasions, under the direction and guidance of Dr Potter (regarded as the UK's leading cannabis botanist) produced cannabis resin as an end product by extracting cannabinoids from the natural plant in a variety of different ways and methods.
21. I have attended a number of drug related seminars, conferences and workshops including a workshop on Methamphetamine Clandestine Laboratories at the LGC Forensic Laboratory at Culham in Oxfordshire.
22. I was initially trained in the presumptive testing of Heroin, Morphine and Amphetamine with the BDH Field Drug testing Kits at the Home Office Forensic Science Laboratory, in Huntingdon in 1998, whilst at the same time trained to visually identify both resin and herbal cannabis.
23. I am trained to Super User (Management & Maintenance) level in the use and application of the GE Ion Track Itemiser 3 and Mobile Trace Drug Trace Detection equipment as well as trained in the use of the Cozart DDS Electronic Oral drug testing device.
24. I have presented at a national Drug Practitioners Conference on police applications using the Itemisers in Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire and I have assisted Essex Police, the Metropolitan Police Service and Northumbria Police with expert evidence using the instruments on no less than 10 occasions.

25. In the past 15 years I have been involved in a number of National and Local Media Campaigns relating to Drugs, including the Home Office series of short Videos for the Frank campaign, Sky TV, a BBC / National Geographic Channel documentary relating to the science behind Cocaine and more recently a BBC3 documentary on Cannabis Psychosis.
26. I have attended many national and regional drug conferences, seminars and workshops in order to maintain up to date knowledge of drug trends and changes including Home Office and NPCC (ACPO) drugs conferences and seminars.
27. In September 2007 I attended a 5-day Kent Police Drug Expert Witness course, held at Kent Police headquarters, where I received training inputs and updates from some of the UK's experts in drug trends, toxicology and cannabis production.
28. In November 2007 I attended a further 5-day Police Drug Expert Witness course in Wakefield, West Yorkshire where I received inputs on interpreting forensic statements, interpreting dealer lists, drug trends, slang terms and explaining and negating personal consumption or usage levels.
29. Since November 2007, on behalf of my previous employers, I delivered in excess of 35 Police drug expert witness courses, training over 300 police officers, comprising of inputs on expert witness presentation of evidence, the importance of impartiality and the Criminal Procedure Rules.
30. In December 2009 I presented and demonstrated the Ion Track Mobile Trace device to the Home Affairs Select Committee and the Home Secretary, Alan Johnson, at Portcullis House, Westminster.
31. During my police service I was a member of the National Drugs Advice Group (DAG) an online forum of law enforcement and forensic science drug expert witnesses. Members of the group regularly communicate to consult, update and discuss drug related trends and topics.
32. I have been the Association Secretary and Southeast regional coordinator of the UK Drugs Expert Witness & Valuation Association (DEW&VA) as well as the Kent Police Drug Expert Witness coordinator. Both of these roles required me to produce and deliver Continuous Professional Development training days for over 70 Police Drug Expert Witnesses in the region.
33. In relation to my own professional development I still maintain a database of the training I have undergone, including events attended, drug related meetings and discussions and activities that have enhanced my knowledge over the years. This document, known as a CPD log, is available upon request, in support of my standing as an expert in illicit drugs markets.

34. I have been a member of Drug Wise, the UK's leading independent centre of expertise on drugs, along with a membership of over 600 individuals and organisations working within the drugs field, both in adult and young people's treatment, service managers and commissioners, drug education and related sectors including housing and criminal justice.
35. In January 2011, I was selected by ACPO as one of 6 individuals to critically read and assist with the development of the NPIA guideline document entitled 'Practice Advice on the Investigation of Drug offences'.
36. Further to this, also in January 2011, I was selected as a committee member from individuals across the UK to prepare, devise and deliver the 2011 ACPO / ACPOS Drugs conference attended by senior police & law enforcement officers from both the UK and Europe.
37. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2011, I visited the Swiss Institute of Forensic Science in Zurich. It was there that I met with Dr Michael Bovens, the Head Forensic Scientist at the Institute to discuss the Swiss best practice model in detecting drug traces on banknotes using IMS and how the Swiss drugs markets operate and their similarities to the British markets.
38. In October 2011, I attended a two-week Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) Drug Trafficking Expert Evidence course at the NPIA Training Centre, Coventry. The course covered activity from street level to importation and international trafficking. It also focussed on interpretations and decoding of audio material and written dealer / importer notes, calculating multi-stage profit margins and discussed the existence of other items of relevance in support of demonstrating conspirator participation.
39. During this course I was also exposed to an extensive variety of controlled drugs and provided perspective regarding their format, colour and consistency within various domestic scenarios.
40. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2011, I presented evidence of the community harms caused by cocaine to the Cocaine Working Group (CWG) of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). It was also at this evidence gathering seminar that I was able to hear evidence from key speakers working in the UK drugs field at both strategic and user levels.
41. In January 2012, I was selected as the ACPO representative on the Home Office committee to review Home Office Circular 40/1998 (and its amendments) relating to the testing of substances suspected to be drugs controlled under the misuse of drugs act 1971 and the identification of cannabis.

42. My role in this committee was to assist other members, including CPS, CAST, NPIA and the Home Office, during the review and amendment process, with the practical requirements of the police service concerning the testing of drugs in the field and the identification of cannabis.
43. In my role as a Police advisor on the committee, I have been trained to use the entire range of manufacturer submitted kits and devices, both Approved and Non-Approved.
44. As a result of this work the above referred to circular was amended and published as HOC 15/2012, 'The Testing of Substances suspected to be Controlled Drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act', and I still act in an advisory capacity regarding its implementation to this day.
45. In March 2020, I joined the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Drugs Tactical Working group. The groups primary aim was to consider and evaluate emerging threats and opportunities to assist stakeholders and partners in collectively reducing harm from Drugs.
46. In October 2020, I retired from Kent Police and started my own business providing drugs training and consultancy to UK police forces as well as expert witness services in respect of UK Illicit Domestic Drugs Markets.
47. In January 2021, I was admitted to the bank of registered experts for CEPOL, the European Agency for Law Enforcement Training.