

# 4 DAY EXPERT WITNESS

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## The Expert Witness Course (4 Days)

Helston Forensics in conjunction with Bond Solon have been running the Firearms Expert Witness course since 1999. Firearms licencing managers, firearms practitioners and examiners from the majority of police forces country wide have attended this joint training program.

The majority of delegates are already involved in firearms examinations and firearms licensing, the course was conceived primarily with them in mind; to enable them to receive first class training from registered forensic practitioners in this specialist field in a safe environment surrounded by their peers.

This safe environment is maintained by a corporate decision by Helston Forensics to limit this event to Police personnel and forensic practitioners ONLY, with the course limited to twelve to ensure that each delegate experiences the maximum time in the witness box, unlike other “mass” training events.

Whilst aimed primarily at firearms examiners the course is ideal for continuing personal development of crime scene managers, senior scene of crime officers, firearms licensing managers and forensic practitioners who have contact with firearms and ammunition.

Due to the complexity of UK firearms law and the interaction of firearms with other forensic specialties a sound knowledge of this subject can only be of benefit to all involved in the forensic sphere.

The overall structure of the course is in line with the guidelines of the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners by trainers who were CRFP registered, to ensure that should the delegate be called to produce evidence or attend court they will be familiar with the system that is adhered to by the majority of police and defence expert witnesses.

The course culminates in the Bond Solon Courtroom Skills package where after training from a Bond Solon trainer the delegate experiences crown court style cross examination on an item they have examined the previous day.

In addition to receiving a certificate from Helston Forensics, Bond Solon also recognise the Courtroom Skills element of the course for a credit towards the Cardiff University Law School Expert Witness Skills programme.

## Day One

- Firearms Acts, classification of firearms, components, ammunition, measurements, testing procedures

## Day Two

- Deactivated firearms, magazine restrictions, examination procedures, practical examinations and report writing

## Day Three

- Handling firearms in the courtroom environment, Criminal Procedure Rules, practical examination of an exhibits and preparation of a written statement

## Day Four

- Courtroom Skills (Bond Solon), then each student is questioned in the “witness box” on their statement/ report

## Administrative Issues:

With regard to reference material, such as Acts etc., all of this will be provided for the duration of the course, however you are more than welcome to bring any material that you think would be of value as we are sure the course, as a whole would benefit.

Test equipment will also be provided with training where necessary.

We would advise that for the first three days of the course that you dress casual or bring a dustcoat or some such item of clothing, as there will be hands on periods with firearms.

With regard to day 4, this is your day in court and we would suggest that you dress appropriately for the occasion, as this will enable you to gain the most benefit from the day, a suit or uniform will be perfect



General lectures, firearms law and report writing



Bond Solon day, in the morning courtroom skills



In the witness box, under cross examination the expert explains how the gun works



The courtroom with prosecuting Counsel testing the expert, the jury in the foreground enjoying the student's discomfort



Names of participating students are confidential! All discussions on experiences and shared information remains within the group allowing for frank and open discussions with complete confidence to take place



Another successful expert witness course, contacts made on the course can remain for an entire career, networking is an important part of keeping up to date with information

### Contact Details

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