

What is an expert witness?

An expert witness is a person who is called to give an opinion on matters which call for expert skill and knowledge. Their role is to provide technical analysis and expertise, which will assist the Inquiry in delivering its Terms of Reference. The Inquiry has already instructed a range of experts to prepare reports (see below) and is actively considering the requirement for additional or supplemental expertise as the evidential picture develops. The reports they prepare will be disclosed to all core participants and presented during the evidential hearings.

Core participants can instruct their own experts but need the Chairman's permission to submit a report to the Inquiry. Since it is the job of the Inquiry to carry out any necessary investigation, permission will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. If public funding to instruct an expert is sought, an application must be made to the Chairman.

Who are the Inquiry's Expert Witnesses?

- **Prof. Niamh Nic Daeid:** The cause and spread of the fire in the flat of origin and the spread of fire within and out of that compartment.
- **Prof. Luke Bisby:** The ignition of the façade materials (including the cladding and insulation) and the fire spread over the building's external façade.
- **Dr. Barbara Lane:** The fire protection measures within the building and preliminary conclusions on the extent to which they failed to control the spread of fire and smoke and contributed to the speed at which the fire spread.
- **Prof. Jose Torero:** The fire spread throughout the building.
- **Colin Todd:** The different statutory and regulatory requirements in force over the lifetime of Grenfell Tower.
- **Prof. Edwin Galea:** Fire spread over the external façade of the building, fire and smoke spread throughout the building, fatality modelling and evacuation modelling.
- **Steve McGuirk:** The adequacy of the London Fire Brigade's inspections, risk assessments, procedures and training, the fire-fighting response on the night of 14 June 2017 and recommendations for any changes to training and practice in response to similar incidents.
- **Rodney Hancox:** Legislation, regulations, guidance and industry practice relevant to the gas supply to and within Grenfell Tower and the extent to which the presence of gas contributed to the spread of the fire and to the conditions inside Grenfell Tower on the night of 14 June 2017.
- **Dr. Ivan Stoianov:** The sufficiency of water supply and water pressure to Grenfell Tower for the purpose of providing water to allow the London Fire Brigade to effectively fight the fire on 14 June 2017.
- **Dr. J. Duncan Glover:** Issues pertaining to electrical engineering, particularly as they relate to failure analysis of electrical systems, subsystems and components, including causes of electrical fires.
- **Beryl Menzies:** The application for building control approval in relation to the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower and compliance with the relevant legislation, regulations and guidance.
- **Prof. David Purser:** The production of toxic gases in fires similar to that at Grenfell Tower and the consequences of inhaling toxic gases in such circumstances.

Expectations of Expert Witnesses

- They must provide independent opinions confined to matters within their field;
- They owe the Inquiry a duty to exercise reasonable care and skill. They must also comply with any relevant professional code of ethics;
- They should take into account all relevant facts including any which might detract from their opinions and they should set out relevant facts and any literature or material upon which they rely;
- They should indicate whether any opinion they express is provisional or qualified and whether any additional information is required; and
- They should inform the Inquiry if they change their opinion on any relevant matter.