



The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

What is Expert Evidence?



1. Who provides expert evidence?

- 1.1. Expert evidence is evidence that is given by a person who is qualified, by training and experience in a particular subject or subjects, to express an opinion. It is the duty of an expert to help an Inspector on matters within his or her expertise. This duty overrides any obligation to the person from whom the expert has received instructions or by whom he or she is paid.
- 1.2. The evidence should be accurate, concise and complete as to relevant fact(s) within the expert's knowledge and should represent his or her honest and objective opinion. If a professional body has adopted a code of practice on professional conduct dealing with the giving of evidence, then a member of that body will be expected to comply with the provisions of the code in the preparation and presentation (written or in person) of the expert evidence.

2. Endorsement

- 2.1. Expert evidence should include an endorsement such as that set out below or similar (such as that required by a particular professional body). This will enable the Inspector and others involved in an appeal or a called-in application to know that the material in a Written Statement of evidence, written statement or report is provided as 'expert evidence'. An appropriate form of endorsement is:
- 2.2. "The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this appeal reference APP/xxx (in this Written Statement of evidence, written statement or report) is true and has been prepared and is given in accordance with the guidance of my professional institution and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions".
- 2.3. Giving expert evidence does not prevent an expert from acting as an advocate so long as it is made clear through the endorsement or otherwise what is given as expert evidence and what is not.