

Dependency & Loss of Service Reports

At Bush & Co we have a team of highly experienced associate expert witnesses who prepare detailed Dependency and Loss of Service reports within complex and sensitive cases. We are renowned for providing robust and meticulous reports within this niche area for both clinical negligence and personal injury claims to both claimant and defendant solicitors.

Our associate expert witnesses understand the specific legal principles underpinning Loss of Service cases and at the point of instruction, clarification is sought to confirm with the instructing party the basis on which costings are to be provided, in line with *Knauer v Ministry of Justice* [2016].

In particular, our associate expert witnesses will recommend how services can reasonably be replaced and will give consideration to the longevity of child dependency which is rationalised throughout.

Assessment can be carried out during a face-to-face meeting or via an online meeting. Following assessment, the Heads of Loss detailed in the report includes, but is not exclusive to: past care, childcare (up to the end of full-time education), domestic services, household management, travel and car maintenance, DIY, gardening and pet care. Ancillary claims are evaluated on an individual basis.

Our reports available to you

- Adult deceased
- Adult deceased with dependents/children
- Adult deceased with dependents/children with a disability or special needs
- Adult deceased with delayed diagnosis incurring quantum past care

In addition, we can provide a combined Care and Loss of Service report, dealing with the care provided to the deceased up to the point of death, with loss of service considered thereafter.

Our associates

We provide bespoke Dependency and Loss of Service education and training to our established care experts and deliver regular refresher training and legal updates in this area; training on pertinent case law is provided so that experts can provide a nuanced approach in respect of Dependency and Loss of Service cases.

In addition, Bush & Co offer Expert Masterclasses in Dependency and Loss of Service report writing.

You can read more about some of the associate expert witnesses within our network who can deliver Dependency and Loss of Service reports on page two.

Get in touch

To find out more about our Loss of Service reports or to discuss a particular case, please get in touch.

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Alison Smith (Nee Conway) | Registered General Nurse

Alison has over 37 years' clinical experience in both the NHS acute sector and the community, caring for adults and children. She is an experienced expert witness, having completed liability and quantum reports for both claimant and defendant solicitors. Her expertise is wide ranging and covers nursing negligence, loss of service and care reports required for all disability, injury or illness. These disabilities include paraplegia, tetraplegia, catastrophic injury, cerebral palsy and neuromuscular disease.

Alison has particular expertise in respiratory and thoracic care, including tracheostomy, ventilation and occupational lung disease. Alison has been involved in the private care and management of both adults and children requiring complex care in the community. This included children with birth related injuries or hereditary disease. Alison has particular skills in the assessment of needs to determine the level of care required.



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Claire Ward | Occupational Therapist

Claire began her career in hand therapy, splinting and orthopaedics which then led to her specialising in complex disabilities. The majority of Claire's clinical experience has been with children and adults with complex needs. Her caseloads have included children and adults with upper limb difficulties, cerebral palsy, autistic spectrum disorders, developmental coordination disorder and attention deficit disorder.

In her most recent roles, Claire has been providing functional assessments and reports for applicants for the Personal Independence Payment Scheme and assessing for provision of adaptations, moving and handling equipment and major/minor equipment/adaptations/DFG provision.

Claire also has clinical practice experience of assessing and treating children with autism, cerebral palsy and developmental coordination disorder using assessments such as the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT), with a view to improving function through the treatment of sensory deficits.



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Claire Ashton | Occupational Therapist

Claire has a wealth of experience in neurology and orthopaedics in both acute and rehabilitation settings and has worked with a variety of clients including amputees, wheelchair users and those with complex needs within the community.

Claire has a particular interest in amputation, autism, brain injury, cauda equine, cerebral palsy, chronic pain, hand and upper limb injury, lower limb injury, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, oncology, orthopaedic injury, spinal injury, stroke, terminal illness, visual difficulties and loss.

As clinical lead for a NHS Wheelchair service, Claire has worked with children and adults with complex disabilities in the area of posture and mobility. She has developed highly specialist skills in the assessment of people with a range of disabilities that have seating and mobility needs, taking a 24 hour postural management approach and carefully considering function, occupation and participation.



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Lisa Green | Occupational Therapist

Lisa is a knowledgeable and dependable expert witness with high levels of quality. She has a breadth of experience in specialist equipment, complex structural adaptation work, re-housing, moving and handling aids as well as disabilities and injuries including cerebral palsy, autistic spectrum disorder, learning difficulties, congenital abnormalities and those with dual sensory impairments.

As an expert witness, Lisa has prepared over 200 reports and is part of the quality assurance process at Bush & Co.

She has worked in adult services for the NHS in a variety of clinical positions as well as in social care and public housing. Her experience also expands to child services where she has held a number of senior roles involving the complex assessment of children. She had responsibility for recommending adaptations and equipment as well as providing reports for 'Looked After' children.



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Amy Wentworth-Edwards | Occupational Therapist

Amy is a well-respected expert witness with experience in class action cases and a member of the QA team at Bush & Co.

She began her career working at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield where she completed a rotational post covering orthopaedics, post-acute neurology and stroke. She then spent three years at the Head Injury Rehabilitation Centre in Sheffield. Her role was part of the Interdisciplinary Team focusing on re-integration into the community through the use of treatment plans, intervention and appropriate risk assessment.

Further clinical roles have included Amy working for the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust within residential care where she worked as part of the multi-disciplinary team in planning and organising discharge into the community with the appropriate package of care, whilst providing training to the carers providing support to the clients.

Alex Chan | Registered General Nurse | [View CV](#)

Alex is a highly skilled nurse having worked both clinically and within research roles throughout his career, and since 2019, as a community matron, managing acutely unwell patients with diverse needs within the community who would otherwise be admitted to hospital. Alex has post-registration training in critical care and is responsible for dealing with patients in the community who require a wide range of clinical interventions, including patient assessment, wound and pressure ulcer management, administration of medication, intravenous therapy, complex dressings, cannulation monitoring of acute on chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiorespiratory disease and renal failure, and psychosocial support. Patients may also have been recently discharged from hospital and have ongoing needs, such as intravenous antibiotics, rehabilitation or ongoing care needs.

Alex also has experience of palliative care and general hospital nursing. Alex has worked as a specialist palliative care nurse and worked on a range of palliative care research projects, both with hospital inpatients and in the community. Alex has contributed to service improvement programmes in genomic medicine, organ donation and critical care.

Kate Makin | Occupational Therapist | [View CV](#)

Kate qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 2001 and since then has worked in a variety of clinical settings. Most of Kate's work in the statutory sector involved working with clients with complex physical illnesses and disabilities. This included assessing for specialist aids and adaptations, developing moving and handling care plans, establishing care plans, and undertaking a high level of complex seating and postural needs assessments. Kate has also previously worked as an Occupational Therapist for NHS Wheelchair Services undertaking wheelchair assessments and also for a housing association. This housing role involved assessing individual's housing needs, advising on home adaptations, and contributing towards the planning of accessible housing.

Kelly Barrow | Complex Care Nurse | [View CV](#)

Kelly is a complex care nurse and clinical nurse educator, with over 12 years' experience in nursing practice. Her clinical case load comprises patients with chronic, long term and complex conditions and co-morbidities, including those with respiratory disease, gastroenterological conditions, neuromusculoskeletal conditions, and individuals requiring end of life care. Her role requires her to performing in-depth risk assessments of each of her patients to inform the development of comprehensive care plans designed to meet their biological, psychological and social needs.

Theana Warden | Advanced Nurse Practitioner | [View CV](#)

Theana is an advanced nurse practitioner with a diverse range of specialist nursing skills and knowledge, owing to 25 years' experience as a nurse in acute care, primary care and community settings, and has been awarded the professional title of Queen's Nurse. She began her career as a registered nurse in trauma, orthopaedics and the emergency department, before then gaining positions as a senior staff nurse on renal wards, medical wards, intensive care and critical care at Addenbrookes Hospital, where she remained for 13 years. In this role, Theana led on cardiac emergency care and was responsible for providing 1:1 nursing for ventilated patients and those requiring inotropic and dialysis support on ICU. As a critical care outreach nurse, her assessment skills, reaction time, people management and clinical intuition were essential skills and Theana was expected to respond to emergencies, quickly predict and mitigate risk and ensure the best outcome for those individuals who had become suddenly and critically unwell across the hospital.