

JOHN WILLIAMSON. Dip FM, MSc, FIFireE, FIFSM.

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Professional and academic Qualifications:

- Post Graduate Diploma in Forensic Medicine, Glasgow University-1995.
- Master of Science, University of Central Lancashire-2001-2004. Thesis title: - Arson: The Homicidal and Suicidal Applications of fire.
- All past statutory Fire Service examinations.
- Graduate of the Institution of Fire Engineers, 1974.
- Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers, 1991.
- Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers, 1999.
- Fellow of the Institute of Fire Safety Managers 2006.
- Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Fields of Expertise:

1. Expert witness for the courts, legal profession, police and fire & rescue service
2. Fire & Arson Investigation of origin & cause and related training
3. Homicidal and suicidal applications of fire
4. Use of fire as a weapon/cover of crime
5. Interpretation of destruction and/or damage of human bodies by fire
6. Fatal fires
7. Fire Risk Assessments & associated Fire Awareness training.
8. Fire safety
9. Litigation
10. Hazards
11. Major disaster training

Professional Background: -

British Fire & Rescue Service officer in Lancashire, Grampian and Strathclyde for almost 37 years (1967-2004) serving at all ranks from firefighter to Assistant Chief Fire Officer. Served as Divisional Commander in Aberdeen and then Senior Fire Safety officer with Grampian Fire Brigade. Served as Divisional Commander Glasgow with Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

Specialist fire investigator with particular expertise in fatal fires.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Safety Services. Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service from 1996-2004. References included:

- Operational command at fires and other emergency incidents
- Legislative fire safety
- Fire Investigation and associated training
- Community fire safety
- Health and Safety
- Litigation
- Brigade Investigation Officer – Included discipline
- Media liaison and policy

Medals - The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
- The Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Specialist fire investigator with particular expertise in fatal fires.

Commanded the fire service attendance to the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988 (167 fatalities) and was deputy commander at the Ocean Odyssey drilling rig fatal blow-out (1 fatality) in the North Sea in the same year. Was the fire service commander at the Chinook helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre in 1994, which killed 29 people and included anti-terrorism specialists from the RUC, SAS and other Government agencies. Attended 'Ground Zero' in New York City with New York Fire Department personnel, (FDNY) the week following the attacks on the World Trade Centre. Represented the UK Chief Fire Officer's Association (CFOA) at the memorial service at the Yankee Stadium.

Considerable experience in training needs and analysis. This has included numerous disciplines and required the implementation of new policies in the following disciplines:

Setting up command managerial requirements
Fire safety policies
Operational policies and implementation
Backdraft policy & hot fire/compartment training policy,
Hazardous substances policy
Fire investigation policy & training
Uniform and PPE
Fire appliances including special appliances

Considerable specialist work in the areas of fire investigation and hazardous substances. Lectured extensively on these subjects at home and abroad.

Lead officer for the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) in fire investigation and arson investigation, 1996-2002.

Registered as an expert advisor to the (Police) National Operations Centre at Bramshill on fire/arson investigation with particular reference to fatal fires and fire related homicide.

Registered - UK Register of Expert Witnesses.

Chaired and led the national CFOA positional report and recommendations on fire investigation and arson strategy. Presented this report at Home Office Seminar.

Member of two specialist sub-groups of the Arson Control Forum 2000-2002.

'Friend to the Board' of the Lancashire Partnership against Crime (LANPAC) (1999-2002) which is based at Lancashire Constabulary HQ. Current member.

Past-president of the North-Western Branch of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Current Chairman of the Institute of Fire Safety Managers

Member of the Chief Fire Officers Association.

Visiting lecturer - University of Central Lancashire

Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Registered - Institute of Fire Safety Managers Register of Fire Risk Assessors.

Presented evidence as an expert witness for Courts in England, Scotland and Ireland.

In late 2003 - expert witness in an appeal case at the Royal Courts of Justice involving multiple murders.

Consultant – homicidal and other fatal fires in the Far East

Consulted by British police forces regarding suspected homicidal fire deaths.

Co-presented two-day anti-terrorism preparation seminar in Brunei Darussalam in late 2003.

Fire Investigation work in New York City with Russo Consultancy 2001 & 2006.

Presented advanced fire investigation courses for the Fire Department of Malaysia in 2006 & 2007.

Numerous published papers in fire related journals.

Co-authored a paper with a consultant Plastic Surgeon on fire burn injuries, which was published in the national Burns Journal in 2002.

Current board member of editor of a worldwide Journal of Forensic Medicine. Responsibilities include all fire matters and scientific paper and book reviews. Paper published on Fatal Fires and won annual 'best paper' prize 2003.

Written and marked various Member examination papers of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) but specifically written and marked Fire Investigation ('Member') examination paper for many years until 2006.

Board member of the Lancashire Youth Association (LYA).

Current personal background checks carried out by Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)