

# Solicitor's Pack

## Collier Knight Watts LLP

### Independent Consulting Forensic Engineers

Collier Knight Watts LLP is a Partnership of two independent consulting forensic engineers who have a combined experience of over 35 years in the field of Expert Witness Services.

The Partnership aims to provide a quality investigative engineering service to its professional clients, usually solicitors and insurance companies.

A wide variety of accidents and engineering disputes are investigated with technical reports, complying with the Civil Justice Rules, submitted on completion.

Our service culminates with the presentation of professional testimony in both Civil and Criminal Courts.

This solicitor's pack contains profiles of the company and the two partners. It includes a Fax-Back enquiry form and details of our code of business.

To discuss any of the above items in more detail, to request CV's of any of the experts, or to have a free initial consultation on any matter please contact us directly.



## Company Profile:

Philip Collier, Andrew Knight and Stephen Watts established Collier Knight Watts in 2003 to offer a new and dynamic Expert Witness Service. Mr Knight retired from the partnership in 2006 following injury in a road traffic accident. The company is founded on the 35 years combined experience of its two current Partners who are both fully trained in the role of an Expert Witness and are widely recognised in this field.

The Partners bring a wealth of specialist expertise in Civil and Mechanical Engineering. They provide authoritative and fully investigated reports, primarily for Civil and Criminal litigation, on subjects such as construction site and demolition accidents, structural surveys, lifting and access equipment failures, product failures, road traffic accidents and potentially fraudulent claims. The Partnership also has particular expertise investigating occupational conditions such as Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome and Upper Limb Disorders and matters relating to Occupational Health and Safety.

With the preparation of over 4000 technical reports, the range of cases dealt with by the Partners is extensive. For example, reports are frequently prepared on personal injury caused by slips, trips and falls, accidents in the sports and leisure environment, manual handling, glass and glazing. The list of subject areas is considerable and certainly too long to set out in detail. The partners are happy to receive enquiries to confirm our expertise in a particular matter. In the unlikely event that we are unable to assist we will be able to advise on where to find an appropriate expert.

The Partners of Collier Knight Watts invite you to telephone the office to discuss any case on a no obligation basis in the first instance. They are confident that with a simple telephone call to our strategically placed office you will get valuable free initial advice.

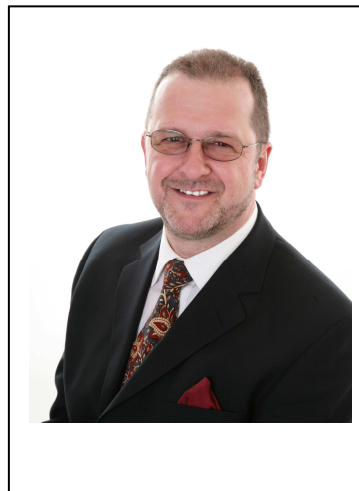
You will find further details of the available services and details of our fees and charges in the code of business section of this pack. We are always happy to provide initial estimates along with CV's in response to any enquiry

It is our aim always to provide a prompt, efficient and professional service to all our clients.

## Philip Collier

BEng (Hons) CEng MICE MIHT MEWI

Now a recognised name in the profession Philip is registered as an approved expert the Law Society's Directory of Expert witnesses, the UK register of Expert Witnesses and the expert database of APIL. He is a member of the Expert Witness Institute and has recently been awarded the Bond Solon Cardiff University Expert Witness Certificate after successfully completing their training programme.



His independence is reflected in the even distribution of instructions received from claimant and defendant solicitors. He now regularly receives instructions to act as the court appointed or agreed single expert and has given expert testimony at court on many occasions.

Philip established Collier Knight Watts with his colleagues in September 2003, with the intention of providing a more professional and efficient delivery of expert witness services. The full range of services can be found in the company profile.

Philip has over 16 years experience of accident investigation, 12 of this gained with Strange Strange and Gardner, an establish firm of consulting engineers, that he joined in 1991. Following training in the role of an expert witness Philip has since investigated and reported on over 1400 cases involving accidents that occurred in the construction industry, on the public highway, and those that occurred in the sports and leisure industries..

Philip has many years of direct experience of work in the construction industry. Following Graduation in 1981 Philip spent 10 years working in the construction and building industries. Employed by national contracting companies Philip gained experience of work on large scale road construction and motorway resurfacing contracts, and of a wide range of heavy civil engineering projects such as bridge building and the construction of sewerage treatment works and warehouse developments. He achieved the role of Site Manager and so gained direct experience in contract management and the control of construction works.

A two-year break to work in the Highway design department of a shire county council provided experience of highway design and the design of simple reinforced concrete structures. Philip obtained Chartered Engineer status and membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1987, and Membership of the Institution of Highways and Transportation a year later. In 2002 he was admitted as an Associate Member of the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers.

## Stephen Watts BEng AMIMechE

Stephen has almost 15 years experience investigating accidents and engineering disputes and is recognised by many Solicitors and Insurance Companies for providing a quality service. He is a Law Society Approved Expert Witness and is registered with the UK register of Expert Witnesses and the APIL Expert Witness Database. His instructions have generally been equally divided between Claimant and Defendant although increasingly he has received instructions as the Court appointed engineering expert. Over the years, Stephen has given Expert Testimony in Court on numerous occasions.



In 2003 Stephen, with his colleagues, formed Collier Knight Watts LLP, a Forensic Engineering Consultancy which specialises in providing investigative engineering reports for both insurance and litigation matters.

Stephen's forensic engineering career began in 1989 when he joined Strange Strange and Gardner, an established firm of consulting forensic engineers. After training in the role of an Expert Witness, Stephen has investigated and reported on over 1600 cases relating to a wide range of engineering issues principally in matters relating to personal injury and commercial disputes. He has significant experience reporting on factory and workshop accidents and mechanical failures of equipment. Stephen also has specialist expertise reporting on matters involving Manual Handling, Upper Limb Disorders and Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (VWF).

Stephen's first appointment in the engineering industry was in 1982 with GEC Turbine Generators in Manchester. He gained considerable experience in workshop practice with his involvement in the manufacture of large steam turbines and the installation, overhaul and commissioning of Power Stations.

He was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Engineering with Honours from the department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sheffield in 1986

# Fax-Back Form

fax to 01204 373 933

Your Company:

Your Name

Telephone

Fax

Email

We will contact you as soon as possible after receiving your fax, in order that we might respond efficiently to your requirement, please give brief details of your case, enquiry or requirement on the box below.

# Collier Knight Watts LLP

## Code of Business

At Collier Knight Watts, we are committed to providing a professional engineering service to our clients. This code sets out the basis upon which we will provide that service. Our formal terms of engagement will be provided with all written estimates and acceptance of instructions.

### **The Partnership**

Collier Knight Watts LLP is a Limited Liability Partnership established and registered in England in 2003. Registered Number OC305590. Registered address: Bank House, 260/268 Chapel Street, Salford, Manchester, M3 5JZ

### **The Client**

The client will usually be a professional firm such as a solicitors practice or an insurance company. On certain conditions, the partnership is prepared to accept instructions from other companies, firms, organizations or individuals.

### **The Partners**

Instructions will be assigned to the Partner whose experience and qualifications make him most appropriately qualified to provide opinion on the particular matter. Where a Partner has been nominated and agreed between instructing parties then he will, of course, have sole conduct of the matter.

### **Services**

#### **No obligation telephone discussion.**

The partners are willing to discuss any matter on a no obligation basis in the first instance. These discussion will set out how we could assist, provide an estimate of our likely charges and confirm what other information may be of assistance to us in preparation of a report.

### **Preliminary Reports**

We are often able to provide a preliminary report based on a selection of papers and without a site inspection. Such reports will be shorter and so less expensive than a CPR compliant report and will set out what information would be needed to allow us to confirm our initial views. Such reports may be helpful to secure after the event insurance in a particular case if our initial opinion is favourable.



### **CPR Compliant reports**

These are our full reports into any incident. These are usually prepared following an inspection and/or interviews with the claimant or the defendant's representative, or both in single joint appointments, and are supported by photographs and sketches as appropriate.

### **Meeting with experts**

We are fully aware of our duties in meeting with other experts and the production of Joint Statements.

### **Conference with counsel and attendance at court.**

The partners are experienced in attending at conferences with counsel and attending at court to present expert testimony. The partners have presented evidence in civil and criminal courts

### **Charges**

The partnership will raise fees and charges for work carried out on a particular matter. In assessing those charges the partnership will take account of a number of aspects including, but not restricted to, the complexity of the case, the amount of documentation supplied and, to keep proportionality in mind, the value of the case. The fees and charges are principally time related but, because cases are likely to involve a degree of research, not all the time spent on a particular matter will necessarily be passed on to the client. In all cases the company will be happy to provide details of the current rates and an estimate of the anticipated charges. Where appropriate, the partnership will charge for reasonable disbursements associated with the particular case and Value Added Tax. It is the partnership's intention only to raise charges that are fair and reasonable, and where possible agreed by the client in advance. We would expect the client to be responsible for the payment of those fees and charges even if some other means of funding applies.

### **Fixed or Capped Charges**

It may be possible in some cases, after providing an estimate of our charges, to agree to fix or cap the charges at a particular level. In the case of a fixed fee we would undertake to complete the necessary work and provide a report and not exceed the agreed figure. In the case of a capped fee we would carry out the work and provide a report and raise a fee that may be lower than the capped figure. Again, we would not exceed the agreed amount. In both cases, if upon receipt of further information or following investigation it becomes clear that the

matter is much more complicated than anticipated and the estimate of the charges is inaccurate, we will contact the client immediately for further advice.

### **Invoices and Payments**

A detailed invoice will be provided upon completion of the work and provision of our report. Invoices for any further work, such as perusal of further papers, meeting with other experts, conferences or court appearances will be raised shortly after the event, or upon completion of that element of the work. As in any business the control of overheads and cash flow is vital to keep costs to a minimum, and in this regard we would require invoices to be settled within 30 days unless some other agreement applies.