

# DR SOHOM DAS

**CONSULTANT FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST  
& EXPERT WITNESS**

**MBChB, MRCPsych BSc, MSc,**

**[www.sigmadeltpsych.co.uk](http://www.sigmadeltpsych.co.uk)**

## CONTACT DETAILS

**[enquiries@sigmadeltapsych.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sigmadeltapsych.co.uk)**

**[Sohom.das@nhs.net](mailto:Sohom.das@nhs.net)**

## CREDENTIALS

**APPROVED UNDER SECTION 12(2) OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1983 / 2007**

**ON GMC SPECIALIST REGISTER FOR FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY**

**APPROVED CLINICIAN STATUS: VALID UNTIL APRIL 2019**

**FULL INDEMNITY INSURANCE (MDDUS)**

**FULL MEMBER OF EXPERT WITNESS INSTITUTE; EXPERT WITNESS ACCREDITATION AWARDED (2017)**

## QUALIFICATIONS

AWARD / SUBJECT	YEAR	ESTABLISHMENT
MSc – Psychiatric Research	2012	University College London
MRCPsych – Membership	2011	Royal College of Psychiatrists
MBChB – Medicine and Surgery	2003	University of Edinburgh
BSc – Pharmacology	2000	University of Edinburgh

## MEDICO-LEGAL EXPERIENCE

I have extensive experience of carrying out a range of psychiatric assessments and writing independent reports for a number of different courts (including civil and criminal court), since 2011.

I run my own medico-legal practice; Sigma Delta Psychiatry Expertise; professional website: [www.sigmadeltapsych.co.uk](http://www.sigmadeltapsych.co.uk)

I am co-founder of North London Medico-Legal forum – a Continued Professional Development Group for psychiatric medico-legal experts.

I have authored around 500 criminal court reports and around 300 civil court reports in my career. My current turn-over is around 3 reports per week (around 150 reports per year).

I work part-time in my current Forensic Psychiatrist role (in two court diversion schemes); in order to dedicate a couple of days per week to carry out medico-legal work. I am generally able to see clients and turn around reports very quickly.

## CIVIL COURT WORK EXPERIENCE

- Personal injury cases (including complex and high value cases).
- Clinical Negligence; including:
  - Complex and high value cases
  - Breach of duty
  - Causation
  - Prognosis and Condition
- Historical sexual abuse.
- Psychiatric consequences of a wide range of incidents and accidents (e.g. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, issues at work, physical disability).
- Recommendations for psychiatric treatment.

As well as adults, I have carried out multiple assessments of children and adolescents.

## CRIMINAL COURT WORK EXPERIENCE

- Fitness to plead.
- Defendants' mental state at the time of offences.
- Mental health disposals (including Hospital Orders, Restriction Orders, and Community Orders).
- Mental health defences (including Not guilty by Reason of Insanity, Diminished Responsibility and automatism).
- Capacity to form intent / mens rae.
- Risk Assessments, including violence, sexual offending, and risk of reoffending.

- My assessments have been undertaken for clients in a variety of settings and situations, including low, medium and high secure psychiatric hospitals prisons (men and women) and Immigration Centres.
- A wide range of alleged offences; from fraud to murder and terrorism.
- Cases on behalf of the Defence, as well as the Crown Prosecution Service.
- I have experience of giving oral evidence as an expert witness in a variety of courts; including Psychiatric defences (such as Diminished Responsibility in a murder trial at the Old Bailey) and Psychiatric disposals (including Restriction Orders and a Hybrid Order).

## OTHER MEDICO-LEGAL WORK

I have experience in authoring:

- Family court reports.
- Coroner's Court (including providing oral evidence).
- Employment Tribunal reports (including grievance investigation assessments).
- Mental Health Review Tribunal reports (both as the Responsible Clinician, and as an independent psychiatrist).
- Parole board reports (including giving oral evidence).
- Immigration Tribunal reports.
- Formal capacity assessments.
- Reports for the Ministry of Justice (such as Annual Statutory Reports and leave reports).
- Serious Untoward Incident reports.

## MEDICO-LEGAL TRAINING

I have had extensive training in medico-legal work. In recent years, this has included:

- Seminar on suicide investigations and other Serious Untoward Incidents investigations; CNWL NHS Trust (July 2019)
  - NHS Resolution Mental Health seminar; learning from suicide investigations (November 2018).
  - Complex trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; Royal College of Psychiatrists Private and Independent Practice Special Interest Group Medico-legal Conference, Dublin (September 2018).
  - Premex advanced courtroom skills (June 2018 and June 2016).
  - Regular feedback about the quality of my reports from solicitors, as part of my formal annual NHS appraisal (most recently, April 2018).
  - Bond Solon Training – Civil Law and Procedure (February 2018).
  - Bond Solon Training – Cross-examination simulation (January 2018).
  - Premex advanced courtroom skills (October 2017).
  - Medico-legal lectures, tutorials and workshops at the International Forensic Psychiatry Conference (Royal College of Psychiatrists, Forensic Psychiatry Faculty) on numerous occasions (most recently, Madrid, March 2017).
- As a higher trainee (Specialist Registrar) in Forensic Psychiatry in London (2011 – 2014), I have had the privilege of supervision from several different renowned Consultant Forensic Psychiatrists, for both independent and NHS medico-legal assessments. This helped me hone my report-writing talents.

Previous medico-legal training has included:

- Grey's Inn Expert Witness Training
  - Practice cross-examination by trainee and experienced barristers.
- Regular formal medico-legal teaching sessions within forensic psychiatry higher training, including:
  - Medico-legal report club, involving presenting and critically appraising my own and other people's reports.
  - Tutorials by experts in civil and family court assessments.
  - John Howard Centre teaching sessions and North London Forensic Service academic morning; discussions about complex medico-legal issues and presenting difficult cases myself at these sessions to several expert consultant colleagues.
- Numerous medico-legal workshops at National Higher Trainee Psychiatry conferences and International Forensic Psychiatry Conferences, by experienced clinicians, judges, barristers and solicitors.
- Regular medico-legal case presentations to peers, in a variety of settings.
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Other relevant activities / experience have included:

- I was interviewed on Radio 4 about mental health issues in prison for One-to-One (April 2019).
- I write a regular blog for the Huffington Post about psychiatric issues - <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/author/dr-sohom-das/>
- I have been awarded Expert Witness Accreditation from the Expert Witness Institute (in association with University College London Judicial Institute; 2016).
- I was invited to speak about Medical Negligence within mental health in a seminar hosted by Collingbourne Hennah Law LLP (2016).

## CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I regularly participate in Continued Professional Development, for my medico-legal work, as well as my other work as a Forensic Psychiatrist. This includes:

- Regular critique of my reports by other expert psychiatrist from the North London Medico-Legal forum (most recently, August 2019).
- Regular feedback about the quality of my reports from solicitors, as part of my formal annual NHS appraisal (most recently, January 2019).
- Regular presentation of complex medico-legal cases to my Continued Professional Development peer group (most recently, November 2018).
- Regular attendance to a number of medico-legal conferences.
- Annual appraisal and regular GMC revalidation (due April 2019).
- Keeping up to date with medico-legal and psychiatric journals.
- Being signed up to a number of medico-legal websites, blogs and newsletters.
- Being a member of a Professional Development Plan group; regular meetings discussing a wide range of topics within forensic psychiatry, including medico-legal work.
- Regular presenting complex medico-legal cases with consultant colleagues.

- Obtaining feedback from clients (mostly solicitors and barristers) about the standard of my work; this includes formal feedback for my annual appraisal.

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

### **CURRENT POSITION: MEDICAL LEAD / SENIOR PSYCHIATRIST WITHIN WILLEDEN MAGISTRATES' AND HARROW CROWN COURT LIAISON AND DIVERSION SCHEMES**

**LOCUM FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST (PART-TIME), FOR CNWL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

**FEBRUARY 2017 - PRESENT**

**CLINICAL DIRECTOR: DR SHAMIR PATEL**

My responsibilities within the Court Diversion role include:

- Assessing defendants with complex psychiatric (escalated to me via the junior team members).
- Writing brief court reports within a very short turn-over a court (often within an hour or 2).
- Formally advising the court about major psychiatric issues (including fitness to plead).
- Initiating and undertaking Mental Health Act assessments, where necessary. Making formal recommendations for these.
- Contributing to formal business meetings between various teams and organisations within the court.
- Lead formal teaching sessions for other members of my team.
- Attending pan-London Court Liaison & Diversion focus groups.
- Outside of my clinical psychiatrist role for the NHS, I carry out independent expert witness work for both courts.

My responsibilities within my recent prison role (also part time for CNWL NHS Foundation Trust; from February 2017 to May 2018) included:

- Overseeing the care of the psychiatric patients within the prison's Healthcare Unit.
- Clinical Leadership to prison clinical mental health team.
- Initiating treatment for prisoners suffering form mental illness (including prescribing medication and referring to our team of psychologists).
- **Regular assessments / courts reports** for a number of courts and solicitors; regarding recommendations for disposal (including formal transfer to hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983/2007) for prisoners.
- Clinical lead for weekly multi-disciplinary planning meeting within Healthcare Unit
- Contributing to ACCT assessments.
- Mental health assessments within the Segregation and Care Unit.

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT (AT CONSULTANT LEVEL)

### **CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF LONDON CYRENIANS HOUSING (PART-TIME)**

**APRIL 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JAMES MCNICHOLAS**

Director of the AIR (Assessment, Independence & Recovery) Team, as well as being the Clinical Director of London Cyrenians Housing; a housing association (and charity) that specialised in housing clients with troubled backgrounds (Forensic Histories / Mental Illness / Dual Diagnosis / Learning Disability).

My responsibilities included:

- Leadership and supervision of team (consisting of nurses and social workers). Line management of whole team.
- Examination and feedback regarding risk assessment documentation across the organisation.
- Overseeing and advising on the care of complex and challenging clients; liaison with community mental health teams and staff within the housing projects.
- Assistance and advice for complex referrals, related to higher risk clients.
- Delivery of organisation-wide teaching, in a wide range of topic

### **RESPONSIBLE CLINICIAN FOR DANBURY WARD, LOW SECURE MENTAL ILLNESS REHABILITATION WARD, ST ANDREW'S HEALTHCARE, ESSEX.**

**MAY 2014 TO APRIL 2016 (PART-TIME)**

**LEAD PSYCHIATRIST: DR MUTHUSAMY NATARAJAN**

Consultant responsible for the care of 14 psychiatric in-patients with significant forensic risk histories.

- Initiating and carrying out treatment plans for a range of patients on civil and criminal sections of the Mental Health Act.
- Providing leadership to an in-patient Multi-Disciplinary Team, including supervision and line management of a junior doctor.
- Chairing all Care Programme Approach meetings, and ward rounds.
- Writing a range of reports (including medico-legal, tribunal, CPA, leave reports) and supervising reports by junior staff.
- Frequent medico-legal report writing through the St. Andrew's consultancy service.
- Regularly providing evidence at all Mental Health Review Tribunals and Manager's Hearings.
- Regular attendance to Crown Court to give expert evidence on behalf of my patient group.
- Lead psychiatrist in Secure Training Centre (for adolescent offenders).

## HIGHER TRAINING POSTS IN FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

(AS SPECIALIST REGISTRAR)

### NORTH-EAST LONDON FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY SCHEME

JOHN HOWARD CENTRE, HACKNEY + CAMLET LODGE, NORTH LONDON FORENSIC SERVICE.

APRIL 2011 TO APRIL 2014

TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: DR MARY WHITTLE

The positions I undertook within my higher training included:

- Locum Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist at the John Howard Centre (3 months)
- Medium-secure male rehabilitation ward, Camlet Lodge (3 months)
- Medium-secure female ward, Camlet Lodge (6 months)
- Low-secure male rehabilitation ward, Camlet Lodge (3 months)
- 2 x Medium-secure male in-patient unit posts, covering PICU, acute and rehabilitation wards, John Howard Centre (18 months)
- Millfield's Unit, John Howard Centre; a therapeutic community within the Personality Disorder Service (4 months)

Additional Specialist Forensic Higher Training included:

- Participation in four different Court Diversion schemes.
- Regular scheduled outpatient clinics at HMP Pentonville and HMYOI Feltham.
- Specialist assessment of young offenders (including developmental disorders such as ADHD and autism).
- Regular Mental Health Act assessment.
- Treatment of patients at Broadmoor Hospital (High Dependency Ward)
- Co-facilitation of a year-long Schema-therapy (psychological treatment) group for personality disordered offenders.
- Co-facilitator of formal risk assessment tool (HCR-20) and psychopathy screening tool (PCL-SV training).
- Member of the Faculty of Management and Leadership
- Authored material for the Royal College of Psychiatrists website (patient information leaflet about capacity and podcasts, about anti-depressants and psychosis).

## OTHER PREVIOUS PSYCHIATRY POSTS

(AT SENIOR HOUSE OFFICER LEVEL, OR EQUIVALENT)

**CAMDEN & ISLINGTON ROTATION – CORE TRAINING**

**FEBRUARY 2006 TO MARCH 2011**

**TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: DR ANGELA HASSIOTIS**

- Prison Substance Misuse, Detoxification Wing, HMP Pentonville (3 months)
- Learning Disabilities Psychiatry, Camden LD Service (5 months)
- Addictions Psychiatry, IDASS North, Islington (6 months)
- Forensic Psychiatry, Camlet Lodge, North London Forensic Services (6 months)
- Liaison Psychiatry, University College London Hospital (6 months)
- Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, University College London Hospital (6 months)
- General Adult Psychiatry, St. Pancras Hospital, London (6 months)
- Old-Age Psychiatry, Mascal's Park (6 months)
- Psychiatry Registrar, Sydney, Australia (12 months)
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**OTHER MEDICAL POSTS**

**AUGUST 2003 TO FEBRUARY 2006**

- Accident & Emergency Registrar, Sydney, Australia (6 months)
- Intensive Care doctor, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle(3 months)
- Ear, Nose & Throat doctor, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle (3 months)
- Urology doctor, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle (3 months)
- Orthopaedic doctor, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (6 months)
- General Medical House Officer Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (6 months)

**REFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

**ANONYMISED COPIES OF ANY AFOREMENTIONED WORK ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**