

The **Expert Witness** Workforce

2026



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Executive Summary and Key Findings

In 2026, the Expert Witness Institute (EWI) embarked on an ambitious project to gain more insight into the size and demographics of the Expert Witness workforce. The results of this work will be used to help with advocacy with the government and judiciary, to develop relevant and robust policies, and to develop better and targeted services.

Key findings

- It is estimated that there are approximately 31,000 people in the UK undertaking expert witness work. This consists of 7,500 people in the UK undertaking expert witness work regularly and a further 23,500 who undertake cases infrequently.
- Specialist Medical Practitioners form the largest group with 40% of respondents. Construction and Building and Therapy professionals (including Occupational Therapy and Psychologists) are the next-largest groups.
- Over 50% have worked as an Expert Witness for over 15 years.
- 12% consists of "Professional Expert Witnesses" (those that only do Expert Witness work).
- 30% of Experts complete 100 or more cases on average per year.
- The average Expert Witness undertakes 60 cases per year.
- The majority of Expert Witnesses (77%) charge between £100 and £400 per hour.
- 41% do not hold any formal Expert Witness qualifications.
- Only 49% have completed core training in Law for Experts, Report Writing, and Expert Discussions/Joint Statements
- 11% have not undertaken any Expert Witness training in the key competencies required of an Expert Witness.
- 62% undertake work as a Single Joint expert but only half of those have completed training in being a Single Joint expert.
- 33% of the workforce are over 65 and have been working as an Expert Witness for 10 years or more.
- Only 24% of the entire workforce is female, but there are signs that over time there will be greater representation with a far more balanced gender split in the 35-44 age group.
- 86% of the workforce is from a White background
- More work is required in the next survey to understand the needs of the 6% who identify as having a disability.
- More work is needed to define and refine 'regular' and 'infrequent' Expert Witnesses in future surveys.

1 Introduction

In 2026, the Expert Witness Institute (EWI) embarked on an ambitious project to gain more insight into the size and demographics of the Expert Witness workforce. The results of this work will be used to help with advocacy targeting the government and judiciary, to develop relevant and robust policies, and to develop better and targeted services.

EWI commissioned White Space Strategy to help deliver this research. They have been responsible for creating the robust methodology and creating the data model which has enabled us to create this estimate of the workforce. In addition, they suggested content for an industry survey which has enabled us to further refine the model and the estimates contained within it.

EWI has been responsible for delivering the survey and analysing the results alongside the model providing this first view of the UK's Expert Witness workforce.

2 Methodology

The methodology for estimating the size of the workforce is set out in this diagram:



The model used a mix of publicly available data, research and EWI data to define the workforce.

This approach avoided the potential for double counting in the datasets. This was because we were not trying to pull together data about Expert Witnesses from multiple sources to apply to the national dataset. Instead, we were using one workforce survey to understand the demographics and different sectors and apply these to the overall UK Expert Witness population.

The steps were as follows:

2.1 Data Gathering - Defining the number of cases in the UK

The team used national data sets from the courts across the UK to create an exhaustive base to scale against. They spent time at the outset speaking to the EWI Team and Board members to understand additional datasets which could be leveraged.

2.2 Research with Instructing Parties - Identifying the number of cases involving Expert Witnesses

White Space Strategy conducted research with relevant legal experts e.g. barristers/solicitors and those working in insurance to understand:

- Numbers of cases where national datasets had not been available
- Typical use of expert witnesses: the proportion of cases requiring expert witnesses and the number of expert witnesses used per case
- Variation in the use of expert witnesses by area of law, type of court, or any other relevant segmentation
- Use of expert witnesses in pre-court settlements versus during court proceedings

This took the form of structured interviews using a sample of lawyers from across the spectrum of jurisdictions and case types. This approach was deemed to provide EWI with the best value for money based on what we were trying to achieve. This was not a standard questionnaire to be sent out, which would have been likely to receive minimal engagement.

These interviews produced excellent insight into the use of experts across a range of jurisdictions and courts.

The sampling approach dipped into various sectors, but they built towards **one cross-sector number of the number of expert witnesses in the UK** initially. Creating jurisdictional, sector, and case type numbers would have required a significant number of expert engagements to build a more granular picture, which would have significantly affected budget. Therefore, while it would have been possible, it was not recommended to the EWI as offering the best value for the Institute at that time.

EWI survey data was then used to layer colour on top of that number.

2.3 Research with Experts – Surveying experts to understand numbers of cases and demographic information

White Space provided EWI with a couple of key questions for the survey which could be used to support and refine the model. The rest of the survey was developed by EWI with the aim of understanding the demographics of the workforce. This was distributed to EWI Members and sent out more widely by other allied organisations to enable us to get the best possible view of those working as Expert Witnesses.

2.4 Develop sizing based on groups of expert witnesses

The model was used to cross-reference the data from the survey to understand different groupings and apply these to the overall UK Expert Witness population.

3 Size of the workforce

It is estimated that there are approximately 31,000 people in the UK undertaking expert witness work. This consists of 7,500 people in the UK undertaking expert witness work regularly and a further 23,500 who undertake cases infrequently.

There are a significant number within the workforce who are infrequent Expert Witnesses. These may only do one case in their entire career or very small numbers of cases due to their specialism expertise. These will need a different approach to membership, training and support than those who regularly give evidence.

4 Findings

Assuming the respondents to the survey are broadly representative of the UK-wide population of Expert Witnesses, we can then apply our findings from the survey to this larger figure.

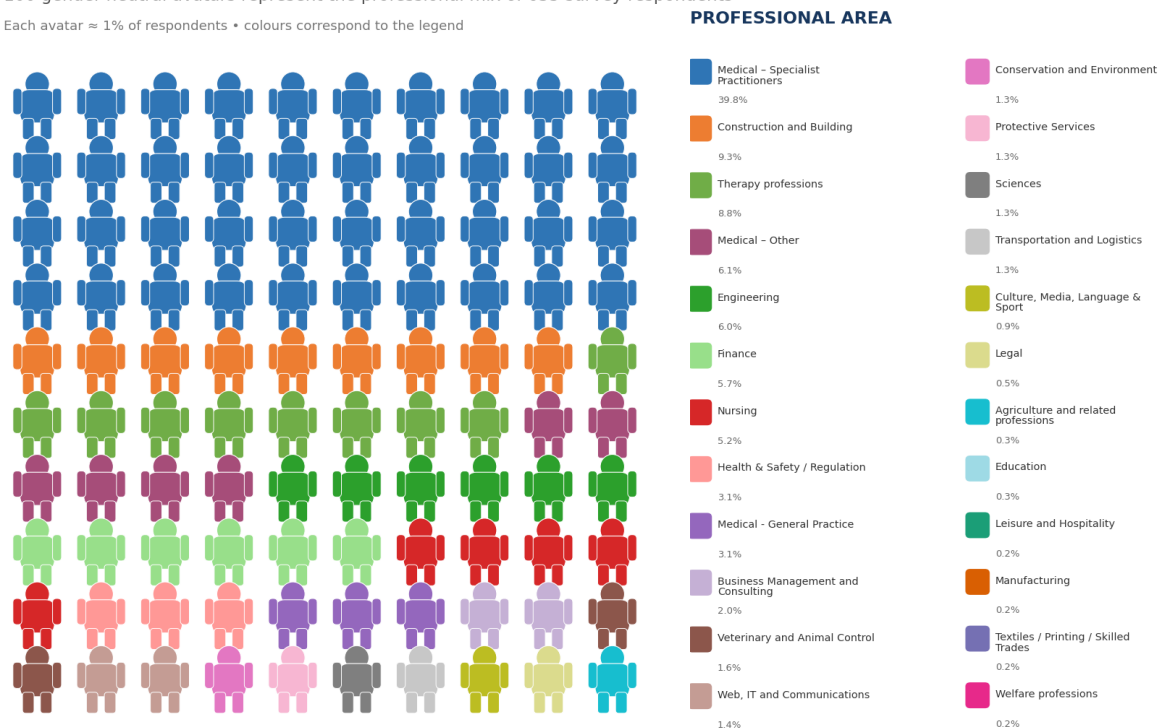
The following sections set out these findings.

4.1 Professional Area

WHO TOOK PART?

100 gender-neutral avatars represent the professional mix of 635 survey respondents

Each avatar ≈ 1% of respondents • colours correspond to the legend



Percentages are calculated from all 635 respondents. Avatar allocation is proportionally rounded to total exactly 100.

The above infographic sets out the professional areas in which respondents' areas of expertise most closely align. Professional Areas are based on EWI's Member Professions which have been based on the Standard Occupational Classification 2020.

Specialist Medical Practitioners form the largest group with 40% of respondents. Construction and Building and Therapy professionals (including Occupational Therapy and Psychologists) are the next-largest groups. The remaining respondents are spread across a broad range of professional disciplines.

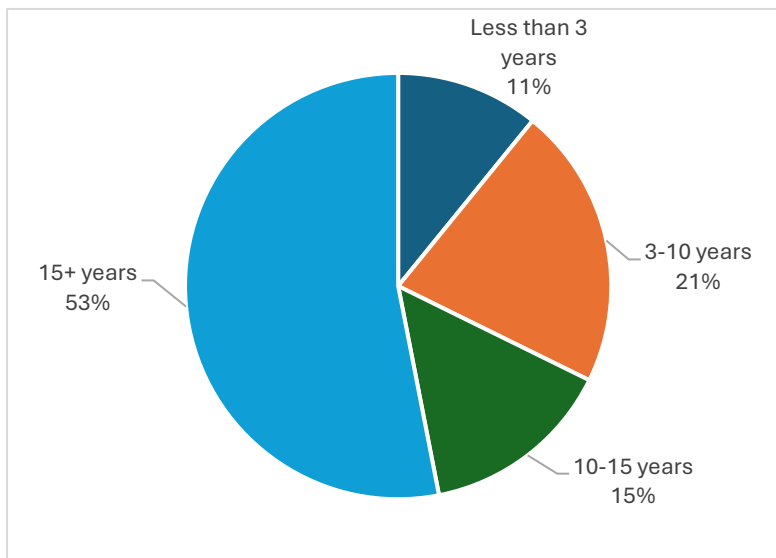
4.2 How experts undertake work

Respondents were asked by which methods they undertake work.

Most respondents (78%) identified that they undertake work as a sole practitioner or consultant. 39% of respondents identified that they work through an agency and 13% through an employer.

Of those that selected other, people predominantly indicated that they had their own company. This was followed by a smaller group of people that identified that they worked through chambers.

4.3 Length of time as an Expert Witness

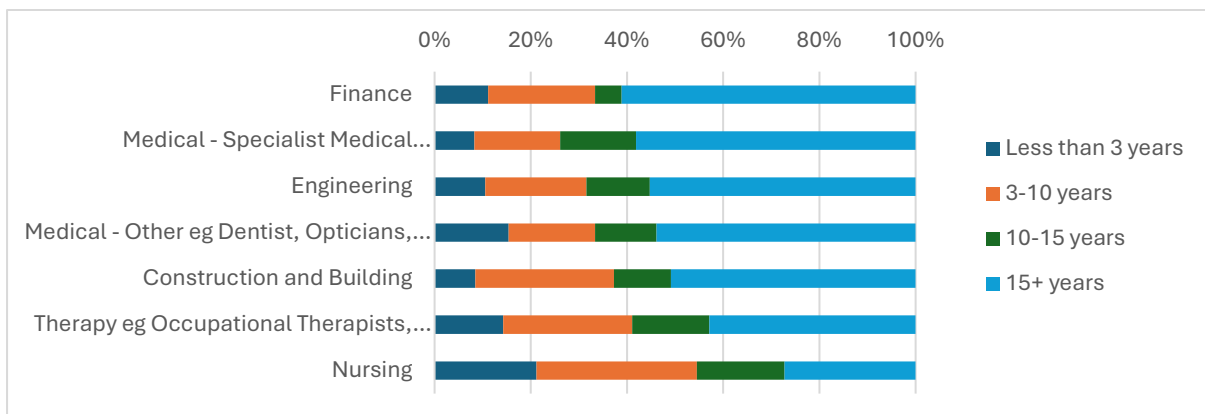


Nearly 90% of respondents have been working as Expert Witnesses for three or more years, with over 50% of respondents having worked for over 15 years.

When this is considered alongside the age profile of respondents (see section 4.16) this highlights a need to continue to encourage professionals to consider Expert Witness work in the future so there is a constant

flow of sufficiently experienced Expert Witnesses to meet the demand of the judicial system.

When this data is combined with key Professional Area data, you can see that Finance had the largest percentage of those that had been working in Expert Witness work for 15 years or more (over 40%).



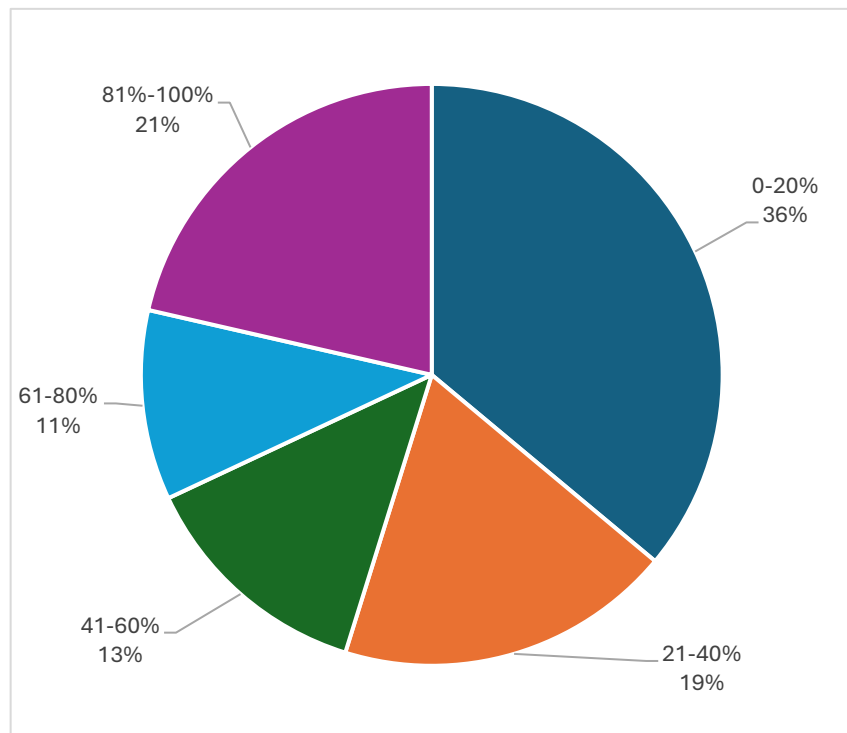
We have also completed analysis of the age profile against key professional areas (see section 4.16).

4.4 Balance of Professional and Expert Witness work

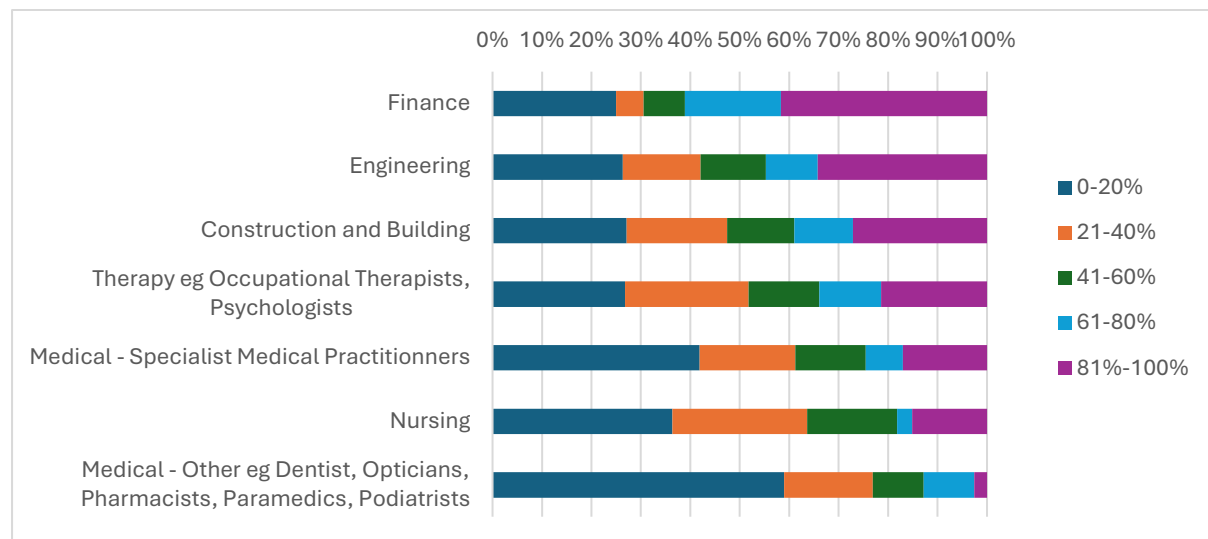
Respondents were asked what percentage of their working time they spent undertaking Expert Witness work.

The biggest group (36%) were those that spend up to 20% of their time on Expert Witness work.

The next group was those that spent 81% to 100% of their time on Expert Witness work.

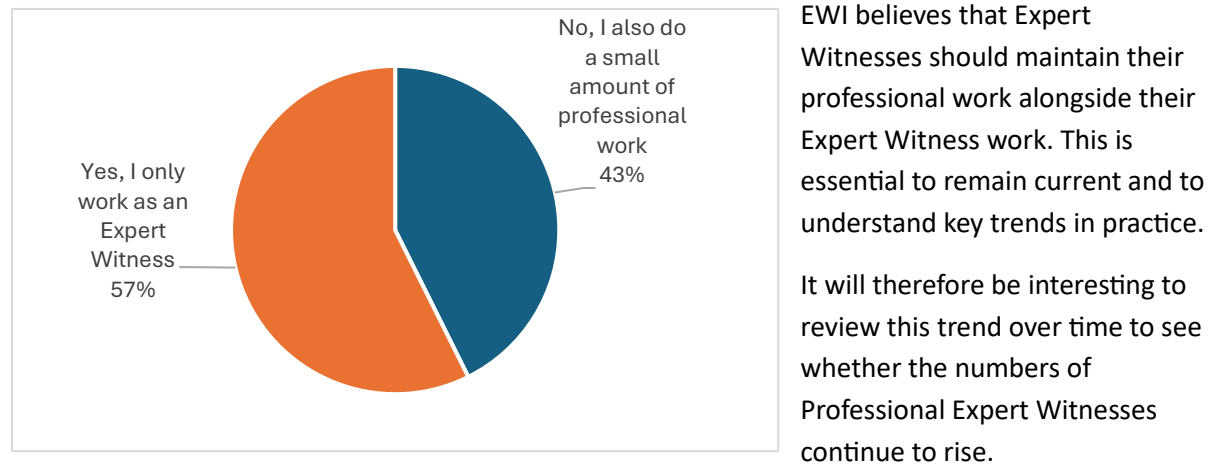


We also looked at the key Professional Areas to see whether there was any difference with the percentage of time spent based on Profession. This shows that those in Finance are more likely to be spending over 40% of their time focussed on Expert Witness work.



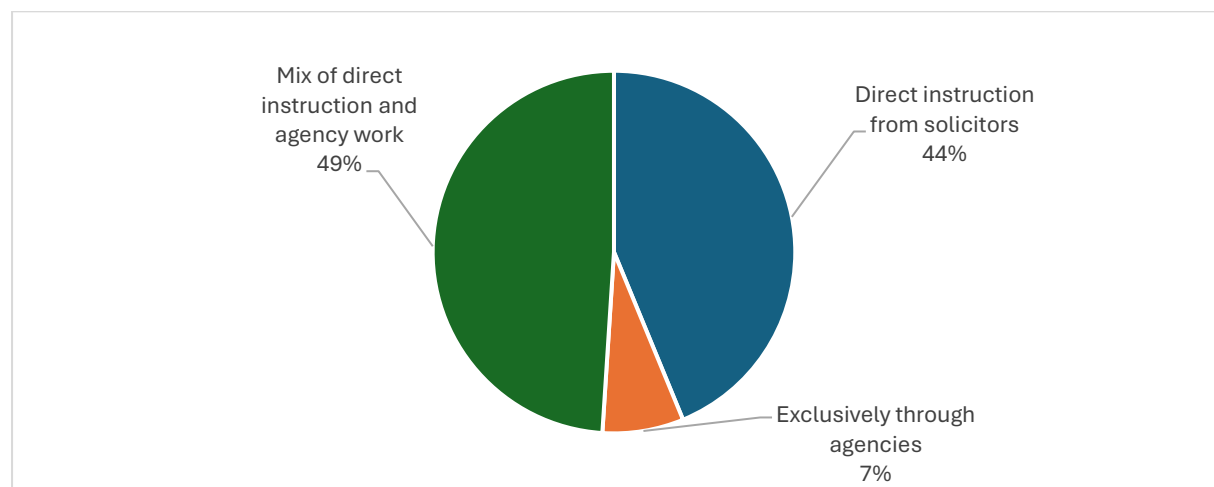
We were also keen to understand whether those who indicated that spent 81% of their time or more on Expert Witness work were still doing professional work or only acting as an Expert Witness. The following chart highlights that of those who indicated they spent over 81% of their time on Expert Witness work, over half of those only work as an Expert Witness. Across the data set this works out as 12% of respondents working solely on Expert Witness work. Those in this category are known

within the industry as the “Professional Expert Witness”; those that only undertake Expert Witness work and no longer undertake their professional work.



4.5 Receiving instructions

A small number of respondents receive instructions exclusively through agencies. Nearly 50% of respondents highlighted a mix of direct instruction and agency work, whilst 44% are only instructed directly.



4.6 Jurisdictions

Respondents indicated that they had undertaken work from the following jurisdictions:

What jurisdictions do you undertake work in?	% of respondents
England and Wales	97%
Scotland	54%
Northern Ireland	44%
Republic of Ireland	35%
Rest of world	25%

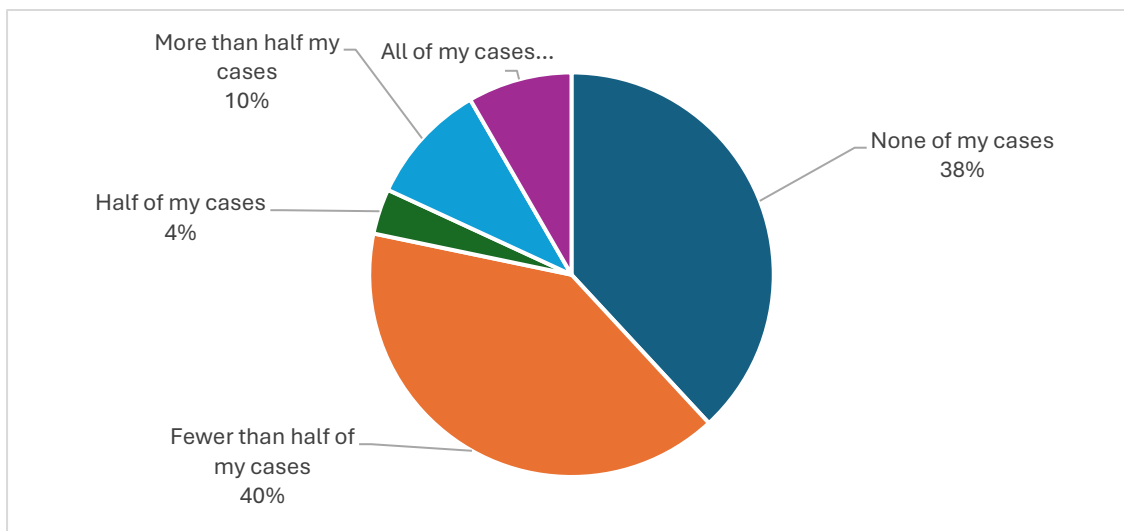
4.7 Case types

Unsurprisingly, almost all respondents undertake Civil cases.

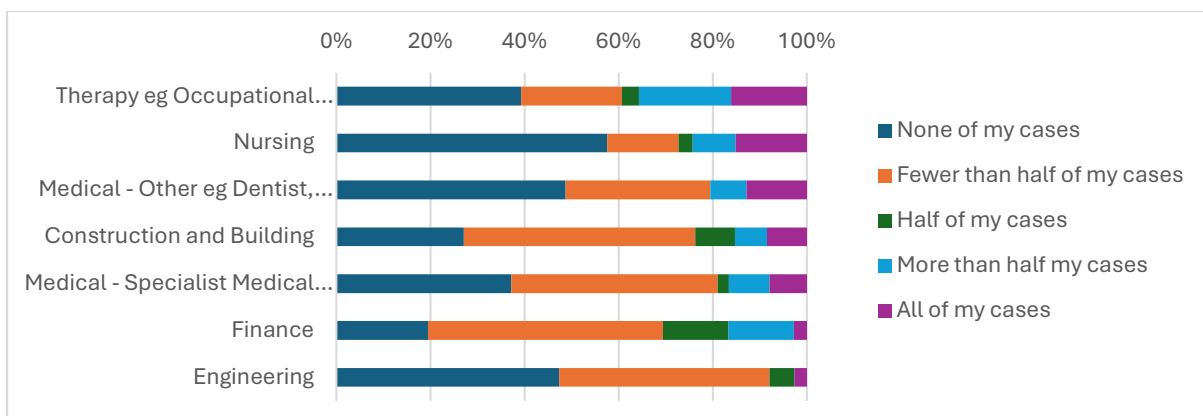
What types of case do you undertake?	% of respondents
Civil	90%
Criminal	35%
Family (Children's Proceedings)	7%
Family (Other)	9%
Tribunals	20%
Alternative Dispute Resolution	16%
Fitness to practice / Regulatory complaint	21%
Other	10%

4.8 Single Joint Experts

62% of respondents have experience of working as a Single Joint Expert.



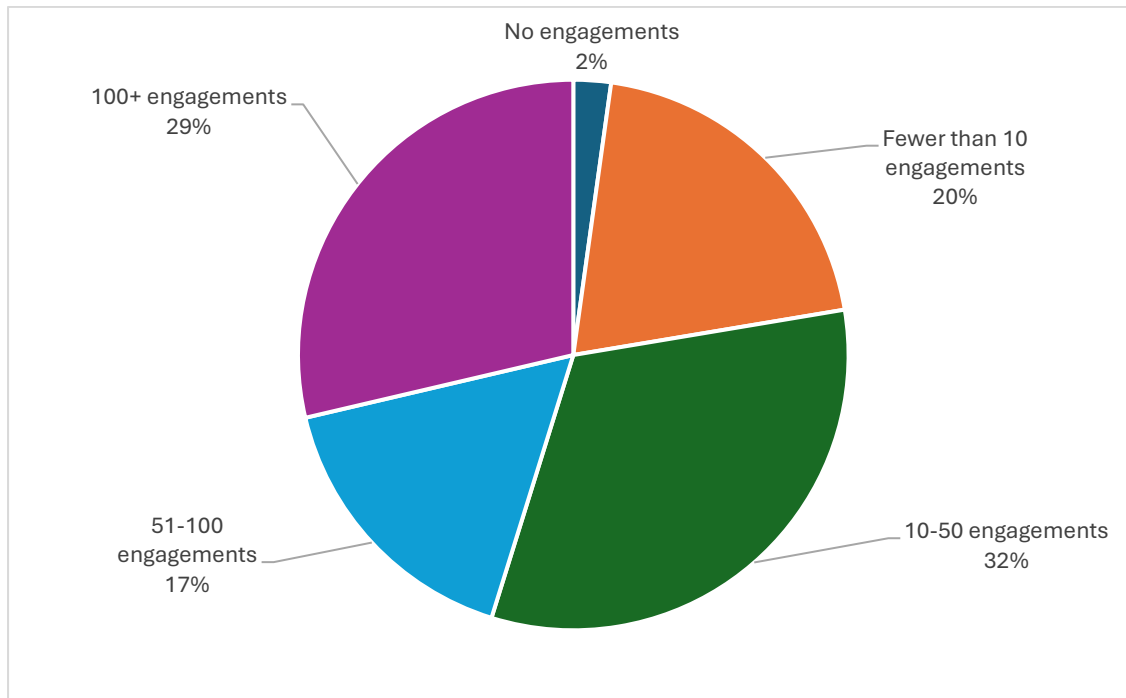
Looking at the key Professional Areas, those from Occupational Therapy and Psychology backgrounds had the highest percentage of those whose Single Joint Expert instructions represented half of their case load or more.



4.9 Volume of work

To help us refine the model, we needed to group respondents into regular and infrequent experts.

Respondents were asked to identify, on average over the past 5 years, how many times they had provided expert witness services in the UK per year. This includes both formal instructions to provide expert witness testimony, and pre-litigation discussions.



Of those that indicated that they had fewer than 10 engagements or more, we then used data from the question asking people to identify how many times they provided expert witness services in the UK in 2025 to categorise respondents

- Those that had had no engagements over the past 5 years were disregarded
- Those that had 0 engagements in 2025 were classed as Infrequent Expert Witnesses
- Those that had 1 or more engagements in 2025 were classed as Regular Expert Witnesses

We then used these categorisations to calculate the average (mean) number of times respondents provided Expert Witness Services in 2025. This identified the following ranges and average:

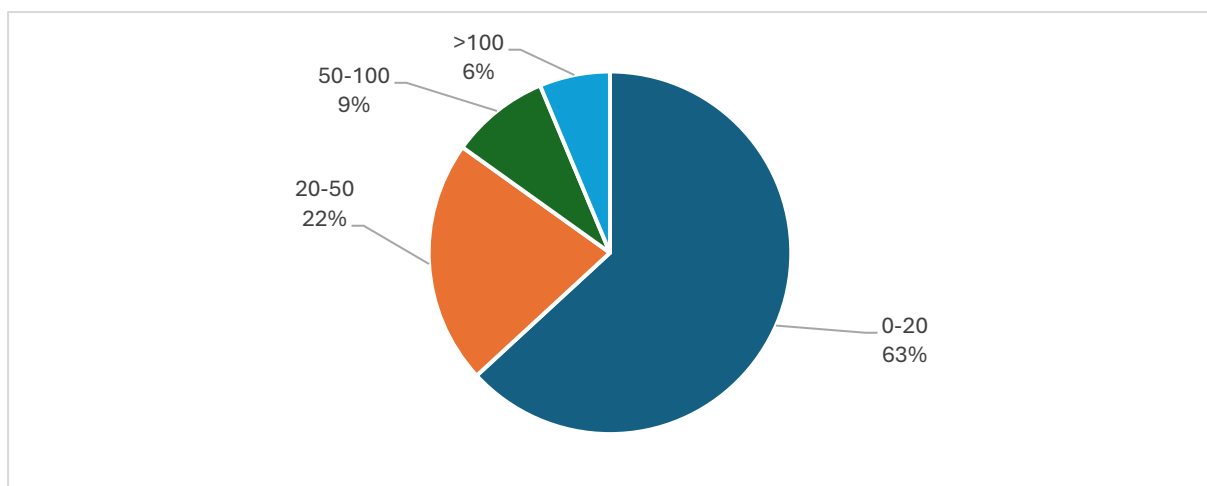
Category	Range of case numbers	Average (Mean)
Infrequent Expert Witnesses	0	1
Regular Expert Witnesses	1-2500 Outliers of 1,000-2,500 cases per year were disregarded as evidence suggested these were basic Medco assessments.	60

These average number of cases per year for regular Expert Witnesses was higher than we expected. We believe that there are a number of people who have completed based on basic Medco reports which are basic whiplash injury reports or people reporting the number of reports undertaken by their company (including other people). This is because of the significant volume of cases they said they worked on in the space of a year.

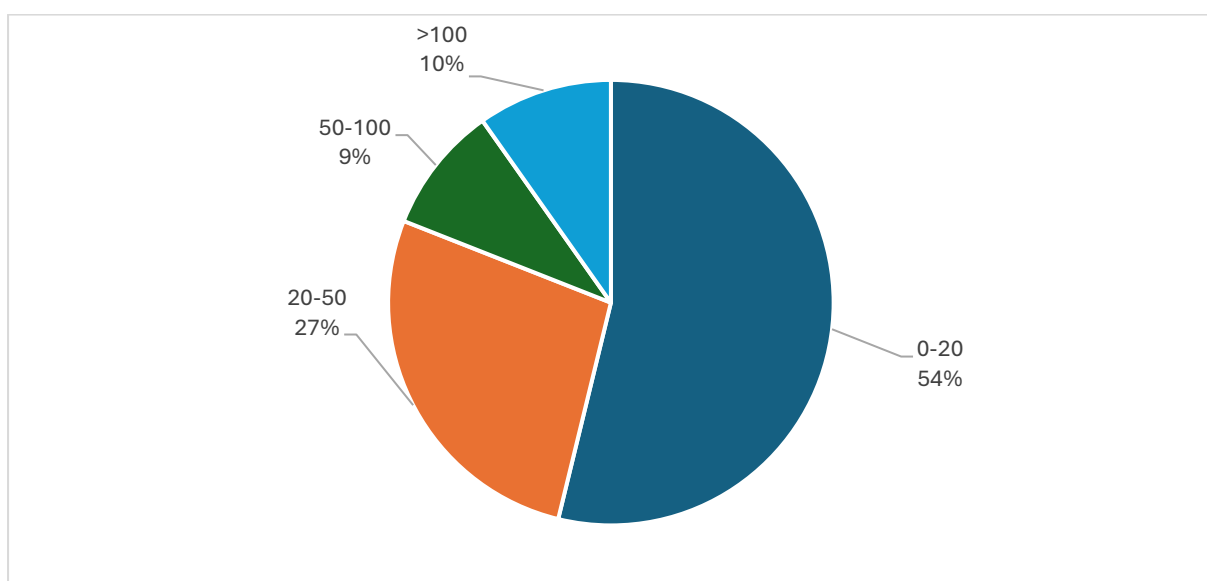
Whilst the survey captured a small number of infrequent Expert Witnesses, it was expected that it would reach those who are more likely to be doing smaller (but more regular) numbers of instructions. Therefore, the survey is unlikely to have reached those that perhaps have given evidence in a case once but never give expert evidence again.

4.10 Active cases

The majority of respondents have 20 (or less) active cases:

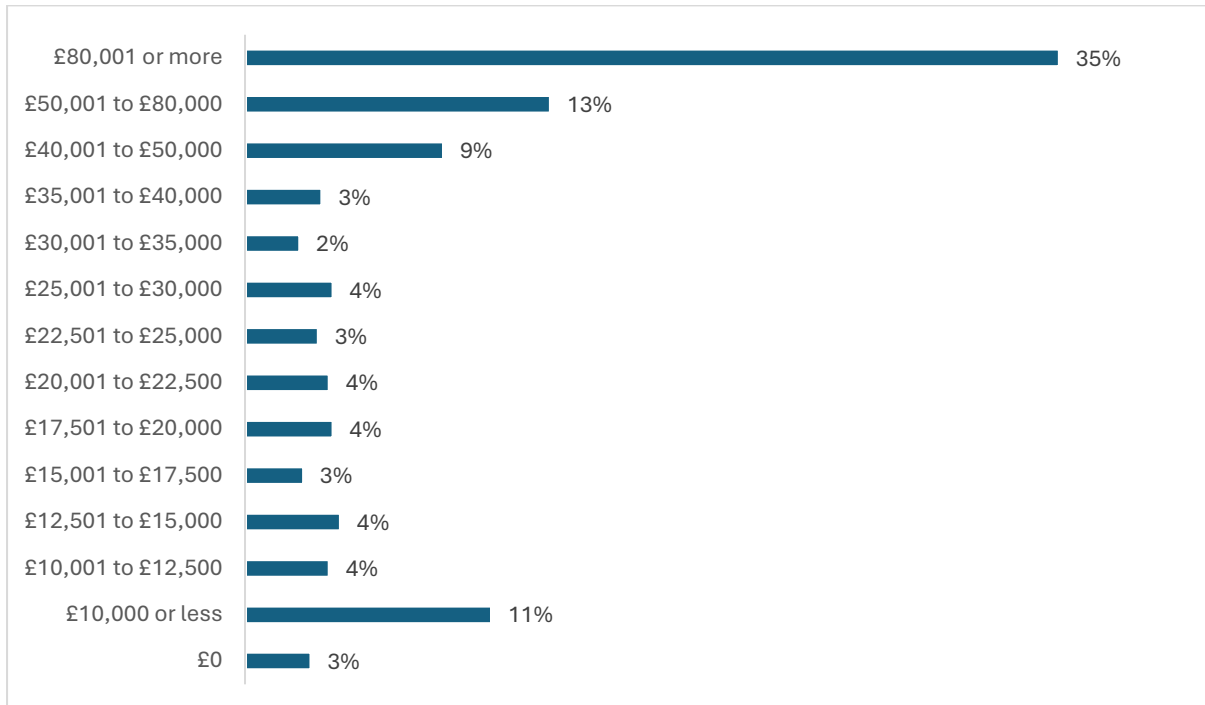


We had been keen to ask this question to compare to a previous survey from earlier in the year and as you can see, this was broadly in line with respondents from that survey:

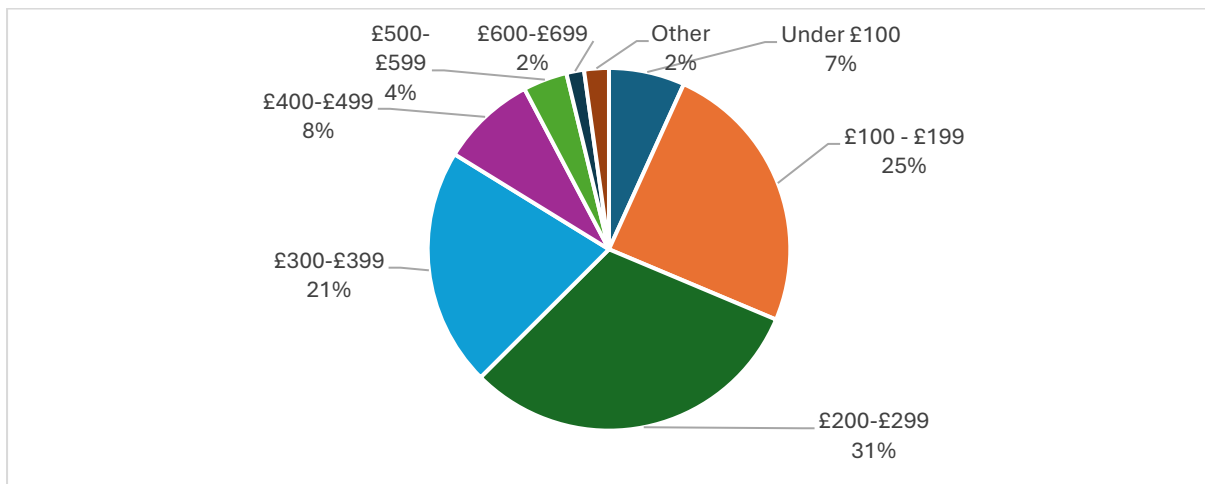


4.11 Earnings

Nearly 50% of respondents have an annual income of £50,000 or more from their Expert Witness work. 14% of respondents earn an annual income of £10,000 or less from their Expert Witness work.



We also asked respondents to share their average hourly rate.



The above chart shows the breakdown across the entire data set. However, we have been able to break this down further to profession and length of experience which is enabling us to create some hourly rates guides for EWI members who are new to Expert Witness work and are looking for help setting their fees.

4.12 Qualifications

46% of respondents identified that they held specific Expert Witness qualifications or certifications:

No, I do not hold any expert witness qualifications, certifications or accreditations	41%
Bond Solon - AUBS	6%
Bond Solon - CUBS	21%
College of Contract Management - Professional Diploma in Expert Witness	0%
EWI - Certification	23%
Inspire Medilaw	2%
Legal Experience Training - Advanced Professional Award in Expert Witness Evidence	2%
RICS certificate	2%
The Academy of Experts - Expert Determiner	3%
Other	13%

Of those that said 'Other', these were in the main academic qualifications, training or training which had not resulted in a qualification (as yet), or membership of other professional bodies.

- Academic qualifications (13)
- Accredited Civil Mediator (1)
- Experience (1)
- Expert Witness Registers (2)
- MEDCO Accreditation (7)
- Membership (Academy of Experts) (9)
- Membership (Other Professional or Membership bodies) (13)
- Police / National Crime Agency (3)
- Professional Institute Qualifications (2)
- Specific Forensic accreditations (2)
- Training (Bond Solon - Not completed AUBS or CUBS) (13)
- Training (British Psychological Society) (4)
- Training (Other) (12)

4.13 Expert Witness Training

Respondents were asked in which areas they had undertaken training.

Whilst it is good to see that nearly 90% of respondents had completed some kind of training, when you look at the percentages of those completing training in specific areas it highlights that 20% of respondents or more have not had training in Report Writing.

Perhaps of most concern is the fact that over 60% of respondents have said that they undertake work as a Single Joint Expert but only half of those have had training.

Have you undertaken training in the following areas?	% of respondents
I have not undertaken any formal training	11%
Legal context / Rules and Regulations	69%
Report Writing	79%
Expert Meetings and/or Joint Statements	60%
Oral Evidence	60%
Single Joint Expert Instructions	33%
Arbitration	7%
Expert Determination/Adjudication	8%
Other	7%

Further analysis of the data set found that whilst 86% had undertaken some training in the core competencies (Legal, Report Writing, and Expert Discussions/Joint Statements), only half had completed training in all those core competencies.

4.14 Membership of professional membership bodies

Respondents were also asked to identify which expert witness professional or membership bodies they belonged to.

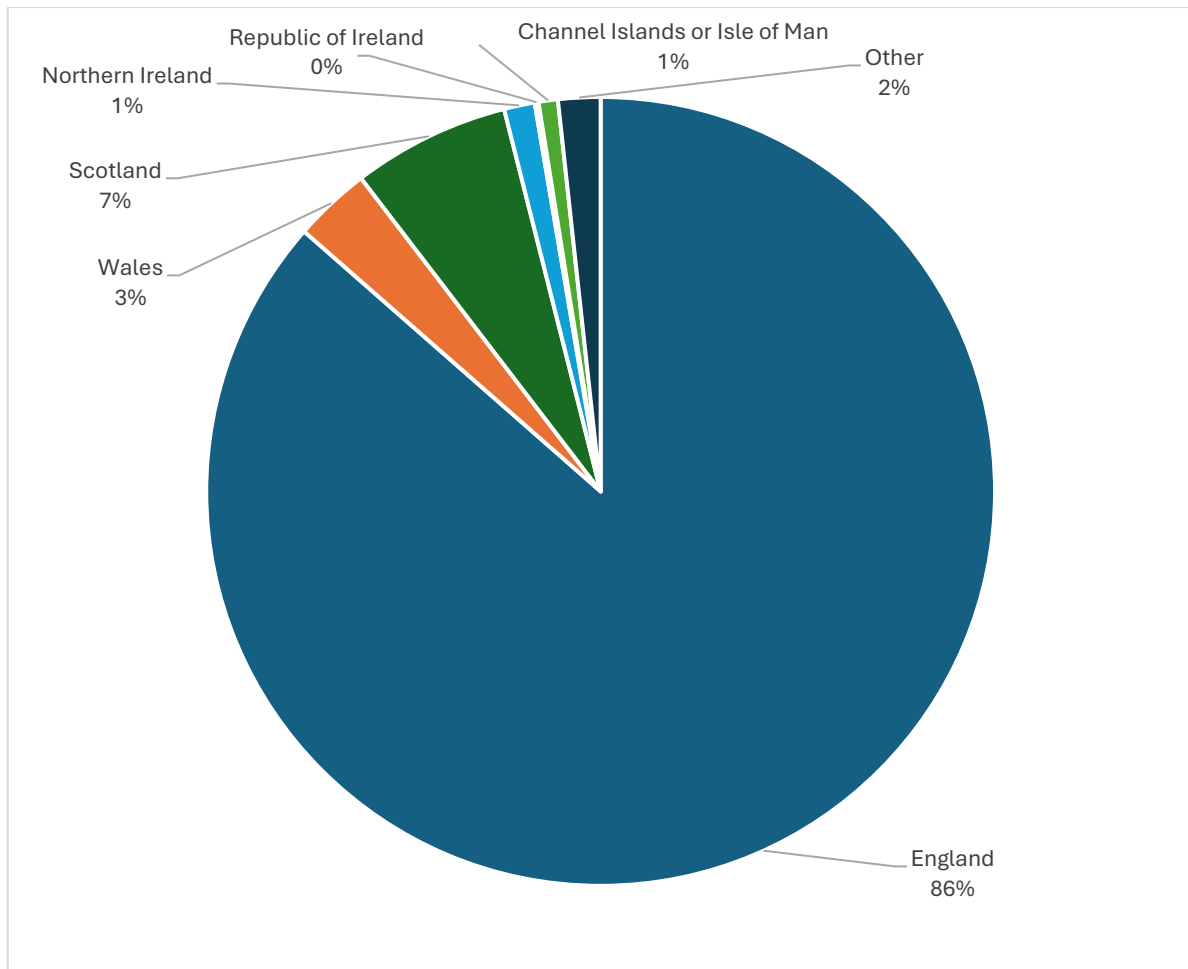
Membership body	% of respondents
Expert Witness Institute	49%
UK Register of Expert Witnesses	42%
I am not a member of any professional or membership bodies related to expert witness work	21%
Other	13%
The Academy of Experts	11%
Inspire Medilaw	2%

Of those that listed 'Other' responses were primarily expert witness directories, other professional bodies whose main purpose is the profession but provide expert witness training or registers (eg RICS, British Psychological Society, APIL). Other key bodies with a focus on Expert Witnesses mentioned were the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, European Expertise and Expert Institute, Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine and smaller medicolegal societies.

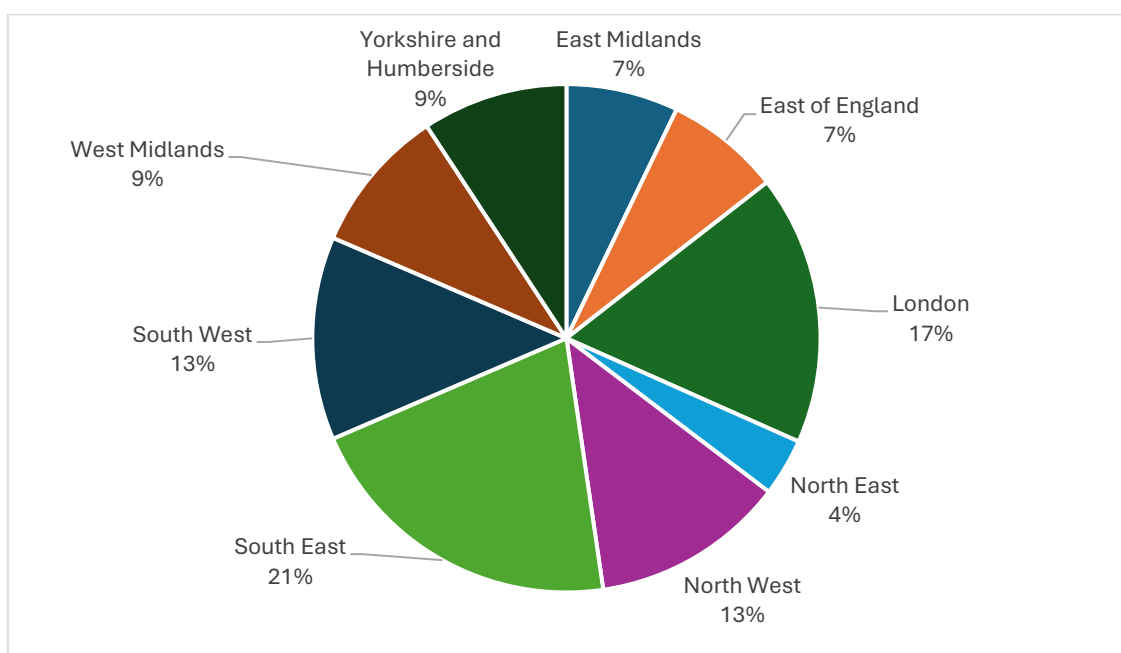
It is perhaps unsurprising that EWI had a larger representation within the data set since we had been disseminating the survey. However, we did ask other stakeholders to also send out the survey.

4.15 Location

Respondents were predominantly based in England.

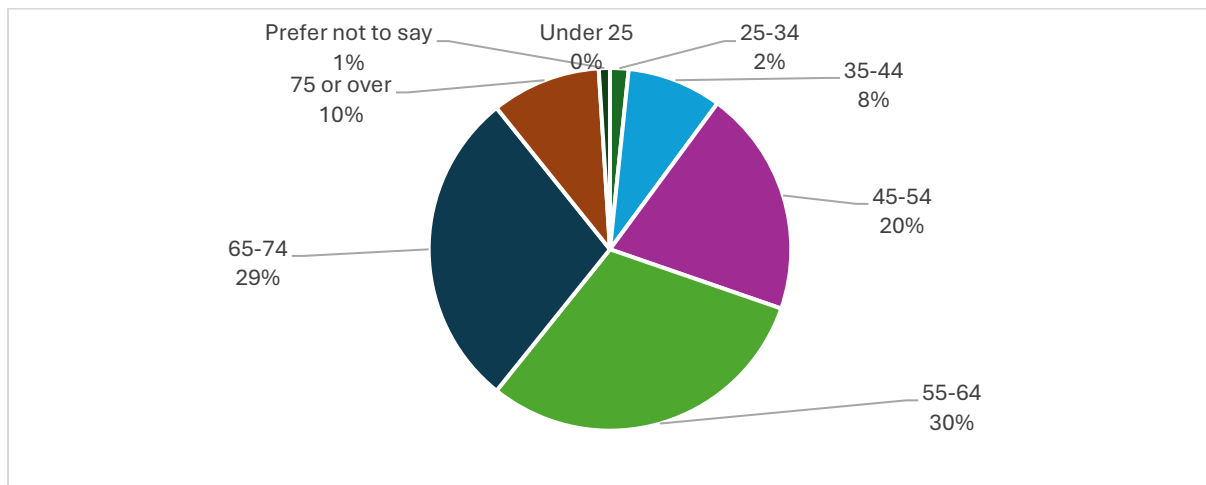


Of those based in England these were based across the regions:



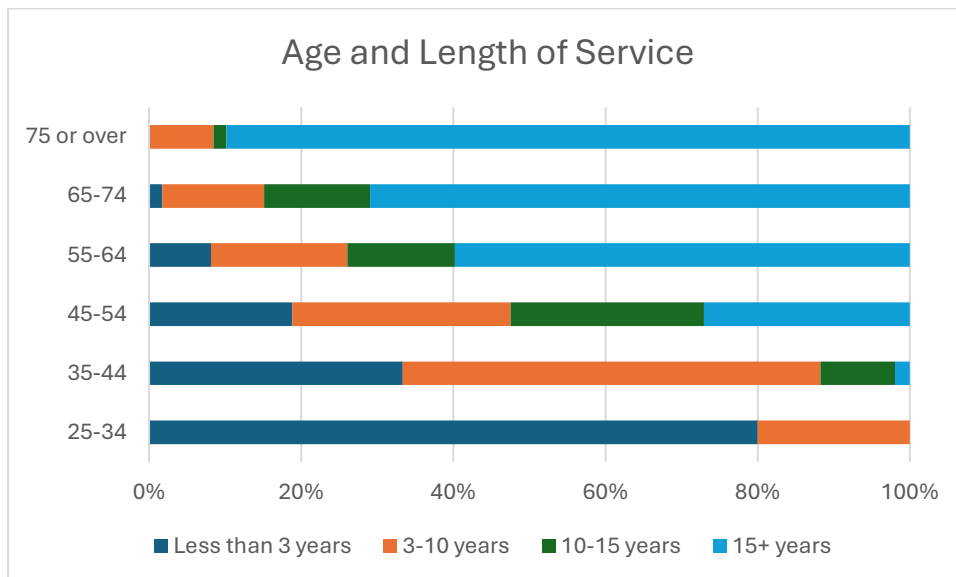
4.16 Age

The age profile of the Expert Witness profession continues to be a concern with nearly 40% of respondents aged 65 or over.



As mentioned earlier, it is clear that there are a significant proportion of experts who have been working as expert witnesses for a long time and are approaching retirement.

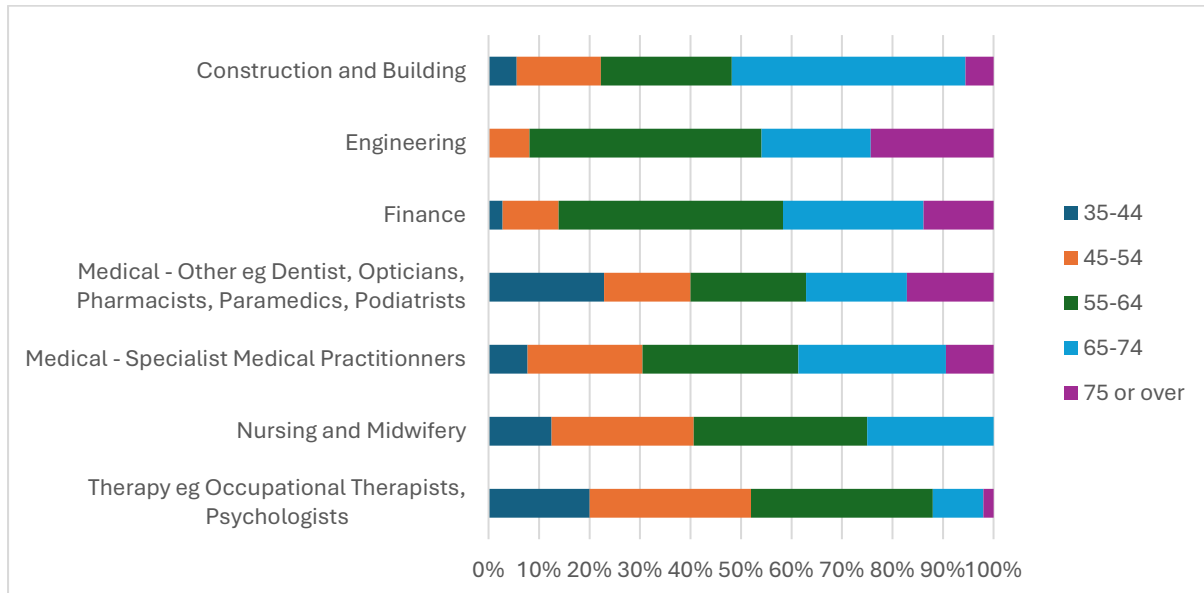
When these two data sets are combined, it highlights that the majority of those in the older age brackets have been working as experts for a considerable amount of time. The data identifies 33% of the workforce are over 65 and have been working as an Expert Witness for 10 years or more. This increases to 56% when those 55-64 are included.



To ensure that there is sufficient supply for the justice system, we need to ensure that there continues to be newer experts coming into the workforce. We are aware that we also need to work with legal teams to ensure that they recognise that instructing the same experts again and again is not going to help encourage newer experts gain the experience needed for more complex cases in the future.

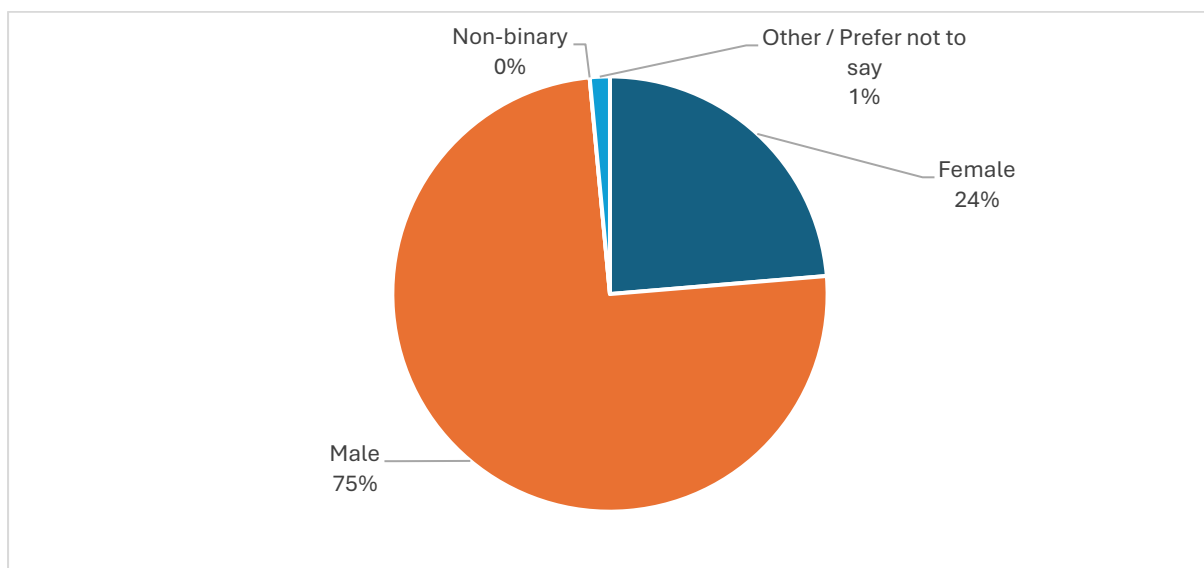
We also looked at age against Professional Area. Due to limited responses in many of the professions it would not be sufficiently robust to show this for every profession. However, we have completed analysis for the top 7 Professional Areas.

This shows that Construction has the largest percentage of people aged 65 and over.

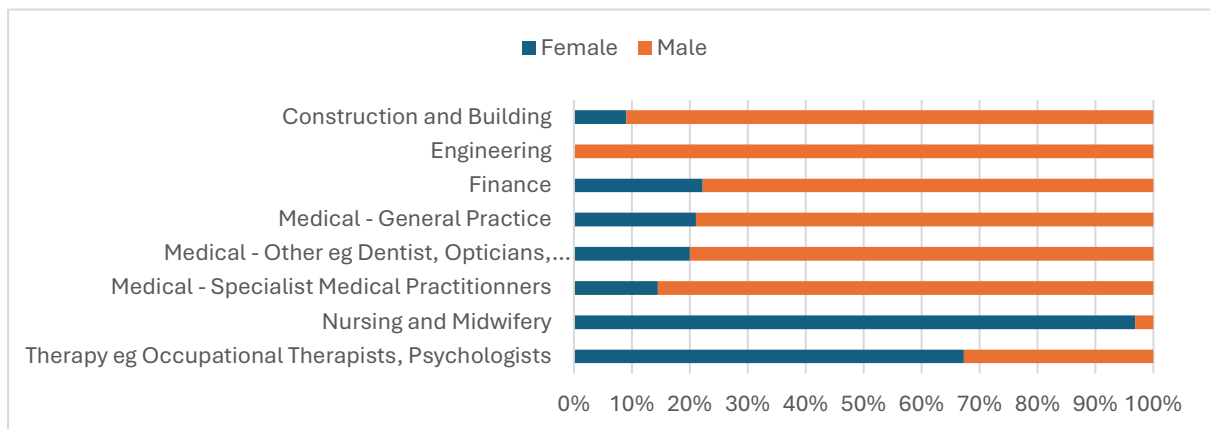


4.17 Gender

The breakdown of respondents shows a workforce which is still heavily dominated by men.



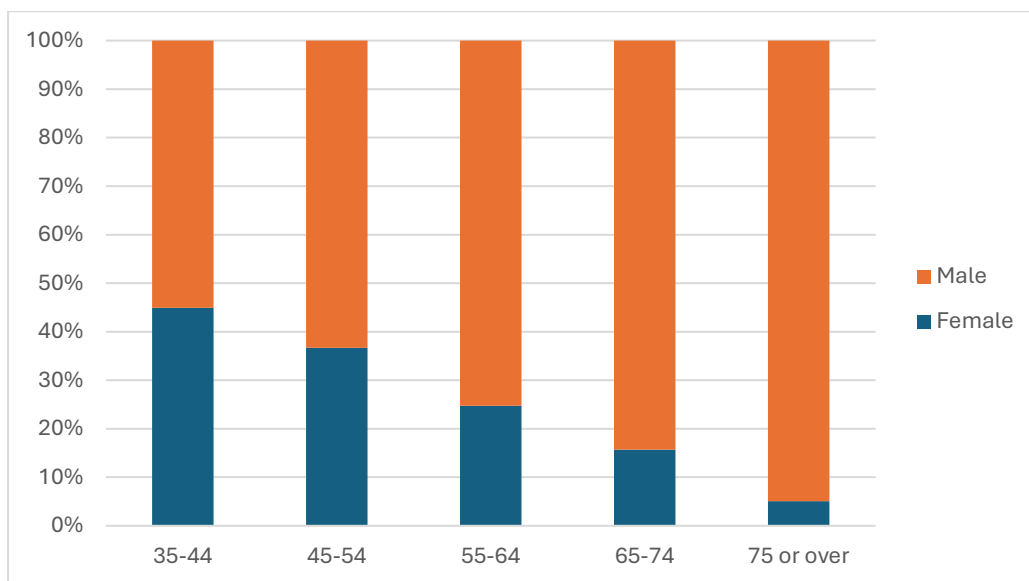
The following gender breakdown of Female/Male in key Professional Areas which had sufficient data shows that whilst certain professions have a greater proportion of women, there is still more to do to encourage women into the Expert Witness workforce.



What we found more interesting was looking at the gender breakdown by age.

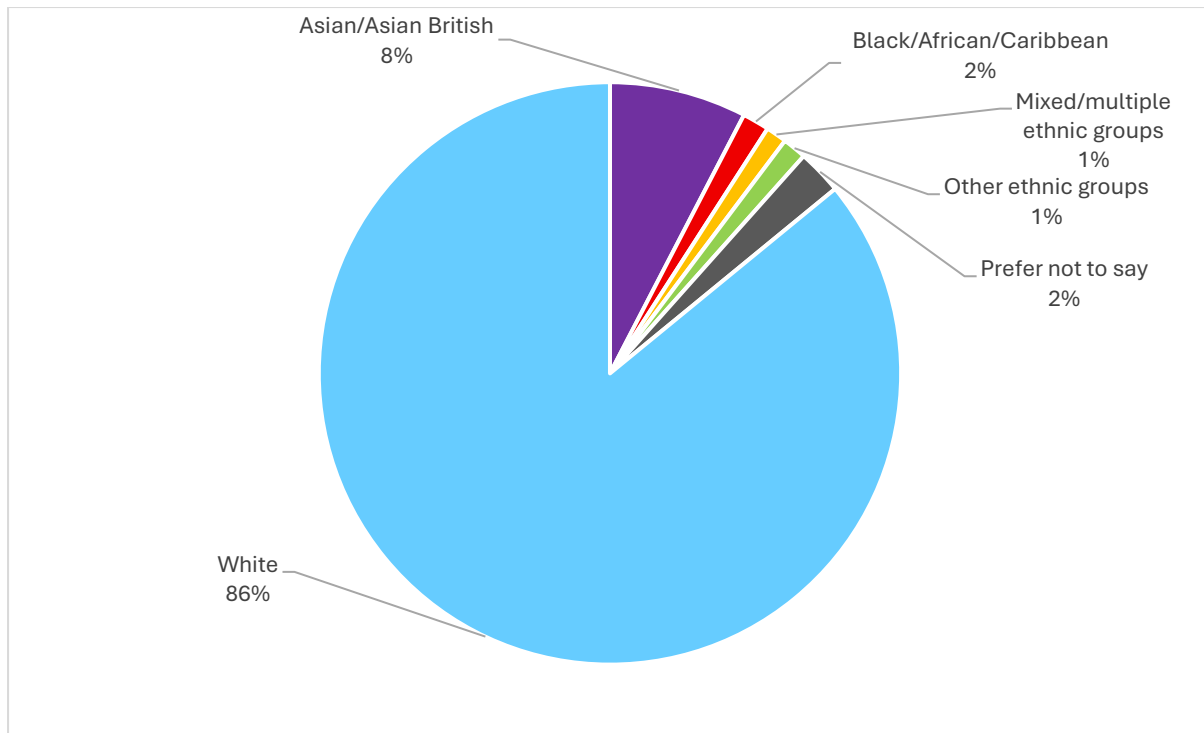
The 25-34 age bracket has not been included because there were insufficient respondents in this age bracket to be considered reflective of the wider workforce.

If this trend continues, we should hopefully see a greater gender balance across the Expert Witness workforce over time.

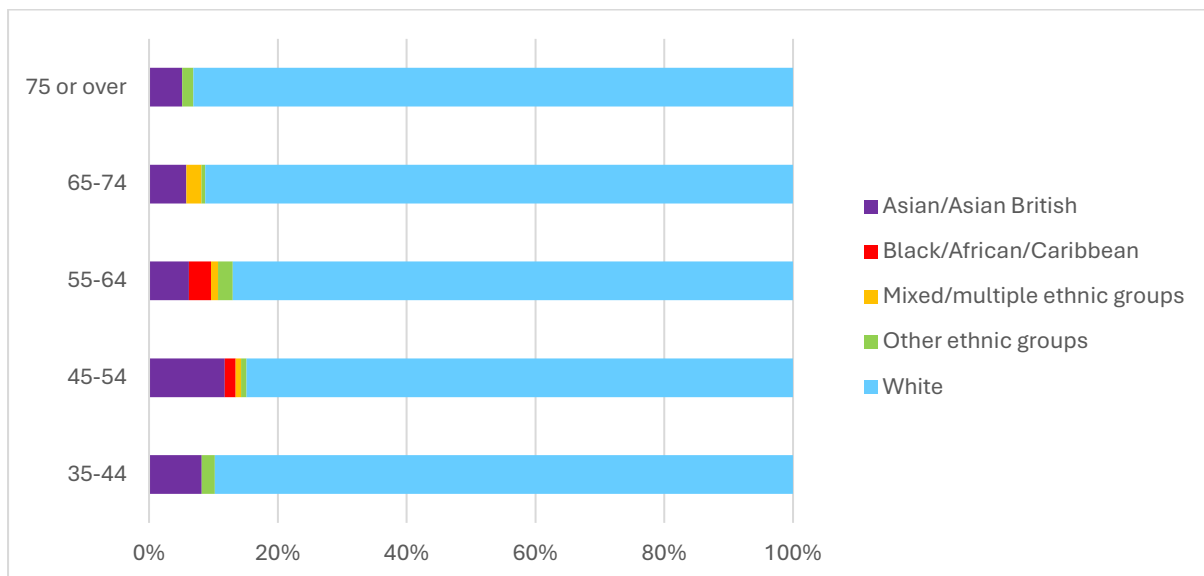


4.18 Ethnicity

In addition, the workforce is dominated by those from a white background.

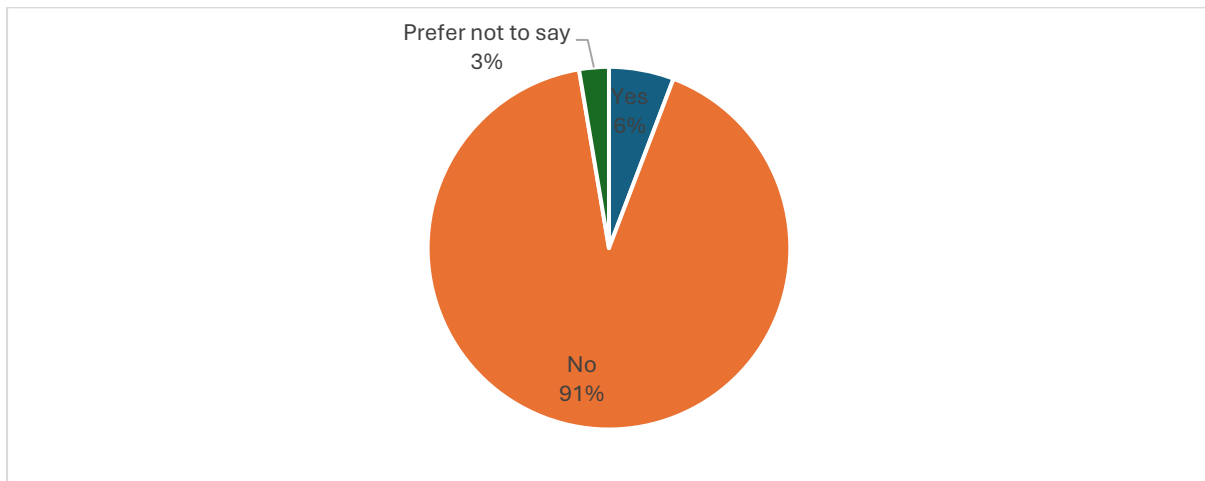


Unlike the combination of age and gender, the combination of age and ethnicity does not demonstrate as strong a link between age and the balance of more diverse ethnic backgrounds. Though this may be due to the number of people from the 35-44 age bracket providing ethnicity data. Therefore it would be interesting to continue to track this over time.



4.19 Disability

6% of the workforce identifies as having a disability. This survey did not ask further questions to understand the types of disabilities faced. This should be considered in further surveys to understand if there are any particular barriers to professionals becoming Expert Witnesses or adjustments that could be made to services which would better support Expert Witnesses with a disability.



5 Conclusion

This research has provided the first-ever assessment of the size and characteristics of the Expert Witness workforce in the UK. Using national data sets and primary research, the EWI (working with White Space Strategy) have created a robust model and data set which estimates a workforce of 7,500 regular and 23,500 infrequent Expert Witnesses. Additional survey data has enabled us to identify the likely demographics of regular expert witnesses.

This dataset will be invaluable in our policy, advocacy and lobbying work and as we deliver our 2026-2030 strategy.

The key findings identified in the report are:

- It is estimated that there are approximately 31,000 people in the UK undertaking expert witness work. This consists of 7,500 people in the UK undertaking expert witness work regularly and a further 23,500 who undertake cases infrequently.
- Specialist Medical Practitioners form the largest group with 40% of respondents. Construction and Building and Therapy professionals (including Occupational Therapy and Psychologists) are the next-largest groups.
- Over 50% have worked as an Expert Witness for over 15 years.
- 12% consists of "Professional Expert Witnesses" (those that only do Expert Witness work).
- 30% of Experts complete 100 or more cases on average per year.
- The average Expert Witness undertakes 60 cases per year.
- The majority of Expert Witnesses (77%) charge between £100 and £400 per hour.

- 41% do not hold any formal Expert Witness qualifications.
- Only 49% have completed core training in Law for Experts, Report Writing, and Expert Discussions/Joint Statements
- 11% have not undertaken any Expert Witness training in the key competencies required of an Expert Witness.
- 62% undertake work as a Single Joint expert but only half of those have completed training in being a Single Joint expert.
- 33% of the workforce are over 65 and have been working as an Expert Witness for 10 years or more.
- Only 24% of the entire workforce is female, but there are signs that over time there will be greater representation with a far more balanced gender split in the 35-44 age group.
- 86% of the workforce is from a White background
- More work is required in the next survey to understand the needs of the 6% who identify as having a disability.
- More work is needed to define and refine 'regular' and 'infrequent' Expert Witnesses in future surveys.

The EWI intends to run this exercise again in a few years to monitor changes in the workforce and further refine the model.



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