

# the expert witness

The Expert Witness has a central role in any public inquiry, be it a planning appeal, a highways or compulsory purchase inquiry, the Lands Tribunal, or in a court of law. The contribution of the Expert Witness is also central to the conduct of an Examination in Public.

## The Role of the Expert Witness

The role of the Expert Witness is to provide objective and qualified evidence to the 'adjudicator' be they a judge, planning inspector, arbitrator or examining panel - in order that they as decision makers may reach an informed and clear judgement on the particular issue or matter.

The evidence given by the Expert Witness will generally be 'tested' it will be examined or cross-examined by

opposing and or third parties as well as being subject to interrogation by the adjudicator. As such it is vital that the Expert Witness has a relevant professional qualification, and is experienced in areas specific to the case advocated.

Preparation to act as an Expert Witness is of utmost importance. The preparatory stages may vary dependent on the forum in which the issue is ultimately to be examined but most public inquiries, including examinations in public, the Lands Tribunal and indeed cases in courts of law, will be based upon prepared statements or evidence and may include the need to call upon supporting documentation. Careful assembly of evidence, often but not exclusively, under the guidance of a solicitor or barrister, will be the key to conveying the message the expert witness will wish to impart to the adjudicator. It is important that each preparatory stage is carefully and efficiently managed.

## DLP Consulting Group

Senior staff in the individual companies of the DLP Consulting Group are all experienced in the preparation and presentation of evidence to a wide range of inquiries and tribunals. Members of DLP Consulting Group have represented a range of both public and private clients in matters before

- the High Court,
- the Lands Tribunal,
- Highways inquiries
- footpath closure and diversion inquiries,
- planning appeals,
- enforcement appeals,
- local development framework examinations,
- examinations in public of regional and strategic planning strategies.

DLP Consulting Group undertakes direct access work and regularly brief Counsel. The Practice has developed very strong links with a range of specialist Chambers in England and Wales, with whom senior staff work extensively on a range of matters. In all cases we can advise you on the best and most cost effective way in which your particular case might be conducted.

