

CLIFFORD C CHRISTIE

Geoffrey Hunt & Partners | The Heath Business & Technical Park | Runcorn | WA7 4QX
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SUMMARY

Consulting Forensic Scientist specialising in fire and explosion investigation; criminal forensic chemistry; personal injury cases involving the safe use and control of chemicals in the workplace.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

BSc	Honours Degree in Chemistry Glasgow University - 1985
CChem	Chartered Chemist - 1993
FRSC	Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry - 2005 (Member since 1993)
MIFireE	Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers - 2002
CSci	Chartered Scientist - 2004

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Geoffrey Hunt & Partners | Consulting Engineers & Scientists
Senior Partner | 2008 to present
Partner | 1995 to 2008
Associate | 1990 to 1995

Mr Christie is based at Geoffrey Hunt & Partners' Runcorn office. He is the firm's Senior Partner and a Consulting Forensic Scientist specialising in the investigation of:

Fires and explosions

- detailed investigation at the scenes of fires and explosions;
- interviewing witnesses;
- liaison with the Police, Fire Brigade and other Statutory Authorities;
- preparation of detailed illustrated fire and explosion investigation reports for litigation on behalf of Insurers, Loss Adjusters and Solicitors;
- attending Court to give expert evidence on matters relating to the cause and spread of fires.

In addition to investigating the causes of fires, Mr Christie has experience of providing evidence in respect of the spread of fire and has a detailed knowledge of constructional issues relating to passive fire protection and the relevant Approved Documents to the Building Regulations.

Mr Christie also has experience in the consideration of fire risk assessments prepared for the purpose of compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.

Mr Christie was Chairman of the Fire Experts' Meeting at the Ladbroke Grove Public Inquiry and was invited by Lord Cullen to give oral evidence on fire issues to the Inquiry on behalf of all parties to the proceedings. The recommendations given in evidence by Mr Christie concerning railway fire safety were later endorsed by Lord Cullen in his report.

Mr Christie has carried out over 1,000 fire/explosion investigations including fires in items of electrical and gas equipment, domestic and commercial properties and in cars, lorries, ships and trains, and explosions in structures and gas fired plant, both in the UK and overseas. He has also prepared reports in defence of Health & Safety Executive prosecutions relating to incidents of fire and explosion in an industrial and/or occupational context.

High profile investigations undertaken by Mr Christie include:

- Channel Tunnel fire 1996;
- Heathrow Airport fire 1997;
- Kerrin Point tower block explosion 1997;
- Ladbroke Grove train collision fire 1999;
- Royal Marsden Hospital fire 2008.

Criminal forensic chemistry

- examination of glass and paint;
- footwear mark examinations.

The safe use and control of chemicals in the workplace

- Occupational dermatitis;
- Respiratory sensitisation.

Formally trained in giving evidence in Court and in the duties and responsibilities of the Single Joint Expert, Mr Christie has experience of giving expert evidence in Civil, Criminal and Coroners' Courts. He has also given evidence at Rail Industry and Public Inquiries and assisted clients as an expert advisor at Mediations.

Home Office Forensic Science Service

Higher Scientific Officer | 1989 to 1990

Scientific Officer | 1985 to 1989

Forensic Scientist involved in the investigation of fires and explosions, the examination of trace evidential materials, stolen vehicles, footwear and tool marks for Police Forces in England and Wales. Gained knowledge of analytical techniques including gas chromatography for fire accelerant analysis, and blood carboxyhaemoglobin determinations in cases of fire death. Published paper on the X-Ray examination of fuses in fire investigations (Science & Justice).