

CNC leads multi-force legal mock trial event

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The CNC's Legal Services team worked with leading barristers and legal professionals to deliver a civil mock trial as a unique training opportunity.

The event was designed for those who manage the investigation of civil claims for compensation resulting from health and safety incidents. It aimed to give a realistic insight into how a civil trial is conducted. In addition to colleagues from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC), representatives from West Midlands Police, Staffordshire Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police Service took part.

The CNC's solicitor partners, DWF, a global provider of legal services, hosted the event at their Birmingham offices and most of the presentations and the mock trial were conducted by leading barristers from Parklane Plowden chambers.

The day began with talks highlighting the core elements of employers' and public liability actions, in particular the documentary evidence required for these claims. The mock trial was structured around a claim for compensation arising from injuries sustained during a police exercise and was designed to show delegates how evidence is presented at court, to help a judge to decide whether the claim has any merit.

It was an opportunity to see how cases are conducted at court, including how the courtroom is physically set up and included realistic and challenging cross-examining of witnesses by opposing barristers.

Nayan Mesuria, Solicitor and Insurance Manager for the CNC, organised the event and played the part of the Claimant, the person suing, during the mock trial.

Speaking about the exercise, Nayan said: "A civil claim against a police force is a very serious and complex matter. We must handle every case with great professionalism and care, to achieve the best and just outcome.

"The purpose of this event was to ensure that we are training those in our legal and health and safety teams on what to anticipate when a matter reaches the courtroom.

"It was a very realistic scenario, giving colleagues an idea of the degree of scrutiny on those bringing and defending a claim.

"I am pleased that the event was well received by all. Initial feedback was very positive and those who attended highlighted that the trial was educational and entertaining, and talks provided by the solicitor and barrister partners were excellent.

"We work with some of the best legal experts, and their input has supported our understanding and preparation so that we can discharge our role to represent the CNC, appropriately."

CNC Mock Trial Health and Safety Event.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cnc-leads-multi-force-legal-mock-trial-event>