

Brian Pearce – Brief CV

Brian Pearce provides a range of professional ergonomics services via his own company, Humane Technology Ltd. He holds degrees from Sussex University (BSc Engineering with Social Studies, 1971) and Loughborough University (MSc Ergonomics, 1977 & PhD, 2014).

After graduation, he worked in the computer industry for 3 years. In 1974 he joined the staff of Loughborough University and worked for over 25 years in what became the Human Sciences and Advanced Technology (HUSAT) Research Institute, Europe's largest independent centre specialising in the human aspects of advanced technology. He became a Director of the Research Institute and was responsible for commercial training and consultancy activities.

He has wide ranging experience as an ergonomics consultant and as a human factors researcher and has lectured on ergonomic issues in Europe, North America and Australia. He is also the author of many articles in the technical, trade and national press and occasionally contributes to the scientific and medical literature¹. He has undertaken numerous projects involving the practical application of ergonomics principles. He advocates an evidence-based approach and eschews naïve ergonomics interventions and the dumbing-down of ergonomics principles that result in attention being focussed solely on that which is easy to measure or change.

In addition to consultancy and training activities, he maintains a website that summarises Judgments in personal injury claims for work-related upper limb disorders (WRULDs). This website, which is referred to in the HSE's latest guidance on WRULDs, was originally developed as part of a research contract for the HSE which examined how the Courts are interpreting HSE guidance documents and health and safety regulations by analysing transcripts of Judgments². Over 200 such Judgments are briefly summarised on the website to be found at:

<http://www.HumaneTechnology.co.uk/wruldii/intro.php>

He first acted as an expert witness in 1987, in the Australian test case on "RSI" (*Susan Marie Cooper -v- Commonwealth of Australia*), heard in the Supreme Court in Melbourne. Since then, his advice concerning work-relevant disorders has been sought in legal proceedings in the UK by both Claimants and Defendants and he has given oral evidence on numerous occasions. He is most frequently instructed in personal injury claims for work-relevant musculoskeletal disorders, e.g. back, upper limb & vibration-induced injuries, but he has also been involved in other types of legal proceedings in which ergonomics knowledge has been considered pertinent, e.g. contested enforcement notices and prosecutions for alleged breaches of health & safety regulations and vocational rehabilitation following traumatic injury.

He is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health, a Graduate Member of the Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors, a Registered Consultant on the Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register, an Individual Member of The Expert Witness Institute, a Practicing Member of the Academy of Experts and an APIL 1st Tier Expert. He has attended training courses on the duties of Experts under the CPR and, while in the early days he was mostly instructed by Defendants (due to the Legal Aid Board being unwilling to accept his fee rate), he is now regularly instructed by Claimants and Defendants more or less equally and most frequently as a Single Joint Expert.

He was part of the team of researchers awarded the BUPA Foundation's Health at Work Award 2008 for a study that examined the management of work-relevant upper limb disorders³ and which subsequently developed *The Arm Book*⁴.

¹ Pearce BG. (2006) *Ergonomic considerations in work-related upper extremity disorders*. Clin Occup Environ Med. 2006; 5(2): 249-66.

² Pearce BG. (2002) *How the Courts are interpreting HSE guidance and health and safety regulations: An exploratory study of Court Judgments in personal injury claims for WRULDs*. HSE Research Report 010.

³ Burton AK, Kendall NAS, Pearce BG, Birrell LN & Bainbridge LC. (2008) *Management of Upper Limb Disorders and the Biopsychosocial Model*. HSE Research Report 596

⁴ Kendall NAS, Birrell LN, Bainbridge LC, Pearce BG, Burton AK. (2011) *The Arm Book*. London, TSO (The Stationery Office)
