



Dr. Hannah Bashforth (Twiddy)

BSc(Hons), Clin.Psy.D (Manchester), FHEA

Clinical Psychologist
Medico-legal Expert Witness

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Dr Hannah Bashforth (Twiddy)

Clinical Psychologist Medico-Legal Expert Witness

Professional Summary

Dr Hannah Bashforth (Twiddy) is a Clinical Psychologist with over 20 years of experience working with adults experiencing mental health difficulties, particularly within psychological medicine. She obtained a First Class BSc (Hons) in Psychology from the University of Liverpool in 2002 and completed her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (Clin.Psy.D) at the University of Manchester in 2007, specialising in clinical health psychology.

Dr Bashforth has extensive clinical, academic, and leadership experience, having held senior roles within both the NHS and higher education. Since qualifying, she has worked across several large NHS hospital trusts in the North West of England. She is currently Academic Director of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Liverpool, where she leads the academic development and delivery of the clinical psychology training programme.

In 2009, she co-founded The Clinical Psychology Practice, providing psychological therapy within the private sector. In 2025, she co-founded Equitas Psychology with Dr Arthur Pearce, a specialist collective of highly experienced, trauma-informed psychologists providing medico-legal psychological assessments and expert reports for the courts.

Dr Bashforth has prepared independent expert psychological reports for the Civil Courts since 2012, primarily in clinical negligence and personal injury litigation, including complex and high-value claims. Her medico-legal work frequently involves the assessment of psychological injury arising from serious medical events, complex injuries, birth trauma, chronic pain conditions, and delayed or missed diagnoses.

Claimant / Defendant instruction ratio: 50:50

She has provided oral evidence in the High Court

Professional Registration

Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) – Clinical Psychologist (PYL02344)

Medico-Legal Experience

Dr Bashforth accepts instructions in civil litigation and prepares independent expert psychological reports for:

- Personal injury claims
 - Clinical negligence cases
 - Psychological injury following serious medical events
 - Complex medical trauma cases
 - Chronic pain and functional illness claims
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Areas of Medico-Legal Expertise

Dr Bashforth has particular expertise in the psychological consequences of serious medical and traumatic events, including:

Birth trauma and obstetric injury

- Maternal psychological trauma following complicated childbirth
- Secondary victim claims involving infant injury or death
- Psychological consequences of traumatic birth experiences

Delayed or missed diagnoses

Including cases involving:

- Cancer
- Diabetes complications
- Cauda equina syndrome
- Retinal detachment and visual impairment

Chronic pain and functional disorders

- Persistent pain syndromes
- Somatic symptom disorders
- Psychological adjustment to chronic illness

Life-changing physical injury

Psychological adjustment to conditions, including:

- Spinal cord injury
 - Visual impairment
 - Limb loss
 - Permanent disability
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Current Professional Roles

Academic Director

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology
University of Liverpool (2021 – Present)

Responsible for academic leadership of the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Programme, including curriculum development and programme governance.

Dr Bashforth is also actively involved in research relating to birth trauma and psychological medicine, including maternal mental health research conducted in collaboration with Liverpool Women's Hospital.

Clinical Psychologist – Private Practice

The Clinical Psychology Practice South Manchester (2009 – Present)

Provides specialist psychological assessment and therapy for adults aged 18 and over across a range of psychopathologies.

Clinical work includes:

- Psychological treatment for chronic pain and persistent physical symptoms
 - Psychological Trauma (PTSD) - EMDR
 - Adjustment to serious medical illness
 - Treatment of mood disorders and anxiety-related disorders
 - Clinical supervision and professional training
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External Examiner

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology
University of East London (2025 - Present)

Previous Professional Roles

Research Lead Clinical Psychologist

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (2014 - 2021)

Led clinical and research activity within specialist pain services, providing psychological assessment and intervention for patients with complex chronic pain conditions.

Principal Clinical Psychologist

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust - Intensive Care and Pain Services (2011 - 2014)

Developed and delivered psychological services within intensive care and pain services, supporting patients experiencing severe medical trauma and long-term physical illness.

Clinical Psychologist

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust - Pain Management Programme (2007 - 2011)

Provided specialist psychological assessment and treatment within a multidisciplinary pain management programme and broader clinical health psychology input.

Education

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (Clin.Psy.D)
University of Manchester (2004-2007)

BSc (Hons) Psychology - First Class
University of Liverpool (1999-2002)

Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice
(Fellow of the Higher Education Academy)

Selected Medico-Legal and Professional Presentations

- Birth Injury Conference – Fletchers Solicitors (2026)
 - Psychological Injury in Obstetric Care – Inspire Medilaw Conference, Edinburgh (2025)
 - Psychological Support Following Baby Loss and Traumatic Childbirth – National Maternity Conference (2025)
 - Treatment in PTSD and the Role of Psychometrics – Cambridge Medico-Legal Conference (2023)
 - Psychology Interventions in Litigation Contexts – British Pain Society Conference (2021)
 - Psychology and Chronic Pain in Legal Contexts – Expert Witness Institute Conference (2020 & 2021)
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Selected Publications

- Jones, L., Williamson, E., **Twiddy, H.**, Krahé, C., Brodrick, A., & Slade, P. (2025). Psychological implications of attending a birth review: A pre-post observational study of birth experience and post-traumatic stress symptoms. *Women and Birth*, 38, 102110.
 - Krahé, C., Brown, C., **Twiddy, H.**, Frank, B., Brian, E., Nurmikko, T., ... & Fallon, N. (2024). Effects of Lockdown Restrictions and Impact of Anxiety and Depression Symptoms in People With Chronic Pain During the Covid-19 Pandemic: A 13-Wave Longitudinal Study. *The Journal of Pain*, 25(5), 104437.
 - Murray, C. B., Patel, K. V., **Twiddy, H.**, Sturgeon, J. A., & Palermo, T. M. (2021). Age differences in cognitive-affective processes in adults with chronic pain. *European Journal of Pain*, 25(5), 1041-1052. **Twiddy, H.**, Frank, B., & Alam, U. (2021). A consideration of the psychological aspects to managing patients with painful diabetic neuropathy: an insight into pain management services at a tertiary centre in the UK. *Diabetes therapy*, 12(2), 487-498.
 - Fallon, N., Brown, C., **Twiddy, H.**, Brian, E., Frank, B., Nurmikko, T., & Stancak, A. (2021). Adverse effects of COVID-19-related lockdown on pain, physical activity and psychological well-being in people with chronic pain. *British journal of pain*, 15(3), 357-368. Lane, N., & **Twiddy, H.** (2020). Assessing suicide risk in chronic pain patients. *PAIN News*.
 - **Twiddy, H.**, Bradshaw, A., Chawla, R., Johnson, S., & Lane, N. (2017). Female chronic pelvic pain: the journey to diagnosis and beyond. *Pain Management*, 7(3), 155-159.
 - **Twiddy, H.**, Hanna, J., & Haynes, L. (2017). Growing pains: understanding the needs of emerging adults with chronic pain. *British Journal of Pain*, 11(3), 108-118.
 - **Twiddy, H.**, Lane, N., Chawla, R., Johnson, S., Bradshaw, A., Aleem, S., & Mawdsley, L. (2015). The development and delivery of a female chronic pelvic pain management programme: a specialised interdisciplinary approach. *British journal of pain*, 9(4), 233-240.
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Professional Memberships

Member – Expert Witness Institute

Panel Member – Association of Clinical Psychologists (ACP-UK) Expert Advisory Group

Former Chair – North West Pain Psychologists Specialist Interest Group

Regular attendee – British Pain Society Annual Scientific Meeting

Expert Witness Training

Expert Witness Practice – Bond Solon Excellence in Report Writing and Courtroom Skills
