

ROBENA DHADDA

Consultant Speech and Language Therapist

Expert Witness

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Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) No: SL16970

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapist No: rc0022973

PROFILE

Ms Robena Dhadda is a highly skilled and experienced Speech and Language Therapist who qualified in 2005 and has 20 years of post-qualification expertise. Her clinical practice is focused on communication and swallowing impairments associated with a wide range of neurological, medical, developmental, and mental health conditions. She has specific expertise in traumatic brain injury.

Throughout her career, Ms Dhadda has worked extensively with paediatric, adolescent, and adult populations across a broad range of healthcare settings, including major trauma centres, acute hospitals, schools, colleges, and community-based rehabilitation services. This diverse experience allows her to approach complex clinical presentations with nuance and individualisation.

Ms Dhadda has held the highest level of competence recognised by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) since 2015, serving as a Consultant Dysphagia Practitioner (Level D). Alongside her clinical work, she contributes to the development of the profession as a university lecturer and through collaborative work with esteemed medical and healthcare professionals.

As an established expert witness, Ms Dhadda has prepared speech and language therapy medicolegal reports since 2016. She completes approximately 50 expert reports per year and is regularly instructed by leading law firms in cases of catastrophic personal injury and clinical negligence. Her work is grounded in evidence-based practice and is fully compliant with CPR Part 35 requirements. Her

current instruction split is approximately 60% claimant, 30% defendant, and 10% joint expert cases.

Ms Dhadda's expert assessments provide comprehensive insight into the communication and swallowing disorders arising from injury or illness. She delivers holistic evaluations that consider physical, psychological, and social impacts, ensuring that her recommendations are both practical and clinically robust. Her reports are integral to legal proceedings, offering clarity around an individual's needs and contributing to fair, informed outcomes.

Ms Dhadda is fully conversant with her duties as an expert witness and maintains a high standard of impartiality, accuracy, and professionalism. Her commitment to continuous professional development ensures that she remains at the forefront of clinical and evidentiary best practice.

In July 2024, Ms Dhadda gave oral expert evidence at the Royal Courts of Justice in the case *Winterbotham v Shahrak* [2024] EWHC 2633 (KB). In his judgment dated 21 October 2024, High Court Judge Neil Moody KC explicitly preferred her evidence, stating: *"I prefer the evidence of Ms Dhadda."* He described her analysis as *"more realistic"* and underpinned by a more thorough and up-to-date clinical analysis. The Judge concluded that Ms Dhadda's evidence provided a balanced and clinically grounded perspective on the claimant's limitations.

In addition to her expert witness work, Ms Dhadda dedicates approximately half of her time to active clinical practice. This balance between clinical and medicolegal work ensures that her recommendations are firmly grounded in current, real-world therapeutic experience.

SPECIALISMS

- Traumatic and acquired brain injury
- Cerebral Palsy
- Low arousal states/disorders of consciousness
- Cognitive and communication difficulties.
- Stroke and long-term neurological disability – including FND
- Dysphagia
- Tracheostomy
- Mental health
- Neurobehavioral disorders
- Autism
- Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)

QUALIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

- BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy (2005)
- Dysphagia Training
- FEES Training
- Tracheostomy Training
- Bond Solon – Excellence in Report Writing
- Connect: Groups Work

- Connect: The Good Goal Setting Guide
- Mental Health & Mental Capacity Act Training
- Managing Violence and Aggression Training

CAREER HISTORY

Consultant Speech and Language Therapist & Expert Witness (*2009 to present)*
Speech Tools Therapy Limited
Dhadda and Associates Limited

Independent Consultant Speech and Language Therapist and Clinical Supervisor (*2010 to present)*
Priory Brain Injury Services

Independent Consultant Speech and Language Therapist and Clinical Supervisor (*2018 to present)*
Elysium Brain Injury Services

Expert Witness and Rehabilitation Cost Consultant (*2016-2020)* Jacqueline Webb

Independent Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (*2013-2017)*
Nottingham Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Neurological Care Centre, Hucknall

Band 7 – Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (*2009 - 2014)*
City Care, Nottingham (NHS)

Band 7 – Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (*2009 - 2011)*
Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust

Band 6 - Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (*2008 - 2009*)
Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust (NHS)

Band 6 - Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (*2007 - 2008)* County Durham Primary Care Trust (NHS)

Band 5 - Speech and Language Therapist (*2007 to 2008)*
Neural Pathways (UK) Limited

Junior Speech and Language Therapist (*2005 to 2007)*
Blackheath Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre and Neuro-Disability Service


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Disclosure &
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