

Accredited Expert Water and Environment Witness

CIWEM and the Academy of Experts have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This will be of benefit to those CIWEM members who are increasingly involved in expert witness work, mediation and arbitration. The new partnership will allow members access to discounted training and membership of the Academy. Law Lord, The Rt. Hon. Lord Saville of Newdigate, who is President of the Academy, has welcomed CIWEMs engagement in what is becoming a more complex area in law.

The environment has never been so high on the political and business agenda. Meeting the challenges of climate change through mitigation and adaption strategies has led to a significant increase in new regulation and legislation, both here in the UK and around the world. The war on a changing climate now trumps all other issues.

So, what does all this mean? Well, with new regulation and legislation comes breaches of law and of contracts - sometimes by design or intentionally. Either way the environment is beginning to figure more prominently in cases coming to Courts of Law, in mediation work, in arbitration cases and in contractual disputes in the business and related sectors. This means that more and more Chartered members of CIWEM are being called upon to appear as Expert Witnesses in Courts of Law and in independent arbitration cases. For many this is a new experience and they are learning new skills.

CIWEMs partnership with the Academy of Experts, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), couldn't be more timely. The Academy (through its MoU with CIWEM) will be able to provide training, and professional development in an area of work that requires particular skills and attributes. It will no longer be good enough just to be an expert water engineer or water scientist, for example. It will be essential that Expert Witnesses are also knowledgeable in matters of court protocol and procedures and have the skills necessary to carry out complex arbitration work. These are vital skills because it means the difference between success and failure for clients.

The new 'Accredited Expert Water and Environment Witness' designation will undoubtedly gain acceptance very quickly and the demand will grow as the environment figures more frequently in the Courts of Law and in mediation and arbitration cases.

For full information about the Academy of Experts and how CIWEM members can access its training and membership opportunities please contact **Nicola Cohen** or telephone 020 7430 0333. Or visit the **Academy website**.