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# Peters Associates

Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers

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## EXPERT WITNESS ADVICE

### An Overview

The construction industry is always changing and has become more complex. The demands made throughout the industry require higher standards of skill at all levels, and a commitment by all parties to achieve a satisfactory finished project.

It is inevitable that disagreements will arise covering a very wide range of issues. Disputes may cover standards of workmanship, quality of materials, faulty construction methods, contractual matters or possibly inadequate design or specification.

As an established general practice of Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers we have extensive experience of the construction industry and many different types of building.

This experience is available to augment the legal position with PETERS ASSOCIATES (RIPON) LTD acting as the technical expert or witness in any dispute in the building and construction sectors.

### Our Function

We are familiar with the need to build an effective case compiling concise and accurate technical information. We are fully conversant with the Pre-Action Protocol for Construction and Engineering disputes, and are aware that our overriding duty is to the court.

Over the years we have acted with solicitors to prepare and present expert reports on various aspects of construction on behalf of the Plaintiff or the Defendant. These reports have been prepared on the basis of further site investigations or specific research where necessary in order to produce a definitive report.

At the same time we offer advice when replying to the opposing sides' case in respect of their technical submission; our work may cover replying to Points of Claim, Counsels Advice, Discovery of Documents, etc.

We have acted in complex cases where a number of defendants are involved, in these situations we have represented clients at Pre-Action meetings in order to agree common ground to minimise the time necessary in hearing the case in court.

As expert witnesses we have appeared in court and given oral evidence, facing vigorous cross examination of our considered technical advice.

## **Our Experience**

Some examples of our work where PETERS ASSOCIATES (RIPON) LTD have acted as the technical expert are as follows:

- Road surface failure of a new private road due to undermining and poor subsequent service installations by statutory undertakers.
- Settlement of a new factory resulting from unacceptable design and subsequent poor workmanship.
- An industrial accident involving alleged negligence by a Contractor with respect to a scaffolding system.
- Alleged fraud with regard to the tarmac resurfacing of various private roads in North Yorkshire; we were required to report on quality of workmanship, fitness for purpose and the value of the work as executed.
- Inadequate asphaltting and lack of drainage to the car park and access road serving a block of flats.
- Defective foundations to a private house, designed and specified by an architect.
- Alleged defective concrete work by a contractor in forming a new domestic drive.
- Advising with regard to potential structural damage of an adjacent property resulting from a contractor's method of working.
- Negligent survey of a house at time of purchase by a surveyor, the house subsequently required extensive underpinning.
- Defective design of a retaining wall for a new house.
- Inspecting and reporting on building and construction defects on behalf of developers, contractors, building owners and tenants.

## **Qualifications**

Expert witness advice is carried out by the Directors who are both well qualified and individually have more than 30 years' experience in the construction industry.

## **Fees**

Our fees for technical staff are usually charged on a time basis.

Fixed fees are offered, if required, where specific tasks are undertaken or where our brief is clearly defined.

We are therefore able to offer a variable level of costs tailored to the needs of any particular case.

**Peters Associates (Ripon) Ltd**

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