

# Dr Miriam Noonan Occupational Therapist Expert Witness



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PhD, BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy, RCOT, HCPC Highly Specialist Occupational Therapist in Chronic Fatigue

#### **General Background**

Miriam qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 2007 from the School of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science, University College Cork in the Republic of Ireland with a BSc Honours Degree. In 2020 Miriam was awarded a PhD in Medical Studies from the University of Exeter in the South West of England.

Miriam has extensive clinical experience working with Adults and older adults across a range of settings. Miriam began her career in the Republic of Ireland working as a Community Occupational Therapist in the Health Service Executive. This post involved assessing the needs of adults with a range of physical and sensory needs within their home and community environments. Within this post Miriam worked closely with the local authority to write reports and provide recommendations for housing adaptations. Additionally, Miriam has worked across a variety of mental health settings for the Health Service Executive in Ireland ranging from community, inpatient and rehabilitation and recovery services for people with severe and enduring mental health needs. As the lead Occupational Therapist on a mental health Rehabilitation and Recovery team Miriam was responsible for developing the occupational therapy service, including establishing pathways for referral, intervention and discharge, supervising staff and facilitating student placements.

Miriam established a Vocational Rehabilitation service for individuals with musculoskeletal disorders and chronic pain. This was developed in conjunction with Arthritis Ireland and the Occupational Therapy department at the University of Limerick, Ireland. Miriam was responsible for designing and developing assessments and intervention plans, report writing and liaising with external agencies with a focus on supporting individuals to return to or maintain employment.

Whilst finishing her PhD, Miriam undertook a role as a clinical practice educator. This entailed supporting staff nurses to facilitate student nurse placements within the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust. Miriam planned and delivered two cycles of the preceptorship programme for all newly qualified staff within the trust. Miriam spent four years lecturing in Occupational Therapy at the University of Plymouth. Miriam was also the Pathway Lead for the MSc Advanced Professional Practice in Occupational Therapy. Miriam was responsible for teaching on modules which covered occupational interruptions and transitions in adulthood, manual handling and supervising research students. Miriam remains an Honorary Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at the University of Plymouth.

In 2024 Miriam was employed as a Highly Specialist Occupational Therapist in Chronic Fatigue. Miriam is responsible for assessing the needs of individuals with ME/CFS, Long Covid and Cancer Related Fatigue. Miriam facilitates one to one and group Fatigue and Lifestyle Self-management programmes. Miriam provides supervision to junior staff members. Miriam is also responsible for liaising with GPs, report writing, and maintaining accurate clinical notes and providing input into the leadership team in relation of the delivery of the service.

## **Work History**

- Over 15 years of experience in the Irish Health Service (Health Service Executive) and the NHS including clinical, teaching and leadership roles.
- Extensive clinical experience providing assessment and intervention across a range of inpatient and community settings for Adults and older adults living with a range of physical, psychosocial and sensory needs
- Developed occupational therapy led services in the area of mental health and vocational rehabilitation
- Experience facilitating individual and group based interventions
- Evaluation and assessment of Manual Handling needs and providing subsequent recommendations based upon identified need
- Prescription of equipment ranging from small aids and appliances to powered mobility and larger household adaptations

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- Working with agencies in the areas of disabled facilities housing grants and adaptations
- Extensive experience in Vocational Rehabilitation supporting individuals with musculoskeletal conditions, chronic pain and mental health needs to access and maintain work.

### **Professional Qualifications**

2021: Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy

2020: Doctor of Philosophy, College of Medicine and Health, University of Exeter

2016: Certificate in the Management of Chronic Illness: National University of Ireland, Galway

2007: BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy: University College Cork, Ireland

#### **Training**

2025: Oliver McGowan Learning Disability & Autism Tier 2

2024: Moving and Handling Level 2

2024: Adult Basic Life Support

2022: Train the trainer Moving and Handling

### **Expert Witness Background**

Associated with AMG Consultancy Services Ltd since 2024. Extensive experience gained in evaluation and assessment of functional needs, risk assessment and clinical management, together with that of experience of report writing has facilitated the development of skills to prepare expert witness reports.

#### **SKILLS**

- Report writing
- Facilitation of 1:1 and group interventions
- Assessment of individuals with complex physical, sensory and psychosocial needs
- Extensive experience of working autonomously
- Facilitation of learning through student supervision, peer supervision and service lead roles
- Research active supervision of PhD students and presented at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists conference in 2023. Specialist areas of research are chronic pain, learning disability and carers.

# **Memberships**

Registered by the Health and Care Professions Council Member of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists Fellow of the Higher Education Academy