Dr Steven Andrew Birrell

Consultant Psychiatrist

MBChB, PGCertClinEd (Distinction), FRCPsych, FRSA

GMC: 6134587

Summary Curriculum Vitae

Professional profile

Consultant Psychiatrist specialising in General Adult and Liaison Psychiatry, with substantive consultant experience since 2015 and independent medico-legal practice since November 2017. Current NHS practice is in Liaison Psychiatry at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, focusing on interface between physical and mental health, including complex psychiatric presentations, trauma-related disorders, capacity, and psychiatric risk.

Medico-legal experience

Independent expert witness work for civil and criminal proceedings, including psychiatric assessment, diagnosis and opinion, with experience of giving oral evidence in courts and tribunals. Additional work includes independent opinions under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and incapacity certification for guardianship and intervention orders under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. Approximately 150 reports annually; pursuer-to-defender instructions approximately 80:20.

Current and recent appointments

- Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry, NHS Fife, Victoria Hospital (June 2022–present)
- Independent Medico-Legal Consultant Psychiatrist (November 2017–present)
- Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh (January 2022–present)
- Designated Medical Practitioner, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (April 2023–present)
- External Advisor, RCPsych in Scotland / AoMRC (July 2017–present)
- Previously: Consultant General Adult Psychiatrist, NHS Fife (2015–2022); Clinical Lead for Training and Education, NHS Fife (2023–2026).

Qualifications and professional recognition

- 2025 Bond Solon / University of Aberdeen Expert Witness Certificate
- 2023 Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (FRCPsych)
- 2015 Certificate of Completion of Training — General and Liaison Psychiatry
- 2013 PGCert in Clinical Education (Distinction), University of Edinburgh
- 2006 MBChB, University of Edinburgh
- Additional recognition: FRSA (2024); AFHEA (2014); British Association for Psychopharmacology Clinical Certificate (2024)

Selected educational and academic activity

CASC Examiner, Royal College of Psychiatrists (since 2022); Educational Supervisor / College Tutor, NHS Education for Scotland; postgraduate psychiatry teaching programme lead, NHS Fife. Contributor to Crash Course: Psychiatry (4th, 5th and 6th editions), alongside presentations on liaison psychiatry, capacity, mental health law and clinical education.

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