



Jason Pitter

LL.B. (Hons), Kings College London
1994 – Called Gray's Inn

Field of Practice:

Particular areas of expertise include:

Crime

All aspects of serious criminal work in particular:

- Homicide
- Fraud serious offences of dishonesty (including large benefit fraud cases)
- All aspects of serious drug related offences
- Serious sexual offences
- Proceeds of crime offences and asset recovery
- Ancillary proceedings in respect of the above areas

I have been involved in numerous major police investigations and enquiries both prosecuting and defending (some of which are set out below).

I have represented a large number of clients charged with offences committed in the work environment (including teachers, care workers, police officers and doctors). These offences have included homicide (in particular gross negligence manslaughter), serious sexual offences and serious offences of dishonesty. As a result I have developed an in depth understanding of the principles and issues that arise in these circumstances, including the question of professional breach of duty in a criminal context.

Is on the Attorney General's "B list" of prosecutors.

Experienced in cases of trademark and copyright theft, in particular in relation to computer software.

Regulatory

In particular:

- Misconduct hearings (police and GMC)
- Inquests
- Prison Law

Misconduct:

The representation of professional clients at internal misconduct hearings. In particular, this has related to police misconduct hearings where I have been instructed in a number of major investigations and operations in relation to police corruption and inappropriate conduct.

GMC:

Experienced in conducting GMC fitness to practice hearings. Representation of medical practitioners in criminal proceedings in relation to alleged criminal conduct arising from their work. Has also represented medical practitioners at inquests, again in relation to death arising from alleged failings on their part.

Inquests:

I have represented interested persons in a number of high profile deaths where there has been an underlying alleged breach of duty of care to the deceased or the death has arisen in a work environment. In particular this has included death in custody cases (both in prison and police custody).

Prison Law:

I have advised generally in relation to breaches of prisoners' rights, prison procedure and any subsequent legal proceedings. This has frequently led to the giving of advice (quite often "pro bono") in relation to the substantive criminal offences for which the prisoner convicted (advices on appeal etc).

Environmental Law:

Instructed to both prosecute and defend in cases involving the Environment Agency, HSE, DEFRA in both the Magistrates and Crown Court. Has also been instructed on behalf of interested persons in "death in the workplace" inquests. Recently instructed to act on behalf of "Water Priors Farms Estate" in both the inquest and criminal proceedings. Defended Tillertech Ltd in criminal proceedings in relation to allowing slurry to enter a river thereby killing a large amount of livestock.

Other:

I have been instructed by both DEFRA (pollution of rivers and breach of fishing quotas) and FACT (copyright theft).

Judicial Review:

In relation to proceedings arising out of the above practice areas.

Recent and Reported Cases of Importance:

R v Brown (1999) Crim. L.R. 850, [2000] 1 Cr.App. R(S) 300 (being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs – whether a single count can be treated as a continuous course of conduct).

R v Young (2000) 2 Cr App R(S)248 – smuggling of controlled drugs into prison, appellant believing drug to be cannabis as opposed to heroin.

Operation passport/visa. Major cross force police inquiry and misconduct proceedings alleging corruption and dishonesty on the part of the accused officers.

R v Gazi and others (Ramzan Travel), Leeds Crown Court, April 2002 – one of the defendants in the largest money laundering operations in this country resulting in a prosecution (in excess of £200 million as part of a series of 3 trials).

Operation Esker, Sheffield Crown Court (2002), Led junior in major murder enquiry in the Sheffield area.

R (on the application of E) v Leeds Youth Court Justices [2003] EWHC 173, appropriate trial venue for a juvenile.

R v B and others, February 2004, Newcastle Crown Court. Large Police corruption case, where it was alleged that several officers had attempted to pervert the course of justice.

R v Wright, Leeds Crown Court, 2004. Leading junior for one of the defendants in Operation Troon (major undercover investigation and infiltration of a city wide gang involved in burglary and theft of high performance motor vehicles (so called “Hanoi” burglaries)).

R. v Long & Clapshaw [2004] EWCA Crim 3017, applicability of the principles in *R v Buffrey* (maximum credit for early guilty plea). Failure to give reasons where that principle is departed from.

R v C and others, April 2005, Hull Crown Court. Gross negligence manslaughter alleged against three serving police officers. The case was stopped following legal argument in relation to breach of duty and causation.

Re: Joseph McDonagh, Coroners Court Leeds, March 2006. Representing the family of the deceased. This case led to a number of criticisms being made of the systems in operation at HMP, Leeds in relation to a prisoner in the hospital wing and on "suicide watch". The actions of a number of prison staff were also criticised. Since this death a number of changes have been made to the system in operation at the prison.

Re: McDonnell, North Allerton, Coroners Court, January 2006. Inquest lasting 6 weeks in relation to a death in police custody.

Tania Moore, Murder Inquiry, Derbyshire Police, HQ, 2006. Major investigation and misconduct proceedings in relation to alleged failing on the part of the police officers investigating the death of Tania Moore.

Operation W, 2006, Hull Crown Court. Large scale investigation into sexual misconduct at Headlands High School, Humberside. I was instructed to act for two of the teachers alleged to have formed inappropriate relationships and abused pupils in relation to whom they were in a position of authority.

Operation Esker, Leeds Crown Court 2006/2007 (trial lasting for 3 months). Major murder inquiry arising out of hostilities between groups from Leeds and Huddersfield. I was the leading junior for one of the accused charged as part of this investigation.

Additional Information:

Mentioned in the Legal 500 on numerous occasions and currently recommended under "Regulatory and Public Law".

I am involved in advocacy and expert witness training.

Member of the Criminal Bar Association.

I have been an active member of the Bar Pro Bono Unit since its inception.

Member of the Bar Council Equal Opportunities Committee.