



Duncan Atkinson KC

“Quietly devastating in cross-examinations.” “Decent, kind and effective.”

(Chambers & Partners)

An “Impressive performer and a good leader” (Chambers and Partners), Duncan is much in demand for his advocacy and opinion in a broad spectrum of criminal and regulatory work, and in particular cases of homicide, terrorism, health and safety, and financial and corporate crime, both at first instance and in appellate proceedings.

Criminal Litigation

As Treasury Counsel since 2009 and Senior Treasury Counsel since 2015, Duncan has appeared in numerous complex and high profile homicide cases, including a number of high profile “cold cases”, together with homicides involving issues of contested medical causation, diminished responsibility and child-death. Duncan has particular expertise in cases of gross negligence manslaughter, deaths in the context of health and safety regulation, and deaths of persons in residential care or state detention.

Duncan has also appeared in numerous cases concerning allegations of terrorism, and relating to organised crime. In recent times, the former have included those planning attacks on the British Museum and Gay Pride, and latter has included the successful prosecution of the largest attempted importation of automatic weapons into the United Kingdom. Other cases in which he has also appeared as an advocate have involved allegations of rape, serious disorder, public nuisance, blackmail, prison escape, corruption, conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, and prosecutions under the Official Secrets Act.

Homicide

Duncan has successfully acted in murder, manslaughter and attempted murder trials of all varieties, including cases of loss of control, self-defence, diminished responsibility, multi-handed ‘gang’ killings, juvenile defendants and cases with complex medical or other expert evidence.

Terrorism

Duncan has an extensive experience of involvement in the whole gamut of counter-terrorism prosecutions, having in the course of his career appeared as Leading, Junior and Sole Counsel in high profile terrorism-related cases, including the “fertiliser bomber” case – Khyam which was then the largest joint operation of UK police forces, the security services and foreign law enforcement agencies.

Health and Safety and Regulatory

Duncan has been instructed both in an advisory capacity and as an advocate in cases relating to breaches of Health and Safety and Environmental Protection legislation, both in criminal and inquest proceedings.

Fraud and Corporate Crime

Duncan has built up considerable experience in cases of serious and complex fraud and corruption, including cases involving the Serious Fraud Office, HMRC, the Financial Conduct Authority and the Department of Work and Pensions. He also has particular experience of Hi-Tech and computer-based fraud and other forms of “cybercrime” and in confiscation proceedings.

Cybercrime

Duncan has been at the forefront of this developing area of criminal litigation. He acted from an early stage in an advisory capacity in Operation “Ore”, the international investigation of the incitement to supply indecent images of children. Other cases in this area have included Operation “Blossom”, a conspiracy to defraud the computer software industry with pirated software (the first large-scale prosecution by the National High-Tech Crime Unit) and the prosecution of fraud through the construction and distribution of malicious software.

Public and Administrative Law

Duncan is regularly instructed in relation to proceedings by way of judicial review, acting both in pre-action litigation and in the Administrative Court.

Inquests and Public Inquiries

Duncan has been instructed to act for interested parties in several inquests before the Coroner’s Court.



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