



# Abdul Iqbal QC

Call to the Bar: 1994

"An outstanding silk, and a thorough and inspired cross-examiner." - The Legal 500, 2016  
"Very thorough in his preparation and management of the facts." - The Legal 500, 2015  
"Leading Silk in crime... the paragon of legal excellence." - The Legal 500, 2014

Abdul Iqbal QC is a favoured choice of counsel among both solicitors and lay clients. He is widely recognised for his skilful, tactical and robust advocacy in the most complex cases. He took Silk in 2014 after years of being instructed as leading counsel in high-profile cases where Queen's Counsel had been instructed by other parties in the case.

Abdul has built a very large and successful defence practice focused on the most serious criminal cases, such as homicide, high-value complex commercial fraud, serious organised crime, terrorism, and large-scale international drug trafficking. He also has specialist expertise in confiscation and deprivation of assets issues arising from these areas of criminal work.

Abdul previously practised as a pharmacist, and has a particular interest in cases involving expert medical or paramedical evidence. He is noted for his ability and experience in cross-examining expert witnesses on the most complex areas of evidence.

He has defended in a series of sensitive cases where professionals (solicitors, accountants, doctors, pharmacists) have been charged with regulatory offences.

Abdul regularly reviews serious and complex cases and advises upon the prospects of seeking to overturn, before the Court of Appeal, potentially unsafe convictions sustained in cases where he has not appeared at first instance. He also regularly reviews serious cases and advises as to whether a sentence can be regarded as manifestly excessive so as to be successfully appealed before the Court of Appeal.

Abdul is noted for his ability and judgement to quickly and reliably identify the real and decisive issues in 'very heavy' cases. He excels in offering clear, concise and tactically focused advice in the most complex and voluminous cases.

## Crime

### Homicide/Attempted Murder

**R v DJ (Operation Posestoke)** – Leeds Crown Court – Allegations of double murder by arson.

**R v MZ** – Bradford Crown Court – Double murder involving the defendant fleeing the jurisdiction to Pakistan. First extradition from Pakistan to the United Kingdom to face trial in over 10 years. Complex arguments as to the legality of the Pakistani extradition proceedings.

**R v AA (Operation Polyburg)** – Bradford Crown Court – Murder involving mass disorder resulting in the death of one and serious stab injuries to three males. Successful defence of murder relying on Jogee-type principles of joint enterprise.

**R v ZK (Operation Bridge)** – Warwick Crown Court – Successful defence of charges of murder, wounding with intent, and violent disorder. Murder by stabbing to the neck and slashing to others within a nightclub in Coventry.

**R v DW (Operation Albany)** – Preston Crown Court – Conspiracy to murder. Attempted execution by shooting to the head and upper body with a sawn-off shotgun. Allegations of serious criminality on the part of the victim.

**R v JW & Another** – Bradford Crown Court – Attempted murder involving allegations of an ordered execution and slashing of the throat with damage close to the carotid artery.

**R v DI (Operation Plummen)** – Bradford Crown Court – Attempted murder involving allegations of marital infidelity. Voluntary repatriation to the UK to face trial.

**R v BMO (Operation Pipeville)** – Leeds Crown Court – Revenge murder by stabbing within the Kurdish community.

**R v LD & Another** – Leeds Crown Court – Manslaughter of 4-month-old baby found with multiple fractures, bite injuries and skin burns. Complex multiple medical evidence as to causation of death.

**R v AH (Operation Koat)** – Sheffield Crown Court – Murder by stabbing and decapitation of the victim whilst she was still alive.

**R v AS & Others (Operation Pilarmen)** – Leeds Crown Court – Pre-planned murder of an associate of the defendant by the slashing of his throat outside his family home.

**R v AA & Another (Operation Parilla)** – Conspiracy to murder. Alleged arrangement for the victim to be shot whilst she was visiting family in Pakistan.



## CONTACT DETAILS

Email: [abdul.iqbal@lincolnhousechambers.com](mailto:abdul.iqbal@lincolnhousechambers.com)

Telephone:

0161 832 5701

## PRACTICE AREAS

Business Crime & Financial Regulation  
Serious Crime  
Regulatory  
Terrorism  
Private Client

## MEMBERSHIPS

Criminal Bar Association  
British Association for Sports Law

## APPOINTMENTS

Recorder (Criminal)

## EDUCATION

BVC, Inns of Court School of Law - 'Very Competent'

Diploma in Law, Northumbria University - Distinction

BA (Hons) Pharmacy, Bradford University

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**R v AA & Another (Operation Parilla)** – Conspiracy to murder. Alleged arrangement for the victim to be shot whilst she was visiting family in Pakistan.

**R v OR & Others** – Stafford Crown Court – Conspiracy to murder. Group pre-planned action to execute the victim by shooting for unknown motives.

**R v MNA & Another (Operation Paea)** – Leeds Crown Court – Alleged murder (during heightened racial tensions locally) by Asian men and by punching and stamping to the head of the victim.

**R v JI** – Bradford Crown Court – Homicide of a vulnerable passenger by taxi driver driving away, causing her to jump to her death.

## Terrorism

**R v Kahar, Eshati & Others** – EWCA Crim 568 – Appeared as leading counsel in the guideline Court of Appeal judgment (handed down by the Lord Chief Justice in a 5-member court) relating to sentencing for terrorism offences contrary to section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (“Preparation of terrorist acts”).

**R v GH (Operation Polyamine)** – Leeds Crown Court – Engaging in conduct in preparation for acts of terrorism. Undercover police operation seeking to infiltrate active terrorist sympathiser networks. Active support for the proscribed organisation “ISIS”. Preparation and active steps to travel to Syria to engage in active warfare. Successful arguments as to dangerousness.

**R v AE (Operation Bravely)** – Central Criminal Court – Possession of material for terrorist purposes and/or likely to be of use to persons engaged in terrorism. Purchase for over 1,000 tons of heavy gauge ammunition for \$28.5million for onward transport by air from Italy to Libya for use by the Zintan militia in the ongoing civil war.

Mr Iqbal QC is currently involved in providing detailed pre-charge advice to specialist legal teams in several ongoing national and international terrorism investigations pursuant to the Terrorism Acts of 2000 and 2006, and related legislation.

## Serious Fraud/Financial Crime/Corruption

**R v SI** – Sharnbrook Crown Court – Serving councillor charged with long-term housing scheme fraud upon the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

**R v FH (Operation Kadenza)** – Southwark Crown Court – Banking and cyber fraud valued in excess of £100million. Lead counsel for the main defendant charged with complex multi-layered fraud and tiered international. Money laundering of the proceeds of the fraud.

**R v AB (Operation Bamburgh 2)** – Teeside Crown Court – Large-scale national property fraud involving financial and estate agency professionals fabricating and distorting financial information so as to deceive financial institutions and legal professionals.

**R v MA & Others** – Manchester Crown Court – Chartered accountant charged with fraud upon the NHS. Allegations of false accounting, complex falsification of documents, and operation of a closed market. Proceeding stayed as an abuse of process after serious prosecution disclosure failures relating to 3 terabytes of seized digital material.

**R v GS & Others (Operation Bellum)** – Bradford Crown Court – Bank fraud and money laundering involving the provision of loan facilities to fabricated or impecunious applicants by corrupt internal bank employees.

**R v RK & Others (Operation Harvest)** – Southwark Crown Court – Conspiracy to defraud (‘boiler-room fraud’) involving allegations of international fraudulent ‘share’-trading and money laundering by a complex corporate structure.

**R v DC & Others (Operation Gain)** – Leicester Crown Court – Mortgage, land registry and conveyancing fraud with associated international money laundering involving corrupt solicitors using the stolen identities of bona fide solicitors.

**R v JL & Others (Operation Wickerball)** – Nottingham Crown Court – Serious organised international fraud and money laundering of UK state benefits by Eastern European citizens using fake or falsified identities.

**R v SAO (Operation MFB)** – Liverpool Crown Court – Leading counsel for the defence in an international tax fraud involving over £100million of reclaimed VAT on complex financial transactions.

**R v WK & Others** – Bradford Crown Court – Laundering of large sums of money over a decade. Large property portfolio and complex financial affairs requiring expert interpretation and reconstruction of financial affairs.

**R v MAJ & Others (Operation Enigma)** – Manchester Crown Court – Alleged international money laundering fraud involving in excess of £170million of funds transmitted abroad by money-services business.



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**R v SA & Others (Operation Podium)** – Southwark Crown Court – Law undergraduate alleged to have defrauded the Olympic Delivery Authority of sums in excess of £2.4million.

**R v SD & Others** – Leeds Crown Court – Large-scale alleged tax evasion on purchase of high-value cars by disabled drivers using tax-avoidance regulations.

## International Drugs/Firearms/People-Trafficking

**R v IA & Others (Operation Custard Apple)** – Multiple importations of heroin hidden in wooden cargo imported via the international postal system.

**R v WK & 2 Others (Operation Borage)** – Leeds Crown Court – Importation of 245kg of heroin via the international cargo delivery system.

**R v JM & Others (Operation Lineal)** – Large-scale regional and national distribution of class-A drugs from the East Midlands. Employee of solicitors' practice indicted. Issues of legal professional privilege and abuse of process.

**R v NS & Others (Operation Block)** – Large-scale conspiracy to facilitate breaches of UK immigration law by falsification and fabrication of documents in relation to overseas applicants seeking UK entry clearance.

**R v GK & Others (Operation Baggage)** – Sheffield Crown Court – International conspiracy to facilitate breaches of immigration law. Alleged 'sham' marriages. Fraudulent documents allegedly produced to support multiple 'marriages' to ensure UK citizenship was granted to non-EU citizens, under false pretences.

**R v RH & Another** – Leeds Crown Court – Multiple importations (around 100kg) of heroin hidden in woven carpets. Issues of public-interest immunity, complex surveillance, and telephonic evidence.

**R v MI & Others (Operation Bizarre)** – Leeds Crown Court – Principal defendant involved in multiple large-scale importations of cocaine from Peru and Ecuador. Issues of the admissibility of material obtained using foreign legal provisions and convictions sustained abroad.

**R v UH (Operation Giltford)** – Organised live firearms and ammunition distribution regionally for the purposes of serious organised crime.

**R v MI & Others (Operation Lapworth)** – Bradford Crown Court – Leading counsel for the defence; one of the principal defendants in large-scale importation of Glock firearms from the USA and distribution within the UK to organised crime groups.

**R v MFH & Others (Operation Prime)** – Bradford Crown Court – International conspiracy to kidnap and blackmail involving the drugging, gagging and beating of the victim over several days. US\$2m ransom-demand made in China. Inter-jurisdictional co-operation led to the detection and arrest of the perpetrators.

## Serious Crime

**R v YH & Others** – WWCA Crim 228, All ER (D) 255, Court of Appeal Criminal Division – Leading Court of Appeal judgment on the principals to be applied and procedure to be adopted in 'absconder' appeal cases.

**R v DH** – Leeds Crown Court – Serial rapes and other serious sexual assaults of stepdaughters over several years; complex medical and scientific evidence.

**R v BB & Others (Operation Pelatos)** – Murder by shooting with associated allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

**R v MK** – Bradford Crown Court – Multiple rape and serious sexual assault of a schoolgirl who had been groomed by MK and another.

**R v MD (Operation Recall)** – Leeds Crown Court – Cold case; rape of student over 25 years ago; reliance upon pre-DNA scientific evidence and bad character.

**R v MS & Another** – Bradford Crown Court – Principal defendant charged with unlawful entry into a young mother's home followed by her torture, degradation, detention over hours, and serial multiple rape.

**R v CN & Others** – EWCA Crim 314, Court of Appeal Criminal Division – Large conspiracy to burglar and handle stolen goods involving 'Hanoi' burglaries and the dissipation of stolen cars in the North of England.

**R v NM & Others** – [Att Gen Ref 8, 9, 10 of 2002, 2003 1 Cr. App R. (s) 57], Court of Appeal Criminal Division – Guidelines on sentencing for kidnapping cases.



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## Private Client

*R v ZH – Leeds Crown Court – Successful defence of Chartered Accountant charged with offences of violence and public disorder.*

*R v TH – Leeds Crown Court – Successful defence of male nurse charged with sexual offences relating to two care assistants in private nursing homes.*

*R v SA – Snaresbrook Crown Court – Serving Councillor charged with serial housing fraud upon the local authority.*

*R v MH – Manchester Crown Court – Successful defence of Chartered Accountant charged with serious fraud.*

## Regulatory

Abdul Iqbal QC qualified as a pharmacist and has experience of clinical practice. He represents corporate and commercial clients charged with regulatory offences and/or facing financial liability arising from breaches of regulatory law.

Abdul's pharmacy background and experience of serious criminal work naturally lend themselves to representing professionals charged with disciplinary breaches before regulatory bodies (General Medical Council, General Dental Council, General Pharmaceutical Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Financial Reporting Council).

He is a keen sports fan. His criminal practice lends itself well to providing representation to players and clubs alike at the disciplinary tribunals of governing bodies such as the FA, RFL and RFU.

Abdul's pharmacy expertise gives him additional insight into issues of doping, charges brought by the UK Anti-Doping Agency, and appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.



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