

Peter Wright KC

Call to Bar: 1981

Silk Year: 1999



"Peter Wright KC has appeared in some of the most noteworthy trials of recent years and continues to defend and prosecute headline-grabbing murder, drugs, fraud and terrorism cases. He also acts for companies that are being investigated for health and safety offences."

"Peter is one of the best and most experienced criminal silks in the country, and continues to appear in the most high-profile cases." - Chambers & Partners, 2025

"He's a class act." Band 1 - Crime - Chambers and Partners 2024

"Peter is very, very smooth in court." - Chambers & Partners, 2023

"He has one of the best reputations on the circuit." - Chambers & Partners, 2022

"A phenomenal barrister and a great advocate." "He is a top-drawer performer with a very big presence in court. He's a good jury advocate." Chambers & Partners, 2021

Cited in "Chambers and Partners Guide" as a ***"leading criminal silk"*** and also in "The Legal 500", where he is described as a ***"fantastic advocate"***, Peter Wright is a highly respected and extremely experienced advocate who has appeared in numerous high profile cases. Peter prosecutes and defends in respect of criminal offences of the utmost gravity and complexity including terrorism, murder, drugs and serious fraud.

In September 2006, Peter was appointed Senior Treasury Counsel; the first person ever to be directly appointed to that position. In 2010, he stepped down to return to his defence work, for which he continues to be described as a highly respected senior practitioner, with a wealth of knowledge, experience and gravitas.

Peter has appeared as leading Counsel in the series of trials arising from the alleged corrupt payments to public officials by journalists known as Operation Elveden; an OFT Investigation into International Cartel and Price Fixing Arrangements in the steel abrasives industry; the LIBOR scandal; civil and criminal proceedings arising from the investigation by the SFO into breaches of the UN Oil for Food Programme to Iraq; in addition to his "mainstream" criminal work in Corporate and gross negligence manslaughter; terrorism and murder.

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Practice areas:

Business Crime & Financial Regulation
Criminal Law
Regulatory
Professional Discipline

Professional appointments:

Appointed as Queens Counsel in 1999

Appointed as Crown Court Recorder in 2000

Senior Treasury Counsel (2006-2010)

Peter also advises and represents companies and individuals who face investigation or proceedings under Health and Safety legislation, and in

related cases such as fatal and other non-fatal accidents arising from incidents in the workplace.

“He is an exceptionally bright and brilliantly good. He is a good cross-examiner and

an eloquent advocate” “A rock star, one of the top silks on the circuit.” – Chambers & Partners, 2016

“A heavyweight practitioner who regularly features in nationally reported matters.” Legal 500, 2015

“Renowned for handling high-profile and serious cases ranging from murder to terrorism. “He is a big hitter who impresses in court” - Chambers & Partners, 2014

“Highly regarded in cases of the utmost gravity” - Legal 500, 2014

Crime

R v Peter Sutcliffe (Coonan) Prosecution - Appeal against whole life terms imposed for 20 murders and attempt murders during 1970s and 80s by “Yorkshire Ripper”. Appeal dismissed.

R v Harold Shipman Prosecution - Murder of 15 patients by G.P.

R v Ali, Islam and Others (11 defendants) Prosecution - Terrorist plot to blow up 7 transatlantic flights to North America from Heathrow (known as the “liquid bombs plot”). Series of trials resulting in life terms with minimum terms totalling in excess 180 years.

R v Stephen Wright Prosecution - Murder of 5 women in Ipswich, Suffolk. Whole life terms imposed.

R v Morley and others - Prosecution of MPs arising from expenses scandal.

R v Mohammed Rahman Prosecution - Cartoon protestors convicted of inciting murder arising from publication of images of the Prophet Mohammed.

R v Sir Stephen Price Richards Prosecution - Alleged Indecent Exposure by a Lord Justice of Appeal.

R v Henson & McColl Prosecution. Double murder; double gangland executions resulting in “whole life” term of imprisonment.

R v Razzaq & Others Defence - Murder of WPC Sharron Beshenivsky while on duty in Bradford by armed robbers. Acquitted of murder, convicted of manslaughter.

R v Nigel Evans MP. Defence – Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons for Rape and Indecent assault. Acquitted.

R v Iqbal & Others Defence - Murder arson attack on a house in Yorkshire where 8 people died. Acquitted of murder, convicted of manslaughter.

R v Thai Anh Nahm & Others Prosecution - Triad gang triple murder of family in own home. Convicted.

R v O'Neill Defence - Murder. Gangland contract killing. Acquitted.

R v BD & others. Defence. Bulgarian National charged with conspiracy to spy on behalf of the Russian Federation.

Regulatory

In addition to defending in cases of serious and complex crime, Peter also advises and represents companies and individuals who face investigation or proceedings under Health and Safety legislation, and in related cases such as fatal and other non-fatal accidents arising from incidents in the workplace.

R v N - Instructed to defend a company director facing allegations of gross negligence manslaughter arising from a fatal accident.

R v C - Defending a company in a Health and Safety Executive prosecution arising from the fatal scalding of an elderly resident in a Residential Care Home.

R v A - Represented a nurse accused of gross negligence manslaughter for performing a circumcision for cultural reasons upon a three-week old baby boy who subsequently died.

Professional Disciplinary

In addition to defending in cases of serious and complex crime, Peter also advises and represents companies and individuals who face investigation or proceedings under Health and Safety legislation, and in related cases such as fatal and other non-fatal accidents arising from incidents in the workplace.

R v Ali Dizaei Prosecution - Metropolitan Police Commander convicted of misconduct in public office.

R v G.M Defence - Detective Chief Inspector acquitted of misconduct in public office arising from alleged leaking to a journalist of identity of Provisional I.R.A bomber responsible for the Manchester bombing that caused over £300m of damage.

R v PC Defence - Senior officer in HM Customs and Excise acquitted of conspiring to pervert the course of public justice and misconduct in public office arising from alleged links to organised crime.