

# Matthew Howarth

Call to Bar: England & Wales 2016,  
Northern Island 2020



Financial Crime, Proceeds of Crime, Confiscation, Restraint, Civil Forfeiture & VAT Tribunal

‘Matthew is wise beyond his years, he quickly gets to grips with the issues in a case, and he produces clear, concise, jargon-free written and oral advice which is appreciated by solicitors and clients alike. He has a very good manner with clients and his advocacy is articulate, pointed, and very effective both in his questioning and submissions.’ - Legal 500, 2024

‘Matthew is an intelligent advocate who is good at getting to the core of a legal issue. A clear, concise, persuasive, and approachable barrister.’ - Legal 500, 2024

RISING STAR in Legal 500, 2024 - Crime (General and Fraud)

Matthew started practice in 2014 with the Banking and Finance litigation team for one of the World’s largest law firms, Baker & McKenzie. During his early practice Matthew defended a large FTSE 100 Company as part of the LIBOR Scandal. He has extensive experience in Fraud and Financial Crime as a result, with a vast experience in dealing with complex issues arising from Legal Professional Privilege.

Joining Chambers in 2016, Matthew has sought to develop a practice that encompasses Financial Crime, POCA, Confiscation, Restraint & Civil Forfeiture as well as Public Law and Regulatory. As a result, he has gained numerous prestigious appointments that make him stand out amongst his peers at the Bar. He has a strong practice on behalf of HMRC, the Government Legal Department and the Serious Fraud Office..

Mathew has vast experience of dealing with complex Judicial Reviews and other applications before the High Court. His financial crime experience is vast and he is regularly involved in the many facets of Proceeds of Crime and Fraud (including VAT and MTIC). He sits on **the** Attorney General’s specialist Panel of Counsel, the Serious Fraud Office Panel, Regulatory Panel and is a specialist CPS POCA Prosecutor.

## Financial Crime, Fraud & POCA

In 2021, Matthew was one of five barristers out of London to be appointed to the Serious Fraud Office Panel C of Prosecution. He is currently instructed in an on-going large scale investigation into a substantial fraud on behalf of the SFO.

### Contact details:

[matthew.howarth@lincolnhousechambers.com](mailto:matthew.howarth@lincolnhousechambers.com)

### Clerk Contact details:

[Tprice@lincolnhousechambers.com](mailto:Tprice@lincolnhousechambers.com)  
Ty Price – 0161 832 5701

### Practice areas:

Business Crime & Financial Regulation  
Civil Law  
Criminal Law  
Health & Safety  
Housing Law  
Immigration & Asylum Law  
Industrial Disease  
Inquests  
Judicial Review Law  
Licensing  
Local Government  
Regulatory  
Property Law  
Professional Negligence  
Environmental Law  
Legal Professional Privilege

# Matthew Howarth

Coupled with his experience from the Financial Litigation Team at Baker & McKenzie, he is routinely instructed to handle large scale complex financial litigation dealing with disclosure, legal professional privilege and advising on litigation.

Matthew was one of two Manchester barristers appointed to the Attorney General's Panel C in 2020. He often deals with cases brought by HMRC from Forfeiture and Confiscation hearings, through to Commercial Account Freezing Orders and POCA proceedings in the Crown Court to the Court of Appeal. He was appointed to the specialist CPS Panel Level 2 for POCA in 2021.

Matthew also has experience with Tax Fraud. Recently he was instructed by HMRC to prosecute a multi-million pound MTIC Fraud case before the Tax Tribunals. (Kittle and Mecsek). He has also dealt with numerous VAT and Tax applications before the High Court on appeal.

In addition to financial crime Matthew also has extensive experience in dealing with general criminal litigation and is recognised in this area of law by his appointment to the CPS General Crime Panel Level 3 and POCA Panel Level 2 in 2021, and Serious Crime Panel Level 2 in 2020.

## Proceeds of Crime/Fraud

**HMRC** – Matthew has represented the Revenue in numerous section 298 POCA application before the magistrates and on appeal to the Crown Court. He is an expert in this field.

**B v HMRC & DWP** – Matthew represented both defendants successfully in this appeal of a tax decision before the High Court.

**LE v HMRC** – Matthew represented the Revenue in this MTIC fraud hearing led by senior counsel. The hearing took place in the Tax Tribunals over a number of days submissions, and examination of witnesses.

**CEC v K** – instructed on sentence and POCA in relation to an offender who was selling counterfeit goods and tobacco. He was able to secure a stringent Community Order.

**R v MM** – represented, on sentence, a disqualified director of a business that went into liquidation. The Director who was disqualified opted to act for the company when its owner had fallen ill.

## Serious Fraud Office

**SFO** – Instructed across a two year investigation by the SFO as lead review counsel to advise prosecution team on key pieces of disclosure and evidence, both in terms of the quality of the evidence for trial and elements that were not to be disclosed due to LPP

## Summary of Appointments

Matthew represents the Northern Circuit on the Bar Council Executive.

Matthew was elected as the first ever Northern Chair for the Middle Temple Young Bar Association.

2021 – Serious Fraud Office – Panel C appointment

2021 – Prosecution Service – Level 2 General Crime Panel Appointment and Level 2 POCA Panel Appointment

E: [clerks@lincolnhousechambers.com](mailto:clerks@lincolnhousechambers.com)

W: [www.lincolnhousechambers.com](http://www.lincolnhousechambers.com)

2020 – Attorney General Specialist Panel of Civil Counsel – C Panel



# Matthew Howarth

## Professional Appointments and Qualifications

Matthew holds several prestigious appointments that demonstrate his expertise and recognition in the legal field:

- Attorney General's Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown - Panel B (since 2020).
- Crown Prosecution Service Panel of Advocates: Level 3 (including Level 2 POCA and serious crime)
- Northern Panel B of Specialist Regulatory Law Advocates (Since 2019)
- Serious Fraud Office Panel C (since 2020)
- National Safeguarding Panel for Sports Resolution (2022)

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