

Richard Dawson

Call to Bar: 2001



"Richard Dawson is a well-regarded junior with a notable criminal practice. He is particularly sought after for his expertise in dangerous driving cases, and he also handles matters relating to organised crime and drugs offences." - Crime - Chambers and Partners 2024

"Richard's technical ability and advocacy are excellent. He is just very easy to work with and very good with experts." - Crime - Chambers and Partners 2024

"Richard's in-depth knowledge is brilliant. He just knows what to do and instils confidence in me." - Crime - Chambers and Partners 2024

"Richard is an incredibly hard working barrister. His drafting of legal arguments and written submissions is particularly impressive, and in relation to advocacy, he is a confident, persuasive, and seriously impressive court room presence." Recommended in Legal 500 2024 - Crime (General and Fraud)

"Richard's regulatory specialism focusses on transport law and it is an area where he is developing a national reputation as being a leading expert. He regularly appears before the Traffic Commissioner where he represents haulage companies, transport managers, and drivers, and his success rate is outstanding." Recommended in Legal 500 2024 - Business and Regulatory Crime (Inc H&S)

"Richard's written and oral advocacy skills are excellent." - Chambers & Partners, 2023

"He is a brilliant barrister to work with." - Chambers & Partners, 2023

"He is superb on serious motoring matters." - Chambers & Partners, 2023

Contact details:

Richard.dawson@lincolnhousechambers.com

Contact details:

Tprice@lincolnhousechambers.com

Ty Price – 0161 832 5701

Practice areas:

Road Traffic Law

Regulatory

Inquests

Professional Discipline

Licensing

Serious Crime

Business Crime & Financial Regulation

Prison Law

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"Richard is a fantastic advocate. On his feet in a trial is as strong as many counsel a great deal more senior. What really makes him stand out is the ability to get to grips with and apply technical and complex expert evidence, such as collision reconstruction, medical, tachographs data etc. This enables him to challenge prosecution experts and present defence evidence in a fluent and concise way, which translates to the jury and bench." - Legal 500, 2023

Richard "has an impressive practice and has been active in multiple injury and death by dangerous driving cases." - Legal 500, 2023

"He has good attention to detail and he establishes a rapport with clients." - Chambers & Partners, 2022

"He gets his strategy and approach spot on. He is an excellent all-rounder." - Chambers & Partners, 2022

"He is brilliant with clients - he is personable and down to earth. He is extremely thorough, a very engaging trial lawyer and the juries really buy into him." - Chambers & Partners, 2022

"Richard is an extremely experienced barrister who has a keen eye for the detail. He works very well under pressure and engages with the jury in a way I've not seen with any other barrister." - The Legal 500, 2022

"The jury sit up and listen when he is on his feet and his likeable, understandable approach means all can follow the issues he raises" - The Legal 500, 2022

"His diligence, preparation and communication help put clients at ease" The Legal 500, 2021

Richard Dawson is an expert trial lawyer. He specialises in serious crime, road traffic law, and regulatory and professional discipline matters with a nation-wide client base, undertaking work throughout the UK.

Richard has developed a strong reputation for hard work, immaculate preparation and clear fact management in complex cases and he is highly regarded by all those who instruct him; representing those charged with the most serious crimes, including murder; serious assaults; serious road accidents, resulting in death or catastrophic injury; rape; sexual offences; drugs matters; fraud and financial offences.

Drawing upon a wealth of knowledge and skill, developed over more than 15 years of practice in criminal law, Richard has a strong track record of successfully defending those charged with serious crimes.

Murder

R v Wad-Hashimi – attempt murder – Defence Counsel (ongoing)

R v Sandlan & Another – attempt murder – Defence Counsel – acquitted (guilty plea to s.18) Reported: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-36369569>

R v Mitchenson & Another – Operation Monarch – murder & arson – junior Defence Counsel – charged with the murder of a convicted sex offender, who had been seriously assaulted and partially strangled, before being doused with white spirit and set on fire – cut-throat defence – acquitted (co-Defendant convicted – life sentence with a 30 year minimum period to serve) Reported: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/man-jailed-life-after-battering-4775336>

R v Wrigley – attempt murder – leading Defence Counsel – acquitted

R v Hyland & Another – attempt murder & robbery – Defence Counsel

R v Grocock & Others – murder – junior Defence Counsel

R v Hanrahan & Another – murder – junior Defence Counsel Serious Violence & Public Disorder

R v Ward & Others – conspiracy to commit criminal damage with intent to endanger life – Defence Counsel(ongoing)

R v Nowosad & Others – s.18, GBH – Defence Counsel (ongoing)

R v Andrews – Kidnap – Defence Counsel (ongoing) R v Ward – threats to kill – Defence Counsel – acquitted

R v Berry & Others – assault & ill-treatment/neglect of person who lacks capacity – Defence Counsel – care home worker alleged to have “boiled” a patient, causing serious debilitating scald injuries to her legs; then to have covered up the mistake and failed to obtain medical treatment – acquitted (convicted of regulatory offence) Reported: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-33964749>
<http://www.itv.com/news/granada/2015-10-02/care-home-ownersxxxxx-for-neglecting-99-year-old-woman-scalded-in-the-bath-and-force-feeding-residents/>

R v Johnson – s.18, GBH – Defence Counsel

R v Browitt – s.18, GBH – Defence Counsel

R v Laird – child cruelty & s.20, GBH – Prosecution Counsel – allegations of multiple serious assaults to 8-week-old baby

R v Zubar – violent disorder – Defence Counsel – 10-handed violent disorder arising out of Asian extended family dispute – acquitted

R v Buckley – causing serious harm to a child – Defence Counsel – starved daughter almost to death.

R v McMinn – s.18, GBH – Prosecution Counsel R v Campbell – s.18, GBH – Defence Counsel

R v Marsh – s.20, GBH – Defence Counsel – assault on the rugby field – privately funded case

R v Farooq & Others – s.18, GBH – Defence Counsel – large-scale violence and public disorder arising out of a turf war in the Midlands – acquitted

R v Glaze & Others – armed robbery – Defence Counsel – car jacking – acquitted

R v Brogan – child cruelty & assault – Defence Counsel – allegations of serious assaults committed over many years against his natural son – acquitted

R v Bakewell – s.18, GBH – Defence Counsel – domestic violence

R v Kenrick & Others – aggravated burglary – Defence Counsel – use of lump hammer to cause serious injury – acquitted

R v Wynne – burglary with intent to inflict GBH & s.18, GBH – Prosecution Counsel – successfully prosecuted man who had stabbed his own brother

Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

R v Newland – historic, multiple Complainants, indecent assault – Defence Counsel – privately funded case (ongoing)

R v Barnes – rape – Defence Counsel – non-recent allegation of anal rape against ex-partner – acquitted

R v Farrar – indecent images – Defence Counsel – privately funded case

R v Owen – causing/inciting a child to engage in sexual activity & indecent images – Defence Counsel – multiple allegations; multiple Complainants – privately funded case

R v Moni – sexual grooming – Defence Counsel **R v Butterworth** – historic sexual abuse – Defence Counsel – privately funded case

R v Bennett – buggery – Defence Counsel – single historic allegation; 53 years ago – acquitted

R v McKell – sexual assault of a child under 13 – Defence Counsel – multiple allegations; multiple Complainants

R v McCann – historic sexual abuse – Defence Counsel – war veteran alleged to have sexually abused stepdaughter

R v Singleton – historic rape & sexual abuse – Defence Counsel – multiple allegations; 30 years ago; allegedly commencing when his niece was only 4 years old – acquitted

R v Skelton – attempt rape & sexual assault – Defence Counsel – acquitted of attempt rape

R v Box – sexual assault of a child under 13 – Defence Counsel – multiple allegations of sexual assault of granddaughter

R v Hodgson – rape & sexual assault – Defence Counsel – multiple allegations of raping and sexually abusing a teenage boy

R v Hilton – sexual assault of a child under 13 – Defence Counsel

R v Mohan – historic rape of a child under 13 – Defence Counsel – allegations of historic sexual abuse of his natural daughter – acquitted

R v Lord – attempt rape & assault by penetration – Defence Counsel – alleged sexual assaults as against his estranged wife

R v Saeedi – multiple rapes – Defence Counsel – acquitted

R v Butterworth – historic sexual abuse – junior Defence Counsel – privately funded case.

R v Stanley – multiple rapes – Defence Counsel – multiple allegations of sexual assault; multiple complainants – acquitted

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R v Higgins – historic familial sexual abuse – Defence Counsel – charged with allegations of historic sexual misconduct against his half-sister from when he was aged 13 and she was only 7 years old – acquitted of attempting to rape her and of repeatedly indecently assaulting her

R v Gabryszewski – rape – Defence Counsel – successfully defended a Polish national who spoke no English
Drugs and Money Laundering

R v Bailey & Others – Operation Kellington – conspiracy to supply Class A drugs – Defence Counsel – Prosecution conceded were unable to prove Class A drugs had been or were to be supplied to/by the Defendant, Bailey

R v Norwood & Others – Operation Heliodor – conspiracy to supply Class A drugs – Defence Counsel

R v Maher – encouraging/assisting the commission of an offence (supply cocaine) – Defence Counsel – unusual offence, contrary to s.45, Serious Crime Act – custodian of 85kg of cutting agents (“bash”)

R v Leighton & Others – Operation Afterburn – conspiracy to supply drugs – Defence Counsel – drugs supply line between Manchester and Portsmouth

R v Deaffern – Certificate of Inadequacy (Drug Trafficking Act 1994) – Defence Counsel – granted R v Shelton – Certificate of Inadequacy (Criminal Justice Act 1988) – Defence Counsel – granted

R v Freeman-Olugbenga & Others – Operation Hook – drugs importation – Defence Counsel – acquitted

R v Marra & Others – Operation Moth – conspiracy to supply cocaine – Defence Counsel

R v Kara – money laundering – Defence Counsel – allegations of cuckoo smurfing

R v Coppell & Others – Operation Binbrook – conspiracy to supply Class A drugs & money laundering – Defence Counsel

R v Dolan & Others – conspiracy to supply cocaine – Defence Counsel

R v McCallin – drug importation – Defence Counsel – HGV driver importing cannabis by the lorry load from Europe

R v Riley & Others – Operation Barometer – Defence Counsel – major conspiracy to supply cocaine across the North West

R v Whitworth & Others – Defence Counsel – conspiracy to supply cocaine from the Midlands to the North West – involved the importation of hundreds of kilograms of Benzocaine from China

R v Tang & Others – Operation Delmas – junior Defence Counsel – conspiracy to supply wholesale quantities of Class A drugs from London to the North West & money laundering

R v Hayhurst & Others – Operation Beath – Defence Counsel – money launderer charged in connection with international conspiracy to import/supply drugs – potential value in excess of £100 million

R v Healy & Others – Operation Rigging – Defence Counsel – large-scale conspiracy to supply drugs

R v Gregory & Others – Operation Perryville – Defence Counsel – 26 Defendants charged out of undercover drugs operation Fraud & Serious Dishonesty

R v Donaghy & Another – mortgage fraud – Defence Counsel

R v Conway – benefit fraud – Defence Counsel – failed to declare that her landlord had gifted her a house

R v Creaven & Others – Operation Fennel – Defence Counsel – car ringing – conspiracy to convert criminal property.

R v Davenport – theft – Defence Counsel – breach of trust case – executor of a will; stole sister's inheritance.

R v Ogunleye & Others – conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration – Defence Counsel – sham marriages between EU & Nigerian nationals.

R v Thompson & Others – fraud – junior Defence Counsel – million pound conspiracy to defraud elderly people throughout the UK – case against Thompson eventually dropped at trial.

R v Parsons – fraud – junior Defence Counsel – conspiracy to defraud multiple banking institutions – digital interception of credit card details from freestanding ATM units – technology employed never before seen in use in UK – stated to have the potential to cripple UK financial institutions.

R v Holt & Others – Operation Rochefort – Defence Counsel – 14 handed set-top box fraud – represented only Defendant against whom the case was eventually dropped.

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