



## Graham Wood Q.C.

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### Practice

Graham Wood practises substantially in medical, financial, public law and human rights issue cases, in both the criminal and civil jurisdictions. He is a leading silk in crime (North West) in Chambers Directory for the past three years and described as “Shrewd and difficult to blow off course and... particularly effective at fraud cases and those concerning infant deaths.”

In recent years, he has become involved in several complex cases involving child killings, developing an expertise in shaken baby syndrome, on which he has lectured, published in the Solicitors Journal, and collaborated with national journalists in relation to recent high profile developments. In another field, he has become involved in the human rights implications of public interest immunity law and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). He has also lectured on the use of medical experts in criminal trials and mentally disordered offenders, and has an in depth knowledge of the Mental Health Act 1983.

He is a member of the Criminal Bar Association, and sits as a Recorder in Crime, a legal adviser to the General Dental Council, and a President of Mental Health Review Tribunals (Restricted Patients Panel).

In the civil jurisdiction he is regularly instructed in cases of medical complexity, including brain and spine injury and clinical negligence and judicial review, particularly in the areas of coroners and education and occasionally sits as a Civil Recorder. He has been appointed recently to sit as a deputy high court judge in the Administrative Court.

### Indicative cases

#### Significant criminal cases within recent years include:

*R v Livingstone and Others* (Teesside Crown Court) Major drugs supply conspiracy in North East of England, representing lead defendant on 11 defendant indictment. 2 year investigation, using 15000 hours of covertly recorded surveillance at cost in excess of £22m. Case collapsed after legal argument voir / dire over many months.

*R v Roberts and Others* (Warrington Crown Court) Defence of proprietor and manager of children’s homes in Cheshire charged with fraud against local authority and child cruelty in relation to children with behavioural disturbance. Successful Galbraith submission.

*R v Williams* (Mold Crown Court) Defence of WPC charged with misfeasance in public office over death of prisoner in her care. Complex medical issues relating to brain death, signs and symptoms of unconsciousness etc. Succeeded on submission of no case to answer.

*R v Eden* (Preston Crown Court) Morecambe Bay Chinese Cockle pickers disaster. Successfully defended David Eden, (jury acquittal) alleged to have facilitated immigration breaches, and encouraged Chinese by arranging for wholesale purchase of cockles during a “double tide” operation.

*R v Mary Johnson* (Manchester Crown Court) Defence of proprietor of fund raising organisation on allegations of stealing from and defrauding brain-damaged children’s charity.

*R v Ivan Hue (Operation Greengage)* (Liverpool Crown Court). Defence of principal defendant on allegations of conspiracy to import Class A and Class C drugs from continental Europe into Lancashire.

*R v Dickens* (Knutsford Crown Court) Defence of property developer on allegations of extensive mortgage fraud involving major lending institutions, total alleged exceeding £1.7 million. Continuing proceedings concerning hidden assets.

*R v Patmore and others* (Manchester Crown Court) Prosecution of gang of young South Manchester men linked to over 30 violent robberies with the use of hijacked cars, all forensically linked. All five pleaded guilty to various conspiracy involvements after painstaking work by police and legal team to demonstrate links.

*R v Coburn and Others* (Manchester Crown Court) Prosecution of “Trafford Park” murder. Twins with identical DNA charged with murder of girlfriend of one. CCTV and forensic evidence unable to differentiate killer, and in absence of joint agreement to kill or cause gbh.

*R v Culshaw* (Preston Crown Court) Prosecuted trial of murder by defendant on girlfriend, strangled and left in flat for several weeks. Despite extensive decomposition of body, forensic evidence established a modus operandi similar to alleged rape and assault by D 20 years earlier. Use of new CJA provisions on bad character evidence to admit evidence in absence of conviction. One of less than 40 whole life terms nationally ordered.

*R v Grieve* (Carlisle Crown Court ) Prosecution of man accused of strangling girlfriend. Case depended on mobile phone cell site analysis and textual / language analysis of text messages to successfully disprove alibi of defendant.

*R v Gunn and Others* (Birmingham Crown Court) Police corruption case. Successful prosecution of notorious Nottingham gangland leader for using Nottingham officers to disclose intelligence in relation to murders in which he was suspected to be implicated. Use of complex surveillance and computer cloning techniques which required presentation to jury in understandable terms.

Graham Wood has a particular interest in infant death/cruelty cases, especially shaking, shake/impact allegations, with a developed understanding of complex competing medical theories. Cases include (acting for the defence):

*R v Murphy and Shering* (Winchester Crown Court, parents of 10 month old baby)

*R v Anim* (Woolwich Crown Court, parents of 6 month old baby)

*R v Walker* (Preston Crown Court, mother of 5 month baby, successful abuse/dismissal argument)

*R v Wilson* (Liverpool Crown Court, childminder, 6 month old baby)

*R v Wise* (Liverpool Crown Court, specialist maternity nurse, 5 month old baby)

*R v Tattum* (Winchester Crown Court, father 3 months old premature baby).

**Significant public law civil cases include:**

*R v Secretary of State ex parte Hickey and Others 1996* (challenging Home Secretary on criminal case review disclosure)

*R v Liverpool City Council ex parte Gumbhir 1999* (challenging street markets policy of local authority)

*R v Governors of St Edwards ex parte L 2000* (defending schools admissions policy)

*R v Coroner for South Sefton ex parte Hellebebrandt 2004* (narrative verdicts in coronial inquests)

*R v Governors of St Edwards ex parte Reilly 2009* (defending schools admission policy)

### **Other information**

Outside the law, Graham Wood acts as Deputy Chancellor to the dioceses of Liverpool and Chester, which has given him a grounding in ecclesiastical law. He is chairman of the governing body of a leading north west public school. He also has extensive experience as an offshore yachtsman, having participated in local and transatlantic yacht racing. He is a qualified coastal skipper yachtmaster, and has in depth knowledge of nautical matters on which he has occasionally been asked to advise in both a civil and criminal context.