EXCHANGE CHAMBERS

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Hal Watson

Call 2003

Clerks

Ian Spencer
0113 203 1971

Kate Heald
0113 203 1983

Zoe Tinnion
0113 518 2599

Sara Baxter
0113 203 1970

Appointments

- Grade 4 Fraud Panel Specialist
- Grade 4 POCA Panel
- Grade 3 General Crime Prosecutor

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- North Eastern Circuit
- Fraud Lawyers Association

Public Law

Hal has significant experience of judicial review proceedings relating to the criminal justice system, mostly (but not exclusively) based on claims with a link or association to the criminal justice system –notably challenges to prosecutorial decisions and challenges to investigative decisions.

In addition, he has significant experience of contempt of court proceedings in civil and criminal forums.

Hal has provided advice and representation in connection with applications for anonymity and reporting restrictions, as well as in relation to the disclosure of sensitive information, and publication – including under the DPA regime.

Cases

- (2017 – ongoing) – Instructed in an ongoing multi-jurisdictional fraud investigation in which there are a number of public law and civil claims relating to the obtaining of evidence, legal professional privilege, and the conduct of the CPS for the purposes of charging decisions.
- (2019 – ongoing) – Instructed in an ongoing multi-jurisdictional fraud and money laundering investigation in which parallel criminal and civil freezing orders are subject to appellate litigation in the Crown (appeal/discharge) and High Court (judicial review). Instructed to advise variously on AFO and restraint processes, the obtaining of evidence via MA and like mechanisms and the admissibility of evidence in civil and criminal proceedings including restraint/forfeiture.

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Recommendations

Consistently listed by Chambers UK as Tier 1 counsel.

See also historically from Chambers and Partners:

"A junior recognised for his experience in financial crime. He has a particular focus on the prosecution of large-scale fraud and money laundering cases."

"He is incredibly thorough and very hard-working ... a very good operator; he deals in large-scale, paper-heavy cases and is meticulous ... the go-to financial crime junior."