



NINESTJOHNSTREET

# CRIMINAL TEAM BULLETIN

Issue 4 - 18th May 2020

## WELCOME!

This is our fourth weekly bulletin. We appreciate the difficulties our clients and colleagues face during this difficult period. You can be assured that we strive to maintain our high standards of service. Via this bulletin we aim to keep you updated as to:

- our continuing work during the lockdown
- how as a team we can help you
- the latest key local and national information relating to the CJS
- how we can still keep connected remotely both professionally and socially

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- we continue our work on the full range of serious criminal cases.
- call us if you have any issue with a case. We are here to advise and assist you. Conferences with barristers can be conducted over Teams, Skype Zoom or Phone.
- we can arrange online training sessions via webinars in all areas of criminal law and advocacy. Last week several of our barristers were involved in bespoke advocacy training for a Manchester law firm via two webinars. Please contact either [chris.swann@9sjs.com](mailto:chris.swann@9sjs.com) or any barrister. If you think we could help you in a similar way.
- you can use our facilities in Chambers - e.g if you have a client on bail and wish to arrange a conference, they can attend Chambers and speak via a video link to both solicitor and counsel.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATES

**JURY TRIALS** - a limited number of jury trials are being heard this week, including one at Minshull Street (prosecuted by our own **Peter Cadwallader**). However, each of these trials needs 3 separate court rooms to ensure social distancing. It is a start, but clearly only a small step on the way back to resuming a full service, let alone clearing the mounting backlog. The president of the QBD has provided **interim guidance on the listing of trials**. For the time being any trials heard are likely to be short (under 2 weeks), paper light, and for single defendants on bail.

**OTHER HEARINGS** - the default position is that hearings are still being heard with advocates appearing remotely (Via Skype

## QUIZ NIGHT 13TH MAY AND RUN/WALK 9TH MAY

Thanks to all those who joined us for our 90's quiz night last Wednesday and well done to our winner Glen Siddall from **Aequitas Forensics** and Colin Rawson for the best team name: Flu Fighters!

Our YouTube page now has the full compilation of our run/walk on 9th May - click **here** to watch it.

or **CVP**), but some do now require attendance. If you are asked to attend please read this govt guidance, on procedures and expectations. The Northern Circuit Leader visited both Manchester Crown Courts recently - you can see her reports on the condition and adaptations made at **Minshull Street** and **Crown Square**.

**CHESTER CROWN COURT** - has provided detailed and prescriptive **guidance** on the listing of cases during the pandemic.

**YOUTH COURT** - The YJLC has provided **this useful guidance** about the listing of cases in the Youth Court.

**FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION** - at least the Lord Chief Justice appears to recognise some of the difficulties we are all facing in his **answers to the House of Lords Constitution Committee** last week.

**CORONAVIRUS LAWS** - Nigel Booth explains in **his podcast** how the Coronavirus Laws protect the vulnerable.

### SOME OF OUR RECENT WORK

Our team are trusted to defend and prosecute cases of the utmost seriousness and complexity. Here are some recent examples:

**APPEAL/VIOLENT DISORDER SENTENCE - David Bruce** appeared remotely using CVP in the Court of Appeal last week - the Court was addressed by four advocates from their homes/offices. The appellants were also present by remote link. An interesting point of law was that the sentencing judge was found to be in error when considering the Sentencing Council's "draft consultation" guide lines which were not perfected and not in-force at that time. The appeal was successful and the COA quashed all four original sentences which were substituted with significantly reduced terms; The original sentences were close to the maximum allowed for Violent Disorder which is 5 years. The Court emphasised that this length of sentence should be reserved for cases of the "utmost gravity" or the "worst possible case". See the MEN case link **here**.

**SERIOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CHILD ABUSE:** In March 2020 **Simon Blakebrough** successfully prosecuted a male and female defendant in a 13 day trial at Minshull Street Crown Court. Convictions included attempted rape, ABH, and Child Cruelty. Sentencing took place last Friday (with the defendants and defence advocates attending court, and with the interpreter and prosecution appearing remotely). The defendants received sentences of 15 years and 4 years imprisonment respectively. The MEN case report is **here**.

### **Crime Team Members** -

**click on a name a full profile**

- [Charles Garside QC](#)
- [Nicholas Clarke QC](#)
- [Simon Jackson QC](#)
- [Jaime Hamilton QC](#)
- [Peter Cadwallader](#)
- [Gordon Hennell](#)
- [David Bruce](#)
- [Mark Monaghan](#)
- [Nicola Gatto](#)
- [Darren Preston](#)
- [Nigel Booth](#)
- [Geoff Whelan](#)
- [Vanessa Thomson](#)
- [Alison Heyworth](#)
- [Jonathan Savage](#)
- [Robert Smith](#)
- [Fiona Wise](#)
- [Simon Blakebrough](#)
- [Phil Barnes](#)
- [Helen Longworth](#)
- [Hayley Bennett](#)
- [Andrea Lock](#)

### USEFUL LINKS

**Chambers Website:**  
[www.9sjs.com](http://www.9sjs.com)

**Twitter**  
<https://twitter.com/9StJohnStreet>

**Our YouTube Page**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/>