



NINE ST JOHN STREET

CRIMINAL TEAM BULLETIN

ISSUE 5 – TUESDAY 26TH MAY 2020

CHANGING THE NEW NORMAL...

Welcome to the fifth in our series of weekly bulletins. We are all doing our best to find new ways of working effectively in these strange times. The 9 St John Street criminal team continues to meet weekly (via Zoom, obviously) to ensure that we are all doing what we can on behalf of our professional colleagues and our clients. If you have a case in the hands of one of the team, we all remain available via email, Skype, Zoom or even the good old-fashioned dog-and-bone, to discuss whatever is needed. Get in touch, we will be happy to hear from you and to help.

As well as working on cases, members of the team are out there providing training, giving their time and expertise to professional bodies and working towards getting the criminal justice system back on its feet again as quickly and as safely as possible.

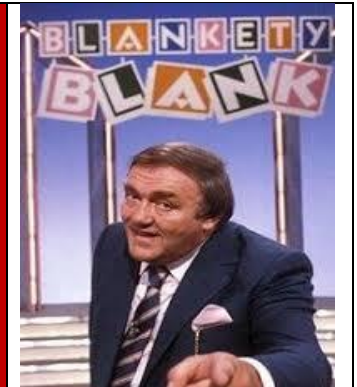
Chambers remains at work, with the full range of clerking facilities available. Conferences can be arranged with defendants on bail or in custody, and our senior clerk [Chris Swann](#), stands poised to help with whatever you need – just click his name.

TEAM UPDATE

- The Northern Circuit has been putting out news to us on a daily basis and it is an invaluable resource for the whole North-West legal profession. It is put together in very large part thanks to the incredible hard work of our very own [Helen Longworth](#). Circuit Leader Lisa Roberts QC said – quite rightly - of Helen this week: *“she has been the star of the show, with endless enthusiasm. We are all indebted to you”*.
- [Peter Cadwallader](#) is prosecuting the first effective trial in the great re-start at Minshull Street, having begun the case on Thursday 21st May. From these small steps, all of us will better learn how to safely return to keeping the wheels of justice spinning in the Crown Courts.
- While the Crown Courts start to find their feet, emergency, priority and remand work continues to be done in the local Magistrates’ Courts. [Phil Barnes](#) has spent the last few weeks sitting as a Deputy District Judge in Sheffield and Preston, dealing with new charges, domestic abuse cases and urgent custody trials – at an appropriate social distance!

TERRY OR LES?!

The team can’t decide which one [Nigel Booth](#) looks most like, but we’re looking forward to finding out whose spirit he will be channeling when he presents the 9SJS criminal team **“Blankety Blank Zoom Night”** on **Friday 5th June at 8pm**. Get in touch with [Chris](#), get on the guest list and join us for a bit of light relief.....mostly at Nigel’s expense.



JUDICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES FROM COURTS

- Jury trials have begun in four court centres, including Manchester's Minshull Street Crown Court, in the very safe hands of [Peter Cadwallader](#) (see above). Mr Justice Edis has provided an early update on the progress being made across the country. [Read it here](#). One trial per court centre at the moment, but three more buildings are likely to start trials soon, although none in the North. Watch this space.
- Of course, none of us want to be in court unless it's safe for our clients, for our colleagues, for us and for everybody else. Deputy Head of Chambers and Attorney-General of the Northern Circuit, [Jaime Hamilton QC](#), joined the Circuit Leader in a meeting with our senior judges to represent the views of the team on the safe restart of trials. The meeting led to some strong reassurances being given to all court users about the importance of their safety – read the response [here](#).
- Through all of this hard work, courts *are* sitting, and everybody will understandably be anxious. If you or your clients have to go to a court building, there is official government guidance on keeping safe. It is well worth a read. Do so [here](#).

The Criminal Team

- 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

- The gov.uk website carries much more detail on the planning being done to re-open courts safely, including the endorsements given by Public Health England. Those who have concerns about the systems in place in their local court centre – Magistrates' or Crown – are encouraged to get in touch with the local court management teams. The comprehensive government guidance then you will find it [here](#). If you need to discuss arrangements at the local courts then call us - we are happy to help.

(CLOUD) VIDEO NASTIES

- Most of us working in the criminal justice system have now got used to video-based platforms of one form or another. Until about 10 weeks ago, "Zoom" was a children's TV character and a half-decent Scrabble score, but now it and Skype for Business have become important tools of the trade. General information on digital hearings is [here](#). Members of the team have been involved in cases with defendants, judges, counsel, solicitors and witnesses all appearing remotely - and to good effect. But we are soon going to be getting to grips with "CVP" – "Cloud Video Platform" – as the default method of conducting remote hearings. The Northern Circuit have a helpful guide available [here](#).
- The team are working hard to get ahead of the curve with CVP before it comes online properly. [Nigel Booth](#), [Nicola Gatto](#) and [Hayley Bennett](#) have been in training and are pulling together some bespoke guidance to get us all up to speed. If they unearth any CVP mega-hacks, we'll be sure to share!
- If you do need any assistance with any of the digital platforms we are now being asked to use, please get in touch with us. We are rapidly building a wealth of experience that we are happy to share.

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USEFUL LINKS

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/9StJohnStreet>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxOjCmDIqQ98fWVScro0iu>