

CRIMINAL TEAM BULLETIN

ISSUE 7 – TUESDAY 16TH JUNE 2020

TEAM UPDATE

- The Northern Circuit has been giving us regular news updates and remains is an invaluable resource for the whole North-West legal profession. Our very own Helen Longworth continues to work hard on this, ensuring we all know what's going on.
- <u>Jaime Hamilton QC</u> has been organizing training and webinars left and right. On 9th June he held a webinar on unconventional routes to the Bar, guest starring other members of chambers including <u>Alison</u> Heyworth.
- Mark Monaghan, as part of his regulatory practice, has been advising a professional medical client through various stages if an investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority.
- Gordon Hennell recently appeared in a very serious matter of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving with a child victim. The defendant was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment. A link to the news article can be found here.

As well as this, members continue to provide entertainment. Friday night's Blankety Blank was a roaring success – hilarity ensured as Vera Duckworth (Alison Heyworth), Ricky Gervais (Geoff Whelan), Dame Edna (Vanessa Thomson), Cher (Andrea Lock) and The Boothmeister (Nigel Booth) gave us some very funny blanks to fill in. A special thanks to all who came along. If you missed it, check out the photo and be sure to attend the next one.

CHANGING THE NEW NORMAL...

If you have stayed with us until issue seven then thank you and welcome! You may notice we have reduced our bulletin to once per fortnight as we all settle into our new way of working.

Slowly but surely we do as a profession seem to be moving towards something sustainable. The 9 St John Street weekly team meetings are still ongoing to ensure we are all connected and up to speed with what's going on. Remember, if you have a case with one of the team, we all remain available via email, Skype, Zoom or telephone and are happy for the social interaction.

Chambers are up and running 5 days a week, so if there is a need for a face to face meeting this can be accommodated - in a socially distanced manner of course.



RETURNING TO COURT SAFELY

- The position remains that there is no desire to have anyone in court before it is safe. It does seem, however, that we are moving towards a time where it will be safe for professionals and clients to walk the concourse again at more and more locations. Last Monday, details were revealed of plans to reopen 16 more Courts across England & Wales. This included Bolton Crown Court which opened it's doors once again last week. In addition Chester Crown and Crewe Magistrates opened their doors yesterday, with Sefton and Wirral Magistrates set to follow the week after. Althought Burnley Combined court is set to open the week commencing 29thth June, it seems for now this will be for civil work only. A full list of courts due to open this week and next can be found here and here.
- Many team members are happy to appear in person as well as digitally, so do not hesitate to get in touch if your client requires in person representation. We are also expanding on our knowledge of virtual conferences and hearings, as well as the use of CVP and we are happy to share our findings, so do reach out if you require assistance. Our update this week is simply that Chrome remains the browser of choice. Our handy CVP Guide remains available here if you require more detail.
- The official government guidance remains a useful resource for anxious lay clients, and can be found 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

STRIVING FOR A MORE EQUAL WORLD

The goings on in the world right now are not limited to this global pandemic. As a chambers we are alive to the issues faced by minorities on a daily basis and we endorse the sentiments of the Leader of the Circuit in her message to all Circuiteers, which can be found here if you missed it.

As well as addressing the events surrounding the death of George Floyd, her message sets out the work being done by Circuit to improve diversity and support for minorities at the Bar.

Jaime Hamilton QC has also given his views to The Solicitors Journal on the disproportionate allocation of high profile cases amongst male and female lawyers. A link can be found to this important work here.

HERE FOR YOU

- This remains a difficult time for everyone, though hopefully the support bubbles will help! We remain here to discuss any concerns about the new normal of the courts with our lay and professional clients.
- <u>Chris Swann</u> is available daily to arrange conferences and meetings virtually or via socially distanced face to face.

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USEFUL LINKS

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YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxOjCmDIqQ98fWVScro0iu