



NINESTJOHNSTREET

CRIMINAL TEAM BULLETIN

ISSUE 1 - 27TH APRIL 2020

REMOTE CASES

We are busy progressing cases with the use of technology during the Covid-19 pandemic;

- Philip Barnes defended a client from PTPH through to sentence at Preston CC, in a county lines drugs case. All hearings were conducted via Skype. Phil successfully argued a reduction in sentence due to delays by other parties in obtaining the right equipment to deal with the case remotely.
- Geoff Whelan succeeded in an application to dismiss against a Silk. The hearing was heard over SKYPE.
- Robert Smith's pupil Adam White has been observing hearings remotely from home, ensuring his training continues prior to his second six.

WELCOME!

This is our first weekly bulletin. We appreciate the difficulties that all our clients, friends and colleagues face during this difficult period. You can be assured that we strive to maintain our high standards of service and will do what we can to assist you.

Via this bulletin we aim to keep you updated as to;

- our continuing work on serious criminal cases during the current public health crisis;
- how we, as a team, seek to assist our professional clients during the course of the next few weeks and months.
- the latest key local and national information relating to the criminal justice system;

HOW CAN WE HELP?

There are multiple ways in which we are able to be of service during this period;

- Call us if you have an issue with a case. We are here to advise and assist you.
- Conferences can be conducted over Teams, Skype, Zoom or phone.
- Webinars. See Nigel Booth's video on the Coronavirus Act <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEFE9S6EHWc> – more to follow in future..
- Online advocacy sessions, can be tailored to your teams needs. Jaime Hamilton QC is a trained advocacy trainer for both Gray's Inn and the Northern Circuit. He and other members of the team are happy to undertake online training to help improve those pleas in mitigation or sharpen your witness handling skills

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATES

A Covid 19 working party has been set up by the senior judiciary with a view to commencing jury trials as soon as it is safe to do so;

Liverpool Crown Court issued further guidance notes on the 22nd April 2020. Currently there will be no jury trials listed. However, parties must continue to prepare pending trials given the continuously changing landscape. This includes maintaining contact with defendants and communicating with witnesses;

Preston Crown Court are now considering the re-listing of trials up to the 15th May 2020. It is proposed that custody and vulnerable

Crime Team Members

- 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

witness cases will be listed as 'priority fixed floaters' in October 2020 and as fixtures in December 2020. Bail cases will be re-fixed early in 2021. Most cases will be listed for mention in the next couple of weeks to see if they are capable of resolution. (N.B. Our team members are actively reviewing their own caseloads. Should you require a conference with instructed counsel please contact us. We have facilities to arrange for any client currently on bail to attend chambers and participate in a remote conference with solicitor and counsel. [For more information contact Senior Criminal Clerk Chris Swann on 0161 955 5172 or via his work mobile 07977 490340.](#)

Manchester and Liverpool Crown Courts are now able to accommodate pre-hearing conferences with defendants in custody.

Chester Crown Court have indicated that no trial will take place while the Government lockdown is in operation. Those with cases listed as trials at Chester must assume the case will be listed for a mention hearing. Any defendants on bail will not attend court personally for such mentions but arrangements should be made to allow them to appear by SKYPE if possible. Defendants in custody will appear via PVL.

The Crown Prosecution Service have issued guidance for prosecutors concerning the review of cases during the current pandemic; <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/coronavirus-interim-cps-case-review-guidance-application-public-interest-covid-19>

Our very own Helen Longworth is assisting the Northern Circuit in preparing a daily bulletin, covering all the latest communiques from the various court centres, practice guidance from the Judiciary and hints and tips regarding the use of technology. You can find the Northern Circuit Bulletin here; <https://www.northerncircuit.org.uk/covid-19/daily-bulletins/>

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

We are looking to organise an online social, probably in the form of a quiz. If interested please contact Chris Swann our senior criminal clerk at chris.swann@9sjs.com or Vanessa Thomson at vanessa.thomson@9sjs.com.

FINALLY...

For those of you who are personally suffering the effects of this pandemic, or who are concerned about loved ones, our thoughts are with you. Please take care and stay safe.

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