

Matthew Howarth

Call to Bar: England & Wales 2016,
Northern Island 2020



‘Matthew is wise beyond his years, he quickly gets to grips with the issues in a case, and he produces clear, concise, jargon-free written and oral advice which is appreciated by solicitors and clients alike. He has a very good manner with clients and his advocacy is articulate, pointed, and very effective both in his questioning and submissions.’ - Legal 500, 2024

‘Matthew is an intelligent advocate who is good at getting to the core of a legal issue. A clear, concise, persuasive, and approachable barrister.’ - Legal 500, 2024

Inquest, Inquiries and Investigations

Matthew is a highly experienced barrister specialising in inquest work, inquiries, and investigations. His expertise spans a wide range of complex and high-profile cases, representing various parties including government departments, prosecution authorities, NGOs, and other interested parties.

Security Clearance

Matthew holds SC (Security Check) level vetting, allowing him to handle sensitive cases and information.

Notable Inquiries

Phone Hacking Scandal (Leveson Inquiry)

Matthew played a crucial role in this landmark inquiry into British press ethics:

- Represented 'Hacked Off', a victims' rights group who advocate for a free and accountable press
- Advised on judicial reviews regarding the prosecution of senior news group figures

Contact details:

matthew.howarth@lincolnhousechambers.com

Clerk Contact details:

Tprice@lincolnhousechambers.com
Ty Price – 0161 832 5701

Practice areas:

Business Crime & Financial Regulation
Civil Law
Criminal Law
Health & Safety
Housing Law
Immigration & Asylum Law
Industrial Disease
Inquests
Judicial Review Law
Licensing
Local Government
Regulatory
Property Law
Professional Negligence
Environmental Law
Legal Professional Privilege

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COVID-19 Inquiry

- As junior counsel for the Health and Safety Executive, Matthew reviewed evidence on the 'role of science' in the pandemic response.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

- Matthew was appointed to review evidence, focusing on the Diocese of Chichester case.

In these inquiries, Matthew's expertise was utilised to advise on evidence relevance, privilege, and Public Interest Immunity.

Significant Investigations

Glencore Prosecution

As Junior Panel Counsel for the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), Matthew was involved in this high-profile bribery case:

- Investigation into seven counts of bribery in the UK
- Company admitted to \$28 million in bribes across multiple African countries
- Resulted in a record £281 million penalty for a UK corporate criminal conviction

LIBOR Scandal

- While at Baker & McKenzie, Matthew was part of the financial investigation team who reviewed evidence in this global benchmark interest rate manipulation case.

Law Enforcement Collaborations

Matthew regularly represents Greater Manchester Police and the National Crime Agency as independent counsel, reviewing disclosure, Public Interest Immunity and evidence for Legal Professional Privilege (LPP)

Inquest Experience

Matthew has handled numerous Article 2 inquests, focusing on:

- Deaths in custody
- Fatalities during medical treatment (including psychiatric care)
- Cases linked to public service failings

His comprehensive approach and attention to detail make him a sought-after advocate in this field.

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Recent Inquests (2024)

- Re NK: Represented a prison in a ten-day inquest following NK's death
- Re CP**: Acted for the Probation Service in a case involving CP's death in the community post-release
- COVID-19 Related: Extensive experience in inquests related to deaths in prison following COVID-19 diagnoses, with in-depth knowledge of relevant policies and procedures during the pandemic

Matthew's diverse experience and expertise make him an invaluable asset in complex inquests, inquiries, and investigations across various sectors.

Summary of Appointments

Matthew represents the Northern Circuit on the Bar Council Executive.

Matthew was elected as the first ever Northern Chair for the Middle Temple Young Bar Association.

2021 – Serious Fraud Office – Panel C appointment

Crown Prosecution Service – Level 3 General Crime Panel Appointment and Level 2 POCA Panel Appointment

2020 – Attorney General Specialist Panel of Civil Counsel – C Panel

Level 2 Serious Crime Prosecution Panel CPS

Call to the Bar of Northern Ireland Michaelmas Term 2020

2019 – Specialist Regulatory Panel C Prosecution Advocate (Environment Agency and Health & Safety Executive)

2018 - Junior of the Northern Circuit

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