

LINCOLN HOUSE CHAMBERS MULTI- DISCIPLINARY CROSS OVER SEMINARS



DAY 2 - THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

**INQUESTS, INQUIRIES, PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, HEALTHCARE, MENTAL HEALTH,
HEALTH & SAFETY, CRIME, PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINARY**

Lincoln House Chambers is set to host three multi-session training seminars this autumn and winter, providing valuable legal updates and exploring the intersection of specialist practice areas across the Chambers' core fields of expertise. Delivered by leading experts, these seminars are designed to enhance practitioners' understanding when complex cases demand knowledge spanning more than one legal discipline.

Each training seminar will target specific practitioner audiences who already have a strong working knowledge of their principal area and are seeking to expand their competence into neighbouring or overlapping legal fields. Additionally, select seminars will offer focused legal updates tailored to practitioners wanting the latest developments in their area of expertise.

You are invited to attend the second day of seminars on Thursday 6th November at Manchester Hall, Bridge Street, Manchester from 2.00pm.

Room 1

Seminar 1:
2.15pm – 3.15pm

Inquest Law Update - This seminar will explore emerging legal trends from the Administrative Court and the Northern Ireland High Court, focusing on:

- ◆ State involvement in deaths
- ◆ Challenging procedural rulings
- ◆ The role of insanity in unlawful killing conclusions
- ◆ The evolving scope of Article 2 obligations for public bodies

This session offers valuable insights into the shifting landscape of inquest law and its intersection with public accountability and human rights. **Speaker: David Pojur**

Room 2

Seminar 2:
2.15pm – 3.15pm

Mental Health and Work-Related Death Inquests

The boundaries of what Coroners consider appropriate to include within the scope of inquests continue to expand, particularly in cases involving deaths linked to workplace bullying and stress. As working practices evolve and there is increased recognition of the importance of the 'health' aspect of health and safety, this is becoming a rapidly developing issue and a matter of significant public concern.

This seminar will examine the law in this area, how best to prepare for such inquests, and what future developments may look like. **Speaker: Austin Welch**

Room 3

Seminar 3:
2.15pm – 3.15pm

Inquests for Criminal Practitioners

Those who undertake criminal work will periodically encounter cases that intersect with a Coroner's Inquest. It is in the interests of both you and your client to have a clear overview of the inquest process.

- ◆ What is the potential interplay between the two jurisdictions?
- ◆ What do you need to be aware of?
- ◆ What is the process and the terminology?
- ◆ What does the "scope of the inquest" mean?

This session will cover the essential knowledge every criminal practitioner should have and will illustrate key considerations through parallel case studies.

Speaker: Paul Williams

Room 2

Seminar 5:
3.30pm – 4.45pm

Hillsborough Law - On 16 September, the Government laid before Parliament the Public Office (Accountability) Bill, commonly known as Hillsborough Law. The Bill introduces a duty of candour and assistance on public authorities and officials in relation to their involvement with public inquiries and inquests. It ensures that families of victims in state-related deaths are able to access non-means-tested legal assistance and advocacy at inquests and inquiries where public authorities are interested persons. It also introduces new criminal offences to replace the existing offence of misconduct in public office.

If enacted in full, the Bill is likely to have a significant impact on public inquiries and a large number of inquests.

This seminar will explore the main features of the Bill and its implications. Given the scope of the proposed changes, this session will be of interest to anyone involved in inquest and inquiry work, from both public-and private-sector perspectives.

Speaker: Austin Welch

Room 1

Seminar 4:
3.30pm – 4.45pm

Healthcare Inquests – This session will explore the scope of healthcare inquests, including the impact of potential investigations by the Police and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on care homes and providers. The seminar will examine the role of hospitals, NHS trusts, and maternity units as state bodies under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and the associated legal risks. It will also address potential prosecutions under health and safety legislation and the Health and Social Care Act.

Speaker: David Pojur



Room 3

Seminar 6:
3.30pm – 4.45pm

Professional Disciplinary Considerations in Criminal Cases – Professional clients facing criminal allegations must be concerned not only about the threat to their liberty, but also about the potential impact on their career, livelihood, and reputation should their regulator commence a parallel investigation. Understanding the interplay between criminal and professional disciplinary proceedings is essential for all those specialising in criminal defence who represent professional clients, in order to provide comprehensive advice and representation.

In this seminar, the speakers will examine the key aspects of professional discipline and regulation, as well as the main considerations for those acting in criminal proceedings – including the risks to be aware of and the opportunities not to be overlooked.

This session is particularly relevant for criminal law practitioners whose professional clients may also face disciplinary proceedings.

Speakers: Simon Gurney & Shirlie Duckworth

Paul Williams was called to the bar in 1994. Paul's practice is divided into 3 key areas, Crime, Inquests and Professional Disciplinary. He is adept at representing both individuals and bodies that might be exposed to criticism during inquests and inquiries. Whilst the majority of this work focusses on the health care professions, Paul has significant experience in a wider range of areas such as prison deaths, health & safety failings, accidents and situations involving psychiatric issues.



David Pojur was called to the bar in 2001. David specialises in Regulatory law covering the areas of Inquests and Coronial law, Health and Safety, Healthcare & Professional Discipline, and Environmental law. David sits as an Assistant Coroner and has appeared in the Grand Chamber of European Court of Human Rights. He is regularly instructed by solicitors to act for many of the country's large insurers, multinational corporations, utilities and properties companies, medical defence organisations and high net worth individuals.



Austin Welch was called to the bar in 2005, he specialises in public inquiries, inquests and health and safety and is one of the most experienced and well respected junior barristers in these areas of law. Over a number of years Austin has been consistently recognised by the UK legal directories as being a leading individual in these specialist areas of practice. Austin represents clients in relation to health and safety, fire safety and food safety offences. He is regularly instructed to represent companies and individuals charged with such offences in both the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court and has an excellent track record for achieving positive outcomes for his clients.



Simon Gurney has built a formidable reputation for his intellectual ability, diligence, tactical acumen and meticulous preparation. He brings sound judgment and tenacity to every case and is focused on ensuring the best possible result for his clients. Simon is consistently recognised as a leading Junior in both the leading legal directories, the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners. He is acknowledged for his expertise in three categories: crime; professional discipline; and financial and regulatory crime (including health and safety law).



Shirlie Duckworth was called to the Bar in 1997 but in 2002 transferred to become a solicitor specialising in criminal law. In 2012 Shirlie transferred back to the bar and enjoyed a very busy criminal and professional disciplinary practice for over a decade. In 2024 Shirlie became a Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University where she teaches the bar course whilst still maintaining a professional disciplinary practice from chambers.



**The sessions will be followed by drinks & canapes
at Banyan Spinningfields from 5pm, to which all are invited.
To obtain full details and reserve a place please email;
events@lincolnhousechambers.com**

**Please RSVP and indicate which room you
would prefer to attend for each session**



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