



TRANSPORT REGULATION AND ROAD TRAFFIC CRIME



THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2026

TRANSPORT REGULATION - ROAD TRAFFIC CRIME

On June 18th Lincoln House Chambers will host an afternoon of seminars providing valuable legal updates and thought-provoking discussion focussing on Transport Regulation and Road Traffic Crime. The seminars will be delivered by leading experts and will be of interest to both legal practitioners and also transport professionals.

You are invited to attend these seminars on Thursday 18th June at Manchester Hall, Bridge Street, Manchester from 2.00pm.

Room 1 Session 1:
2.00pm – 3.15pm

TRANSPORT REGULATORY

Civil Penalties for Clandestine entrants

This session will provide a practical overview of civil penalties for clandestine entrants, with a particular focus on the developing landscape following KLG. It will examine the statutory framework under section 35A and the associated Code of Practice, recent case law and its implications for liability and the former "effective system" defences, and common pitfalls in challenging penalties.

Speakers: Darren Finnegan & Matthew Howarth



Room 1 Session 2:
3.30pm – 4.45pm

TRANSPORT REGULATORY

Hot Topics in Transport: Key Compliance Issues

This session is aimed at legal representatives advising operators in the transport sector and will provide a practical overview of key compliance issues currently attracting scrutiny from the Traffic Commissioners. The session will address the importance of maintaining robust maintenance systems and the need to retain, regularly review and audit compliance documentation; and the need for effective director and management oversight of the licence as a whole. The focus of the session is to assist legal representatives in identifying common compliance issues, advising clients on preventative steps, and preparing for regulatory engagement or Public Inquiry proceedings.

Speakers: Richard Dawson & Sam Jones

Room 2 Session 1: 2.00pm – 3.15pm

ROAD TRAFFIC CRIME

The Future of Driving: Regulation of Self-Driving Vehicles?

Britain stands at the threshold of an automotive revolution. Self-driving vehicles have the potential to boost both road safety and the economy. However, commercial success will only be possible if the public trust the technology.

This session will identify the legal frameworks in place to ensure the protection of vulnerable road users and will address the major hurdle in regulating self-driving vehicles, pinpointing who is to blame in the event of a collision or traffic offence.

Speaker: Richard Dawson



Room 2 Session 2: 3.30pm – 4.45pm

ROAD TRAFFIC CRIME

Fleets, Tachograph and Roadworthiness.

“Companies who operate fleets are in a unique position in that criminal liability can attach to them very easily and for a multitude of reasons. Aiding or abetting offences such as tachograph misuse or construction and use breaches can result in unlimited fines and liability may be very difficult to avoid. Similarly, the sentencing guidelines for Magistrates dealing with companies who either permit or use a vehicle while overweight can be truly astronomical. For this session, Darren will outline what offences companies find themselves in hot water with, how to deal with them in court and how to avoid them in the first place.”

Speaker: Darren Finnegan

ROAD TRAFFIC CRIME

Sentencing where Dangerous Driving Cause Death or Serious Injury

With life imprisonment available for death by dangerous driving the stakes for clients could not be higher. And sentences in serious injury cases run the risk of being pulled upwards as a consequence. So can we get ahead of the curve and find proactive strategies that reduces final sentence outcomes? A seminar for those actively engaged in this area of law.

Speaker: Paul Williams



Paul Williams was called to the Bar in 1994 and has a long-established practice specialising in serious crime, inquests and professional disciplinary matters. He is highly experienced in representing individuals facing the most serious road traffic and motoring allegations, including fatal driving offences, dangerous driving, serious injury collisions and cases involving complex evidential or expert issues. Paul is particularly adept at representing drivers, operators and organisations exposed to criticism following fatal road traffic incidents and transport-related investigations. Alongside his criminal practice, he regularly appears in inquests arising from fatal collisions, workplace transport incidents and health and safety investigations, combining assured advocacy with a calm and reassuring approach for clients facing significant personal and professional consequences.



Darren Finnegan was called to the Bar in 2019 and is a specialist criminal and regulatory practitioner with extensive expertise in road transport law, Traffic Commissioner public inquiries and serious motoring offences. Drawing on his previous career as a heavy haulage driver and qualified transport manager, Darren is particularly adept at handling complex cases involving operator licensing, tachograph offences, maintenance failings and dangerous driving allegations.

Matthew Howarth was called to the Bar in 2016 and has developed a specialist practice in Civil penalty appeals and Public law. He is particularly well regarded for his expertise in clandestine entrant civil penalty litigation, regularly representing the SSHD, haulage operators and drivers in appeals brought under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Matthew appeared in the leading Court of Appeal authority of KLG Trucking SRL v SSHD [2024] EWCA Civ 737 and has successfully challenged substantial penalties imposed on both domestic and international operators. Alongside his transport practice, he also undertakes Judicial Review work before the High Court and Upper Tribunal, having appeared in a number of leading Immigration and Public Law cases, demonstrating detailed technical knowledge alongside strong and effective advocacy.



Samuel Jones was called to the Bar in 2011 and has extensive experience in HGV and PSV regulation, regularly appearing before Traffic Commissioners throughout England and Wales, on behalf of operators, transport managers and drivers. He has particular expertise in operator licensing, regulatory compliance, driver conduct matters and transport public inquiries, and is frequently instructed in cases involving significant commercial and reputational consequences. Sam is known for his calm and measured approach, remaining unflappable even in the most demanding and high-pressure cases. His reassuring manner with clients, combined with clear and effective advocacy, makes him a highly trusted choice for operators and individuals facing complex transport regulatory proceedings.

Richard Dawson is widely recognised as a leading expert in transport regulation and motoring law, with a practice spanning the full spectrum of criminal and regulatory transport and driving matters. He regularly represents national and international operators, transport companies and individuals in complex regulatory investigations, Public Inquiries and serious road traffic cases, whether commenced by the Police, DVSA or the OTC. Richard has particular expertise in criminal motoring cases, representing drivers and companies charged with causing either death or serious injury by dangerous or careless driving, tachograph and drivers' hours offences, vehicle defect prosecutions and large-scale transport enforcement matters. Renowned for his superb advocacy and approachable manner with clients, Richard combines robust representation in court with clear, practical advice and unwavering client support. He has achieved an exceptional success rate in defending clients facing serious motoring allegations and regulatory action, making him a go-to practitioner for all aspects of road transport law.



The sessions will be followed by drinks at a venue to be confirmed 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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