

## John Elvidge QC

Barrister

### Overview

John Elvidge QC prosecutes and defends cases of the utmost gravity.

#### Homicide:

- Multiple deaths;
- Causation issues (legal, factual and medical);
- Joint enterprise / secondary liability;
- Killing by/of children and young people;
- Diminished Responsibility and Loss of Control;
- Gross negligence manslaughter.

#### Organised crime:

- Fraud against financial institutions and insurance companies;
- Controlled drugs and medicines;
- Money laundering;
- Sexual offences against children;
- Blackmail and kidnapping;
- Applications for trial by judge alone, by protected jury and for witness anonymity orders.

#### Serious sexual offences:

- Sexual exploitation and human trafficking;
- Complaints against professionals;
- Familial abuse;
- Delayed complaints.

#### Regulatory work:

- Professional and police disciplinary hearings;
- Licensing.



Year Of Call / Year of silk

**1988 / 2010**

#### Practice Areas

Crime

Regulatory

Directory  
Recommendations:



*"His calm demeanour  
commands respect"*

**LEGAL 500 2015**

*"He is, for many, the first-  
choice silk on the North  
Eastern Circuit."*

**LEGAL 500 2014**

## Notable Cases

### Homicide

#### R-v- Campbell – Teesside.

Mr Campbell was accused of the murder of an 86 year old man by strangulation. He admitted manslaughter and was acquitted of murder. Instructed by Hudsons Hart and Borrowes, Richmond.

#### R v Barras - Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr Barras was convicted of gross negligence manslaughter; he failed to summon medical assistance for his sister when he knew that she was gravely ill. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

#### R v Briggs - Newcastle upon Tyne

Carer convicted of the murder of a pensioner in a care home. Instructed by MacKenzie Bell, Washington.

#### R v C - Bradford

Mr C was accused of causing/ allowing the death of his child contrary to section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. The case concerned alleged non-accidental head injury to newborn baby presented with catastrophic brain haemorrhage and venous sinus thrombosis. Experts were engaged from a range of specialisms: neuropathology, ophthalmic pathology, neuroradiology, neonatology, paediatric ophthalmology and paediatric haematology. Upon receipt of detailed defence submissions on causation, and on the insufficiency of evidence generally, the prosecution offered no evidence against the defendant. Instructed by Kingsley Brookes, Huddersfield.

#### R v Driver - Leeds

Mr Driver was accused of the murder of CH and the attempted murder of CP, Scottish visitors to the village of Marsden. He was acquitted of the both charges but convicted of manslaughter in respect CH on a 'cut-throat' defence. Instructed by Kingsley Brookes, Huddersfield.

#### R v Emmonds - Newcastle upon Tyne

Mrs E was convicted of the murder of her grandson's mother. Loss of control and Diminished Responsibility were issues in the case. Instructed by Alderson Dodds, Blyth.

#### R v Garner & Keane - Newcastle upon Tyne

Two teenagers convicted of murder after stabbing a father of two in Stanley, County Durham. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

Directory  
Recommendations:



*"He has a heavyweight  
criminal practice."*

**CHAMBERS & PARTNERS 2016**

**Continued. . .**

**R v Gaskin - Leeds**

This teenage defendant was charged with murder following an incident amongst the travelling community at the Lee Gap Fair. The case resolved by his guilty plea to conspiracy to do grievous bodily harm. Instructed by Grahame Stowe Bateson, Leeds.

**R v Haigh - Truro**

Thomas Haigh was accused of the double murder of senior criminal associates by shooting, their bodies and car were burnt and buried by the co-accused in a pit (using an excavator) at a small-holding in Cornwall. Instructed by Kingsley Brookes, Huddersfield.

**R v Hope - Newcastle upon Tyne**

The accused was convicted of murdering his partner in the context of a long history of domestic abuse. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

**R v M - Newcastle upon Tyne**

M was acquitted of manslaughter on account of concessions on cause of death, elicited in cross-examination of pathologist leading to the Crown offering no evidence and a not guilty verdict. Instructed by Lawson & Thompson, Ashington.

**R v Miller - Leeds**

John Miller was charged with the murder of his wife and daughter in their family home. Psychiatric evidence was used to resolve the case by pleas of manslaughter on grounds of Diminished Responsibility. Instructed by Grahame Stowe Bateson, Leeds.

**R v Patterson - Newcastle upon Tyne**

Glen Patterson was convicted of manslaughter by reason of Diminished Responsibility after killing his father and grandmother at their home in Benton. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

**R v Rought & Smith - Newcastle upon Tyne**

The defendants were convicted of murder (Mr Rought) and manslaughter (Mr Smith) after beating the deceased with a baseball bat and cutting his throat at a party in Shiney Row, County Durham. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

**R v Ruddy - Newcastle upon Tyne**

Martin Ruddy was convicted of killing his mother and father, crimes which he attempted to conceal by staging a burglary and claiming to have been a victim of the intruders. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

**Appointments:**

Queen's Counsel (2010)

Head of York Chambers (2011)

Head of Dere Street Barristers  
(2011 to date)

Master of the Bench,  
Gray's Inn (2014)

Leader of the North Eastern  
Circuit (2014 to date)

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**Memberships**

North Eastern Circuit

Gray's Inn

Criminal Bar Association

Bar Council (2007-2010,  
2013 to date)

General Management  
Committee of the Bar  
Council (2014 to date).

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**Continued. . .**

**R v Sowerby - Teesside**

Axe murder of a well-known former amateur boxer at a New Year's Eve party in Hartlepool. Instructed by TBI, Hartlepool.

**General Crime**

**Defending**

**R v B – Sheffield**

Mr B, company director charged with conspiracy to convert criminal property (scrap metal). Charge was dismissed and ancillary allegations of receiving stolen goods were stayed for abuse of process. Instructed by TBI, Hartlepool.

**R v F – Leeds**

Allegations of ill treatment contrary to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 made against Mr F and his wife, who were directors of a residential care home. Case stayed for abuse of process. Instructed by Grahame Stowe Bateson, Leeds.

**R v H – Teesside**

Mr H acquitted of conspiring to supply kilos of cocaine on a successful submission of no case to answer at the conclusion of the prosecution case. Instructed by TBI, Hartlepool.

**R v R – Woolwich**

R was tried on a charge of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in a murder trial (alleged jury tampering). Informant evidence was called pursuant to a section 73 agreement. The case was stayed for abuse of process on account of failures in the disclosure process. Instructed by Haswell & Cornberg, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**R v Singh and others – Newcastle upon Tyne**

A conspiracy to supply heroin with a potential street value of £millions; the case was described by the judge as one of the largest cases of its kind to come before the courts in the North East of England. The lead defendant was a former police officer. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

**R v Xue – Bradford**

A blackmail / kidnapping case involving the son of a Shanghai shipping merchant who was held in a house in West Yorkshire for a ransom of \$2,000,000. This case was the subject of a successful appeal against sentence: [2012] 1 Cr. App. R. (S.) 91. Instructed by Kingsley Brookes, Huddersfield.