



Harriet Gilchrist

Call 2016

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Harriet Gilchrist has developed a multi-disciplinary practice, with a particular focus on public inquiries, inquests and public law.

Having previously practised in criminal law, Harriet is not only an adept advocate but has a comprehensive understanding of criminal and quasi-criminal hearings and procedure. Consequently, Harriet is well placed to act in Health & Safety cases. With her combined experience of criminal, public and regulatory law Harriet is well placed to advise in matters involving compliance, investigations, adjudication, enforcement and prosecutions.

Harriet has gained significant advocacy experience for someone of her call, making her an adept advocate and sound witness handler. Harriet's advocacy experience encompasses first hearings, jury trials, sentencing and appeals. Harriet has considerable experience in questioning expert witnesses and vulnerable witnesses.

In addition to her court experience, Harriet frequently accepts instructions to provide written legal advice within her sphere of expertise.

Expertise

Inquiries

Harriet has acted for the Inquiry and Core Participants. Harriet is currently instructed on the Undercover Policing Inquiry (CTI), the Covid-19 Inquiry (BEIS) and the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan (MoD). Harriet was previously instructed as part of the Inquiry Team on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry and by the Department of Health and Social Care in the Infected Blood Inquiry.

Such work means Harriet is adept in the forensic analysis of complicated and voluminous material and has experience of working closely with experts, drafting Rule 9 and Rule 10 letters, closing submissions and cross examination plans.



Harriet's work on the Undercover Policing Inquiry, coupled with her background, means she has a comprehensive knowledge of police law and regulations.

On the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, Harriet was involved in two key areas, namely the regulatory regime for fire safety and the testing and certification of construction products. Consequently, she has developed a broad knowledge of fire safety legislation and guidance, the Building Regulations, Part B, Approved Document B and related policy. Harriet worked with the Inquiry expert providing further detailed understanding of fire spread and protection measures.

Notable Inquiries cases

[Undercover Policing Inquiry](#)

[Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

Inquests

Harriet has acted on behalf of the family and other interested parties at inquests. Her inquest experience includes deaths arising from road traffic accidents, restraint related deaths and those following engagement with the police, medical professionals and mental health services.

Harriet's experience questioning lay, expert, police and vulnerable witnesses makes her well placed to act on behalf of the family and other interested parties at Inquests.

Harriet is adept at advancing legal arguments at all stages, including on the potential engagement of Article 2, whether an inquest should resume following further independent investigations and/or criminal trial, Regulation 28 and neglect.

Notable Inquests cases

[Inquest into the Death of Sharon Harman](#)

[Inquest into the Death of LC](#)

Public Law

Harriet has acted both for and against public bodies in a range of public law matters, including judicial review proceedings and civil claims against public bodies.

Harriet has extensive knowledge of the Equality Act 2010 and regularly provides advice to public bodies on potential breaches and acts in cases where such a breach has been alleged. Such cases also frequently involved consideration of the ECHR and whether rights, especially in relation to Article 8, have been infringed.

Harriet was instructed in a judicial review claim arising from alleged extra-judicial killings by UK armed forces in Afghanistan. Harriet is well placed to act in such matters as she is experience in handling highly



sensitive material.

Harriet has also acted in judicial review proceedings and defamation claims against well-known bodies on behalf of high-profile individuals.

In the field of prison law, Harriet has acted on behalf of prisoners in relation to decisions regarding the Parole Board, security categorisation, licensing conditions and release dates. Harriet also has experience of judicial review and civil damages claims brought by prisoners.

Health & Safety

Having previously practised in the full range of criminal and quasi-criminal hearings before the Magistrates' Court, Crown Court and Court of Appeal, Harriet is well placed to act in Health & Safety cases.

Harriet's knowledge of the rules of criminal procedure and evidence combined with her jury advocacy experience means she is well placed to advise and act in such matters. Harriet has extensive experience in advising on sentence, ranging from fines to substantial custodial sentences.

Further, Harriet is able to draw on her wider knowledge and experience to advise at all stages of the investigation and prosecution.

Professional Discipline

Harriet appears in professional discipline proceedings. She has acted in interim order reviews, fitness to practice substantive hearings, substantive order reviews and appeals brought by registrants against regulatory decisions.

Harriet has appeared on behalf of the Nursing & Midwifery Council and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Harriet has also acted as a Legal Adviser to a Local Authority Licensing Committee in matters involving restaurants, bars, pavement licences and large outdoor public events.

Environmental Law

With regards to environmental law, Harriet's experience coupled with her knowledge of criminal and civil sanctions makes her well placed act in environmental law cases. Harriet has provided advice to and prosecuted on behalf of public authorities and private prosecutors; and for individuals and/or companies being prosecuted for environmental offences, including regulation of waste, environmental permitting and statutory nuisance.



Appointments

- Attorney General Junior Junior Scheme
- Crown Prosecution Service – Level 2

Awards

- President's Award, University of Law

Education

- BPTC, University of Law
- GDL, Kaplan Law School
- Geography (BA), University College London

Memberships

- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Health and Safety Lawyers' Association (HSLA)

Publications

- ARDL
- ALBA
- HSLA