



“5 Essex Court’s barristers are at
the cutting edge of everything”

Chambers UK

Top-tier civil law set of chambers recognised for
our exemplary client service, depth and breadth of
experience in our specialist areas and the
outstanding quality of our counsel

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Jason Beer QC
Call: 1992 Silk: 2011



Jason is recognised as a leading silk, and is recommended as the Star Individual for both Police Law and Inquests and Public Inquiries by Chambers UK. Jason specialises in public inquiries, inquests, public law and police law. He represents a range of clients, including central government, public authorities, police forces, coroners, and corporations, who are “very impressed by his client care” and note that he “Produces very effective legal submissions, and cross-examines with the panache of a top-flight criminal silk” (Chambers UK).

Jason often leads teams of counsel in complex, high-profile and sensitive investigations, inquiries and claims. His multi-disciplinary background (before taking silk, he was Junior Counsel to the Crown (A Panel); he currently sits as a Recorder on the South-Eastern Circuit) allows him to provide a service across a range of jurisdictions and fields of law: clients appreciate his ability to take a case from the investigatory stage (including giving advice on issues of criminal law such as corporate manslaughter and health and safety), advising or acting in any inquest or inquiry, appearing in any misconduct, criminal or disciplinary proceedings, and then handling any civil proceedings (including appellate proceedings to the Supreme Court).

He has provided this end-to-end service in a number of the most prominent cases of the last two decades. His caseload has included: the **Stephen Lawrence Inquiry**, the **Hutton Inquiry**, the **Shipman Inquiry**, the **'Phone Hacking' Claims**, the **Hillsborough Inquests**, the **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse**, **Sir Cliff Richard's claim for misuse of private information**, and the **Grenfell Tower Inquiry**.

Jason is the Head of Chambers of 5 Essex Court.

Recommendations

"The man who wrote the book on public inquiries. I think he is just unflappable; he knows inquiries inside out, commands the respect of the judiciary and invokes a lot of trust in clients" (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2020

"A superb barrister who excels in complex and technical claims. He is an excellent tactician." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2020

"Exceptional legal analyst and persuasive advocate in this specialist area. He gets involved in many high-value and demanding cases." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2020

"He's been through everything that can possibly come up in the course of an inquiry and has so much experience to draw upon" (Inquests and Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2020

"He's a consummate professional and leader for inquest work, who's amazing on his feet." (Inquests and Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2020

"A class act who has a very good reputation." (Administrative and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2020

"He has an exceptional legal mind and is very strategic about the way he approaches cases." (Inquests and Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2020

"He really listens and engages with the points you are making. He is an extremely experienced advocate who is very good on his feet and has an excellent style with the judge." (Administrative and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2020

Jason is consistently ranked by the major legal directories as a leading practitioner in four practice areas - 'police law for defendants', 'professional discipline', 'public inquiries' and 'administrative and public law'.
Chambers UK & Legal 500

He is extremely hard-working, incredibly intelligent and completely unflappable under extreme pressure. (Inquests and Inquiries)
Legal 500 2020

"He is a leader in the field in relation to malicious prosecution." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"He is a fantastic advocate who is brilliantly articulate and effective in questioning witnesses." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"His knowledge of this area is phenomenal and his public inquiry experience is excellent." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"He's highly experienced, very practical and commercial, with superb cross-examination skills." (Inquests and Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2019

"He has excellent judgement and is a supremely good advocate. He very quickly earns the trust of his clients." (Inquests and Public Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2019

"He uses his time very effectively, is very focused and is a very effective advocate." (Admin and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"Produces very good written pleadings and excellent oral submissions." (Admin and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"He has a wonderful, calm manner and an excellent style." (Admin and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"A really good advocate." (Professional Discipline)
Chambers UK 2019

"Clear and very strong on detail." (Professional Discipline)
Chambers UK 2019

‘Extremely hardworking, intelligent and completely unflappable under extreme pressure.’ (Inquests and Inquiries)
Legal 500 2019

‘A leading practitioner in the malicious prosecutions arena with tremendous work ethic.’ (Police Law - Defendant)
Legal 500 2019

“He is massively knowledgeable about public inquiries.” (Inquests and Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2018

“He’s an incredibly gifted advocate and is immensely hard-working.” (Inquests and Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2018

“He is simply excellent, his technical knowledge is outstanding and he is incredibly thorough and astute.” (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2018

“He is incredibly hard-working, very impressive on paper and a great advocate.” (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2018

“A superb barrister who excels in complex and technical claims.” (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2018

“Incredibly thorough with detail.” (Professional Discipline)
Chambers UK 2018

“Very diligent and very bright.” (Professional Discipline)
Chambers UK 2018

“He is unflappable, he's practical, clients like and respect him, and his advocacy is second to none.” (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2017

"His ability to review and take in the central features of a case is brilliant." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2017

"He goes the extra mile when needed." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2017

"Produces very effective legal submissions, and he cross-examines with the panache of a top-flight criminal silk. Just a great all-rounder." (Inquest and Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2017

"He has a fantastic capacity for hard work." (Inquest and Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2017

"He handles difficult briefs wonderfully and has an extremely effective manner of advocacy. He makes the best of every point and has a great deal of experience as counsel to the inquiry." (Inquest and Inquiries)
Chambers UK 2017

“He’s very, very bright and has a nice manner with the court. He’s an impressive advocate and his written work is very good. He’s the real deal.” (Professional Discipline)
Chambers UK 2017

"Very impressed by his client care. He involves himself deeply in cases and stays on top of everything." (Admin and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2017

"His technical abilities truly stand out. Easy to have confidence in him." (Admin and Public Law)
Chambers UK 2017

"Understated and takes a reasonable line. He gains the confidence of courts by being agreeable." (Admin and Public Law)
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Public Inquiries

Jason has appeared in most of the significant public inquiries of recent times: he has now appeared in 16 public inquiries, mainly on behalf of central government or other public authorities, or as counsel to the inquiry. He is ranked as a leader in this field by both of the major directories, sources noting that "...Jason can do everything. He is a lateral thinker and tactician and will usually think of a solution however novel the situation" (Chambers UK). He wrote the leading practitioner's text, Public Inquiries, for the Oxford University Press.

Notable inquiries include (over the past 10 years):

Grenfell Tower Inquiry – Leading Counsel for the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse – Leading Counsel for the Metropolitan Police, Devon & Cornwall Police, and Dorset Police

Undercover Policing Inquiry – Leading Counsel for a number of police forces, and for individual officers

Renewable Heat Incentive Inquiry- – Leading Counsel for Ofgem

Anthony Grainger Inquiry – Leading Counsel to the Inquiry

Leveson Inquiry - Counsel for Metropolitan Police Director of Public Affairs.

Al-Sweady Inquiry - Second Counsel to the Inquiry

Baha Mousa Inquiry - Leading Counsel for 15 Soldiers

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry - Leading Counsel for the Northern Ireland Office

Billy Wright Inquiry - Leading Counsel for 92 serving and retired prison officers and governors

Inquests

As well as appearing in inquests themselves, Jason is often instructed in related proceedings in the Administrative Court. He is rated as a Band 1 silk for Inquests.

He acts on behalf of coroners whose decisions and actions are challenged. He appeared on behalf of the Ministry

of Defence in the **Porton Down Inquest** into the death in 1953 of a serviceman who acted as a “human guinea pig” testing the Sarin nerve agent. He advised the Metropolitan Police Service on the public law aspects of the inquest into the **7/7 Bombings** in London represented the Parole Board in the **Naomi Bryant Inquest**, and **Surrey Police in the Surrey Puppy Farm Murders Inquest**.

Jason also acts for individuals and corporation – he acted for the University of Manchester in three inquests into the deaths of academic staff who occupied the Rutherford Rooms at the University; for G4S in an inquest into the death of an employee shot by a colleague in Iraq; for an academy in an inquest into the death of a pupil following allegations of bullying at school; for a leading prep school in an inquest concerning the death of a parent on the school's premises; and for Sheffield Wednesday Football Club in the **Hillsborough Inquests**.

Notable cases include:

R (Hicks) v Senior Coroner for Inner North London (2017) 181 JP 1

R (McLeish) v HM Coroner for the Northern District of Greater London [2010] All ER (D) 211

R (Independent Police Complaints Commission) v HM Coroner for Inner North London [2009] EWHC 2681 (Admin)

R (Sutovic) v HM Coroner for the Northern District of Greater London [2006] EWHC 1095 (Admin)

R (Ministry of Defence) v HM Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon [2006] EWHC 309 (Admin)

Regina (Hurst) HM Coroner for Northern District London [2003] EWHC 1721 (Admin)

Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v HM Coroner for Southwark [2003] 1 WLR 371

HM Coroner for Wiltshire & Swindon v Ministry of Defence [2002] EWHC 2567 (Admin)

Police Law

Jason appears in the full range of disciplines on behalf of the police service. He has been instructed by nearly all of the 43 forces in England and Wales, by many Police and Crime Commissioners and by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

He has appeared in a significant number of civil jury trials for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution and non-jury actions for assault. These are often ‘high profile’ claims where serious allegations of racism and / or corruption have been made. He successfully defended Gwent Police against a claim seeking £9m in damages arising from the investigation of a prominent firm of solicitors specialising in the defence of those accused of road traffic law offences and successfully defended South Wales Police in a claim brought by a former solicitor for £2m in damages for malicious prosecution. He is presently defending Norfolk Police in a claim seeking over £30m in damages arising from the prosecution of two directors of a chain of private psychiatric hospitals for fraud and the IOPC in a claim for substantial damages for misfeasance in public office and negligence arising from a series of disciplinary proceedings brought against police officers.

Jason has also appeared in non-maleficance claims involving the police service. He acted on behalf of the Attorney-General in the application for disclosure of police documents in the **Madeleine McCann case**; and represented the Counter-Terrorism Command in the **Omagh Bombing Trial** in the High Court in Northern Ireland. He acted on behalf of the Metropolitan Police in the **Phone Hacking** claims and on behalf of South Yorkshire Police in Sir Cliff Richards’ claim for damages for misuse of his private information.

He has acted and advised in over 300 discipline and misconduct cases. These have often involved complex misconduct investigations and substantial document intense, misconduct hearings.

Appearing in many difficult and sensitive inquests involving the police service, Jason acts in inquests involving the deliberate use of lethal force by police officers (firearms incidents), suicides and other deaths in police custody. These might involve allegations of lack of care and deaths in road traffic accidents following pursuits by police vehicles. Jason was counsel for the Metropolitan Police Service in the **New Cross Fire Inquest** - a three month inquest into the deaths of 13 children at a birthday party in 1981.

Jason's public law practice frequently sees him acting on behalf of the police service in the Administrative Court. Cases have involved challenges to a policy on police cautioning, to disclosures made to the Disclosure and Barring Service, to national policies on the retention of information for policing and other purposes. Jason acted for the Metropolitan Police Service in the **David Miranda** judicial review, successfully defending the challenge in the Court of Appeal to the use of powers under the Terrorism Act 2000; and for the Metropolitan Police Service in Officer W80's challenge to the approach taken by the IOPC to the law of self-defence in fatal use of force cases.

Jason also carries out a significant amount of advisory work on non-contentious police business including for ACPO, the NPCC, the Home Office, the IOPC and Police and Crime Commissioners This is on operational and policy matters, including in relation to sensitive and terrorist related issues. Additionally, he has also provided advice on the operation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Notable cases include:

***R (Officer W80) v Director General of the Independent Office for Police Conduct* [2019] EWHC 2215 (Admin)**

***Rudall v (1) Crown Prosecution Service and (2) Chief Constable of South Wales* [2019] Lloyd's Rep FC 115**

***Evans & Ashcroft v Chief Constable of South Wales* [2019] ICR 583**

***Sir Cliff Richard v (1) BBC and (2) Chief Constable of South Yorkshire* [2018] 3 WLR 1715**

***Breeze & Wilson v Chief Constable of Norfolk* [2018] EWHC 485 (QB)**

***R (R) v National Police Chiefs Council* [2017] EWHC 2586 (Admin)**

***Miranda v Secretary of State for the Home Department & Ors* [2016] 1 WLR 1505**

***Rudall v (1) Crown Prosecution Service & (2) Chief Constable of South Wales* [2016] EWHC 2884 (QB)**

***R (Commissioner of Police) v Independent Police Complaints Commission* [2015] EWCA Civ 1248**

***Daniels v Chief Constable of South Wales Police* [2015] EWCA Civ 680**

***Various Claimants v News Group Newspapers Ltd* [2014] 2 WLR 756**

***A and B v Chief Constable of Hampshire* [2012] EWHC 1517 (QB)**

***Various Claimants v News Group Newspapers Ltd* [2012] 1 WLR 2545**

***Al-Hassan Daniel v Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs* [2011] 2 WLR 488**

Richardson v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police (2011) Cr.App.R.1

Hayes v Chief Constable of Merseyside Police (2011) 2 Cr App R 30

Howarth v Chief Constable of Gwent Police and Gwent Police Authority [2011] EWHC 2836 (QB)

Public / Administrative

Jason is instructed in all areas of public law work. He specialises in claims that arise from the operation of the criminal justice system. Jason has particular expertise in corporate manslaughter and health and safety investigations and prosecutions - where experience in inquests, the criminal courts and in civil claims is essential.

Jason appears on behalf of central government, other public authorities, including the police service, the Independent Office for Police Conduct, the prison service, coroners and for corporate clients.

Notable cases include:

Competition and Markets Authority v Concordia International Rx (UK) Ltd – this involved a series of challenges, including:

- As to the procedure to be followed for the hearing of applications to vary or discharge warrants issued under the Competition Act 1998 s.28 giving the Competition and Markets Authority the power to enter business premises: **[2017] EWHC 2911 (Ch)**;
- The Court of Appeal's decision on that issue: **[2018] EWCA Civ 1881**;
- The ruling of the High Court that a special advocate should not be appointed in connection with the challenge: **[2018] EWHC 3158 (Ch)**;
- The ruling of the High Court that evidence relevant to the application to discharge the warrant was protected from disclosure by PII: **[2018] EWHC 3448 (Ch)**; and
- The ruling of the High Court dismissing the application to discharge the warrant: **[2019] EWHC 47 (Ch)**.

R (Children's Rights Alliance for England) v Secretary of State for Justice [2013] 1 WLR 3667

R (FGP) v Serco PLC [2012] EWHC 1804 (Admin)

R (on the application of E1) v The Chairman of the Azelle Rodney Inquiry [2012] EWHC 563 (Admin)

Kennedy v Charity Commission (No 2) [2012] WLR 3524

R (GC & C) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis [2011] 1 WLR 1230

Kennedy v (1) Information Commissioner and (2) Charity Commission (No 1) [2011] EWCA Civ 367

Regulatory

Jason's regulatory practice extends far beyond the police service. He often advises and represents individuals, corporate officers, companies, and public authorities facing investigation and prosecution for safety based

regulatory offences.

Previous clients have included Smurfitt Kappa, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, an academy school, a leading preparatory school, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Chief Constables of Devon and Cornwall and South Wales Police.

A feature of his regulatory practice is where criminal investigations conducted by the police service and the HSE have been conducted concurrently with other investigations – he has been instructed in many high-profile inquests and public inquiries over the past two decades where such investigations overlap (see Public Inquiries and Inquests).

Jason additionally acts for other regulators in criminal and other investigations. He is presently acting for Ofgem in the **Renewable Heat Incentive Inquiry**. He has acted for the Financial Reporting Council in its investigation and supervisory inquiry into HBOs; and for the Competition and Markets Authority in its investigation into generic pharmaceuticals; in relation to a challenge to a search warrant issued under s28 of the Competition Act 1998; and in its investigation into secondary ticketing.

Information Law

Jason provides advice and representation to public and private organisations in relation to a wide range of issues concerning information law.

Examples of his cases include:

Appeared in the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights Chamber), the Investigatory Powers Tribunal, the High Court and the Court of Appeal in relation to such issues, including in claims concerning the extent of Art.3 ECHR (*R (CRAE) v Secretary of State for Justice* [2013] 1 WLR 3667) and Art.10 ECHR (*Kennedy v Information Commissioner* [2012] 1 WLR 3524).

Assisted police forces and central government in relation to the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016.

Advised and acted in claims relating to the operation of the Disclosure & Barring Service and (Enhanced) Criminal Records Certificates (including concerning the disclosure of reprimands – *R (R) v National Police Chief's Council* [2017] EWHC 2586 (Admin)).

Acted in claims concerning the misuse of private information (he acted in the claim brought by **Sir Cliff Richard against the BBC and South Yorkshire Police**, and previously represented the Metropolitan Police Service in the **Phone Hacking Claims**).

Health & Safety

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Jason is the Head of Chambers of 5 Essex Court

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Devon & Cornwall Police, and Dorset Police Undercover Policing Inquiry – Leading Counsel for a number of police forces, and for individual officers

Renewable Heat Incentive Inquiry- – Leading Counsel for Ofgen

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