



DWF Criminal Defence Team

DWF's dedicated team of specialist Criminal Defence lawyers provides a seamless service to DWF's insurer, business and individual clients spanning the social care, education, retail and motor sectors amongst others, with particular expertise in the Director & Officer arena also

Bespoke Sector Expertise

Established more than 20 years, the team represents insurers and their insureds when facing investigations and criminal prosecutions for a wide range of offences, with particular expertise in handling fatal and more serious matters, including some of the most high profile cases in recent times. Corporate and Gross Negligence Manslaughter, Wilful Neglect and Road Traffic Act offences are just examples of matters routinely and successfully dealt with.

Our Team

- Receives instructions from **across England and Wales** and abroad, including conducting hearings in the Crown Court and on appeal up to Court of Appeal, across sectors including care homes, schools, travel (often with an international reach), social clubs, sports, restaurants and retail outlets;
- Is **strategically located** across DWF's network of offices to enable a rapid response on site and in a cost efficient manner;
- Will invariably represent the client from the very **commencement of the investigation** protecting the position during the immediate aftermath and attendances / interview by various investigatory bodies, which are often determinative of the nature of what follows, through to Inquest and **criminal proceedings**; our **early engagement** regularly assists in reducing the significant custodial sentences and minimising financial penalties by early identification of the issues and appropriate defence tactics;
- Routinely assists clients in **police, NMC, Coronial, Safeguarding and all wider investigations** in the event of serious injury or death of service users; in allegations of abuse, including neglect, physical, sexual and financial, and failure to safeguard service users and staff; and in responding to inadequate training, supervision and management issues across all sectors;
- Has a proven **success rate**, receiving instructions from leading insurance companies and their insured businesses in the UK and in Europe for many years;
- Has a breadth of expertise and technical experience combined with the often crucial softer skills required in handling such situations;
- Works with policyholders and their brokers in identifying key **business risks** from a prosecution / claims perspective, and to implement **workable protective**

measures with a view to avoiding a police (other investigatory body) investigation in the first place.

Key Benefits for clients

- A team of **specialist lawyers** with extensive knowledge and experience across the criminal, regulatory, civil and Coronial fields;
 - Nationwide coverage and a specific **dedicated case handler** and point of informed contact;
 - Significant defence **cost savings** routinely achieved for our insurer clients;
 - **Realistic advice** at the outset and avoiding unnecessarily protracted criminal and civil proceedings;
 - The team comprises several **highly experienced Accredited Police Station Representatives and advocates** before the Magistrates and Coroners' Courts;
 - The team's many years' experience has forged **excellent relationships** with service providers, including Counsel, medical, care and engineering experts, and thus **preferential** services and rates are often available;
 - The unit routinely attends at Inquests to protect our clients' interests, with many of the most **high profile Inquests** of the last 10 years having been dealt with by the team;
- The team's position within **Commercial Insurance** allows an integrated approach and breadth of service.

Criminal Defence experience

The team is generally regarded as the go-to option for leading insurers on these complex matters, also providing policy coverage specialist advice in relation to indemnity issues, often in multi-party disputes.

Legal Response Helpline

- We offer a 24-hour telephone helpline and response service via which our clients can contact a specialist lawyer for advice or assistance in a crisis, staffed 365 days a year.
- All clients are provided with a dedicated hotline number, which is the number to call for immediate attendance and representation e.g. at police stations.
- The service also provides up to 1 hour of free legal telephone advice.

What Clients Say



Certainly this experience has been a huge “learning curve” for us, and we certainly would have struggled had it not been for the help of the two of you. Again very many thanks for your help.”

Defendant Insured (Inquest following the death of a care home resident, 2017)



I write to place on record our thanks for your excellent support and advice prior to and during the inquest. Your preparation of documents was superb and the reassurance you provided for colleagues who were called to give evidence was immensely valued. The experience is not one we would wish to replicate but if we found ourselves in similar circumstances we would certainly look to your company for advice again and I will gladly recommend your services to colleagues in need.”

Defendant Insured (Inquest into the death of a 14 year old school girl, 2015)

Added Value Service

- **Connected Services** is a division of DWF containing a range of businesses that complement our legal business, as well as delivering stand-alone services and products, e.g:
- **DWF Forensic:** experienced, qualified forensic investigators deliver a multi-disciplinary service which manages risks from a number of sources, both external and internal, including arising from regulatory anxiety.
- **DWF’s Intel** team comprises intelligence analysts and has developed its own, unique, intelligence database, d:cypher containing millions of records.
- **DWF Advocacy** assists the Criminal Defence Team in attending court hearings across the country, with a broad geographical spread of advocates enabling an efficient allocation of resources.

Technology and Telematics

DWF has its own cost-effective in-house telematics (and data recording / CCTV systems analysis) and accident reconstruction experts to assist the team as and when necessary.

Key Contacts



Lee Foulser
Head of Criminal Defence Insurance Division
T +44 (0)161 603 5168
M +44 (0)7713 342 078
E lee.foulser@dwf.law



Neil Millard
Director
T +44 (0)117 244 4775
M +44 (0)7395 285146
E neil.millard@dwf.law



John Dance
Senior Associate
T
M +44 (0)7902 128612
E john.dance@dwf.law