

DWF Criminal Defence Team – 24/7 Legal Response Helpline



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;
- Has a proven **success rate**, receiving instructions from leading insurance companies and their insured businesses in the UK and in Europe for many years;
- 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.

24/7 Legal Response Helpline

- We offer a 24-hour telephone legal advice and response service via which our Insurer clients can offer their Policyholders a bespoke service where they can utilise a

dedicated hotline number to contact a specialist lawyer for advice or assistance when a "trigger event" has occurred, staffed 365 days a year.

- This designated helpline number is manned by a team of specialist lawyers who have a wealth of experience in representing individuals and companies in investigations and prosecutions arising out of a serious incident either on the road or in the workplace.

Trigger Event

Examples include situations where:

- A driver or employee is arrested or asked to attend a voluntary interview or provide a statement;
- A fatal accident at any location;
- Where there is serious injury and the Police, HSE or other investigatory body become involved in any capacity. A serious injury should be considered to be one that is, or appears as though it might be, life changing or potentially fatal;
- Where the Police seize the vehicle and / or the driver's mobile telephone / other equipment;
- Where an incident has generated public interest / press attention which needs to be carefully managed.

Benefits

- Early access to evidence whilst parties still at the scene. Identification and preservation of evidence that can assist in providing a defence.
- Investigate the cause of the incident and determine potential claimants and reserving aspects.
- Negotiate the release of vital / time critical property such as a load from the scene.
- Ensure that no admissions of civil or criminal liability are made whether inadvertently or deliberately until further investigations have been completed and legal advice provided.
- Advice and support can be provided immediately to persons at the scene who might be in a state of shock. Early consideration can be given as to whether a second post-mortem might be required.

- Early instruction of experts and access to exhibits in their closest state to the incident can be undertaken. Advice and representation can be provided to individuals at interviews held at the scene, shortly after an incident or by appointment at a later date.
- Advice can be provided immediately as to legal privilege matters so as to protect documents / investigation material being potential disclosable at a later stage which might assist in a prosecution.
- **Early intervention** results in access to information and knowledge which benefits all parties involved and assists in the careful management of liability issues.

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



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