



Practice

James is a highly experienced Leading Counsel with a wealth of experience in Defending cases of gravity across a broad spectrum of criminal work. He is instructed regularly as Leading Counsel in cases of murder, armed robbery, multi-handed conspiracies involving the importation and supplying of Class A drugs and fraud.

James has extensive experience in defending cases alleging sexual offences, including rape, serious sexual offences against children and the mentally vulnerable. This includes a large scale paedophile inquiry concerning children's homes in the 1980's and sex offenders using the internet.

He has substantial experience in the Court of Appeal whether with leave or on a pro bono basis. He has appeared at inquests and before Court Martials in Germany and Northern Ireland.

Examples of serious and complex cases where James has been instructed as Leading Counsel:

Murder:

R v Neesha Dubb (aged 20)

Seven-handed conspiracy to murder where the Defendant drove her boyfriend and an armed co Defendant to meet with a further group of men to seek retribution for an earlier show of 'disrespect' by others. The intended victims were not present outside the bar where the earlier incident had taken place, but in spite of this violence erupted with the arrival of the group of seven. A gun was fired resulting in the death of the bar owner. It would seem he was not the intended target. The Defendant was at the scene of the shooting and ultimately drove the gunman away in the aftermath of the shooting. Her defence was lack of knowledge of the presence of a firearm. Submission of no case to answer on the murder upheld by High Court Judge. Both her boyfriend and the gunman were convicted of murder. Dubb and the remaining Defendants were convicted of violent disorder. Eight week trial.

R v Alem and others

Four-handed murder of drug dealer shot three times in the back outside Kennington tube station. Operation Trident case. Cross examination of Crown's cell site expert important in the Defendant's defence. His phone alleged to be at the scene of the shooting. He accepted attribution of the phone but denied being present at the scene of the murder, albeit unable to provide an alibi. Acquitted.

R v Jake Lee (Central Criminal Court)

Leading Counsel. Defendant acquitted of murder. Allegation centred on use of motor vehicle as a weapon. Defendant alleged to have followed victim to scene of crime after nine mile pursuit of vehicle.

R v Hutchinson and others (Central Criminal Court)

Leading Counsel. Seven handed gang land shooting in Streatham High Road resulting in one death and another victim seriously wounded. Defendant acquitted after submissions of no case to answer at close of prosecution case.

R v Graham and others (Chelmsford)

Leading Counsel. Four handed murder/robbery case where the victim was elderly. "Honey trap" lured victim to scene of robbery where he was kicked to death.

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Education

BA (Hons), Diploma in Law

Practice Areas:

James Scobie QC is a member of the following Practice Areas:

- Courts Martial
- Crime
- Fraud and Regulatory Law

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R v Stoker Williams and others (Bristol Crown Court)

Defendant joined on double murder indictment in Bristol and Croydon on the same date. Defendant avoided trial after successful written argument to dismiss case against him. Case went to trial on remaining defendants.

R v Ramsey and others (Central Criminal Court)

Multi-handed murder involving competing South London gangs of teenagers.

R v Girmay and others (Central Criminal Court)

Multi-handed murder/robberies trial where the victims were sex workers.

R v Harrison (Central Criminal Court)

Murder/Attempted Murder. Brixton Road shootings where female survivor was key trial witness in gang shooting. Although identified by the witness as being one of the gunman he was acquitted after giving evidence denying his presence at the scene

R v Rogers (Central Criminal Court)

Off duty prison officer accused of stabbing unarmed teenage victim.

R v Morris (Central Criminal Court)

Street stabbing case with background of drug dealing.

R v Ajei (Central Criminal Court)

Planned shooting of victim in murder/robbery shooting with drug dealing background.

R v Shafi and others (Birmingham Crown Court)

Multi-handed Murder/Attempted Murder in knife attacks in crowded street after closing time.

R v Huggett (Lewes Crown Court)

Disabled Defendant stabs mother's partner. Mother main witness for the Crown.

Regina v Billy and others (Central Criminal Court)

Seven handed contract murder of Turkish woman who was shot dead on her mother's doorstep by gunman armed with a shotgun. Case had national interest as the gunman was believed to be the youngest contract killer known to have committed such an offence . He was alleged to have been hired by Billy who was a local drug dealer . Billy also faced a threats to kill count on the Crown's key witness who was told what had happened by the gunman and let slip he might go to the police . This witness was given special protection by the police . The Crown's evidence involved detailed telephone / cell site evidence CCTV of the actual shooting itself and compromising correspondence of notes seized from the accused to each other both in prison and the court .

R v Robinson and others (Central Criminal Court)

Six handed murder involving the use of a Mac 10 firearm which was fired into premises through an open window killing victim with links to Class A drug dealing and robberies. Case centred on telephone and cell site evidence as well as a female co accused's interviews that alleged R had asked her to hold on to the weapon within minutes of the shooting. This was denied by R who stated he had arranged for the item to be dropped off at the girl's home at the request of co accused L two days after the shooting . L denied this arrangement ever took place . In short there were two cut throat defences. There were two trials . The first ended prior to speeches after a successful application by R and C (the alleged



killers) for severance as no fair trial could take place due to the female Defendant's prejudicial interviews going before the jury without her giving evidence. Prior to the second trial there was a further severance argument that resulted in L being tried separately. The two accused were tried, gave evidence and were ultimately acquitted of the murder charge.

Regina v Ithai Mcphee (Central Criminal Court)

Four handed shooting resulting in the murder of a youth near an estate on a disused airfield in Hendon. M was alleged to be the gunman in a series of violent incidents between the victim and co accused IR . This included the kidnapping and torture of a key Crown witness in the lead up to the shooting. The principal Crown witness was an eye witness to the shooting who identified M as the gunman on the night. He gave anonymous evidence via videolink from Dubai. Evidence centred on telephone / cell site evidence as well as a number of young witnesses who were present at the shooting and friends of the victim.

Regina v Mcleod (Central Criminal Court)

Three handed murder where Defendant stabbed victim over dispute concerning a mobile telephone . Both were aged 15 at the time . Having left court on bail on another stabbing offence M robbed the victim of his mobile telephone in Myatts Field park , Brixton. The victim gathered together a group of at least 10 other youths to track down the Defendant the same afternoon . Having found M there was a confrontation . He was stabbed with a kitchen knife. Case involved difficult cross examination of three anonymous witnesses as well as numerous teenage friends of the victim who attended the scene of the incident . One of the three anonymous witnesses was a child under the age of 10 who witnessed the stabbing.

Murder: (instructed as Junior Counsel)

R v Francis and others (Central Criminal Court)

Nationally publicised shooting of "bouncer" at Fulham nightclub over smoking a cigarette. Defendant acquitted.

R v Michael Peters and others (Central Criminal Court)

Principal in murder of victim alleged to have raped girlfriend of the accused. Forensic and cell site evidence critical to case.

R v Kunasekarum and others (Central Criminal Court)

Double murder. Tamil gangland feud involving two separate killings on the same day in different parts of London. Cell site evidence/CCTV material. Defendant acquitted.

Attempted Murder

R v Williams (Central Criminal Court)

Defendant alleged to have shot stepfather in the face over argument concerning relationship with stepdaughter. Defendant ran deliberate misidentification defence, albeit cell site linked him to scene of crime and identification supported by a further civilian witness. Acquitted.

R v Kamran Khan (Reading Crown Court)

Leading Counsel. Defendant extradited to UK after 6 years on the run in Spain following shooting of victim outside a Slough mosque after Friday prayers. Defendant ran self-defence stating firearm was taken from the victim who was then shot by the accused, as he was attacked with a knife. Acquitted.



R v Doherty and others (Croydon Crown Court)

Attempted murder involving travelling community when shotgun and machete were used. Acquitted of attempted murder.

Regina v Robinson (Central Criminal Court)

Myatts Field , Brixton shooting where the victim was shot three times but survived to identify R and H as being present and responsible for the attack. This was supported telephone evidence(R's phone in contact with the victim) as well as R being struck by a ricocheting bullet that passed through the victim , struck a wall and hitting R in the ankle . Inevitably R accepted presence but contended that the victim was falsely blaming him as he was too fearful to name those actually involved. His defence included the calling of three serving prisoners who knew the victim and had heard him state the true identity of the gunmen. He and his co accused were acquitted.

Regina v Dust (Central Criminal Court)

Attempted murder and poisoning of his wife, culminating in hiring of contract killer who was an undercover police officer, recording the instructions to carry out the offence. Pleaded guilty to lesser offence and sentenced on the basis he was reconciled with his wife. The couple were committed Seventh Day Adventists and were supported by the Church. The sentencing Judge accepted submissions not to follow the probationer officer's recommendation for an indefinite sentence and imposed six years instead.

Armed Robberies

R v Goldner/Caballo and others (Kingston Crown Court)

Part of gang alleged to have committed over 25 armed robberies in South East of England, mainly of betting shops. Both had substantial records of similar offences. Both pleaded guilty. Neither received IPPs.

R v Priestley and other (Kingston Crown Court)

Armed raid on Richmond jewellers where two of the Defendants were on day release from prison. Flying squad waiting for the accused after probe evidence installed in their vehicle.

R v Bailey and others (Woolwich Crown Court)

Professional and experienced armed robbers with history of discharging weapons at scene. Cash-in-transit officer shot in vehicle. Flying squad waiting for the Defendants. Surveillance/video operation.

R v Crabtree (Central Criminal Court)

Multiple armed robberies case involving attacks on railway station safes in South East.

R v Hameed (Central Criminal Court)

Attempted murder/armed robberies involving shooting of Securicor Guard.

Regina v Bado and others (Kingston Crown Court)

Over 30 Defendants involved in nationwide organised robberies on jewellers which culminated in a raid in Antwerp. Miss B was partner to the principal organiser and was shown by CCTV and cellsite evidence to be present or close by to numerous raids. A number of separate trials due to the number of Defendants. Both B's brother and uncle admitted being involved. Although originally facing numerous substantive robbery offences Crown ultimately accepted pleas to handling and she



was sentenced to a suspended term of imprisonment .

Regina v Lindo and others (Kingston Crown Court)

Organised, planned robberies of bank and business premises involving the carrying of firearms produced in the presence of members of the public. L has multiple previous convictions for similar offences. Admitted guilt on a basis, avoiding IPP sentence.

Regina v Springer and others (Kingston Crown Court)

Conspiracy to commit robbery offences on cash in transit vans and jewellers. This included an offence in Preston where a London based group of robbers targeted a jewellers and took over £250,000 worth of items . Sledgehammers used. S had appalling history including for firearms and similar robbery offences. Avoided IPP.

Regina v Pulhoffer (Southwark Crown Court)

Young defendant with lengthy record of serious offending. Series of indictments which included cash in transit robberies where one of the driver's was stabbed whilst in another there was a police chase where a co accused fired a hand gun at them whilst P was at the driver's wheel. In addition, several targeted robberies of vulnerable, wealthy women either on the street or at their homes. Sentence considered unduly lenient and referenced by the Attorney General before the Lord Chief Justice who increased it but not to a term of IPP.

Drug Conspiracies

R v McShane and Others (Southwark Crown Court)

SOCA investigation into cocaine importation conspiracy by boat from the Caribbean to the UK involving 100kg+. Extensive cross-examination of surveillance officers alleging incompetence/dishonesty over lengthy period of observations. In addition other officers alleged to have fabricated "verbals". Defendant acquitted.

R v Graham and Others (Southwark Crown Court)

One of the largest skunk cannabis conspiracy cases involving the importation of multi million pounds worth the drug from Amsterdam over a two-year period. Graham alleged to be multi-kilo distributor during this period. Acquitted.

R v Abrahamson (Southwark Crown Court)

Class A Drugs Importation on large scale. Professionally organised with Customs Officer one of those convicted.

R v Smith and others (Winchester Crown Court)

Leading Counsel. Multi kilo cannabis importation from Southern Spain. Defendant ran fruit storage business in Spalding. SOCA case involving years of probe and surveillance evidence.

R v Beaver and others (Kingston Crown Court)

Leading Counsel. Multi kilo importation of Class A drugs from South America involving cell site and surveillance evidence.

R v Monk and others

Leading Counsel. Principal in double, multi kilo importation of cannabis case from Spain. The two importations were divided by several years but the Defendant was forensically linked to both. Complex financial investigation.

R v Taylor (Canterbury Crown Court)

Customs Investigation of Major Class A Drugs Importation involving Haulage



Industry.

R v Bassi (Woolwich Crown Court)

Multi-handed drugs/guns/explosives case involving informers in Southall.

Regina v Isaku and others (Kingston Crown Court)

International class A drug dealing conspiracy concerned with multi kilo consignments of high purity drugs where the cash proceeds were laundered through bureau de changes. Many of the accused Albanian. Police investigation centred on London with surveillance and telephone analysis. It also concerned other parts of Europe including Holland where there was a safe house. Firearms a feature of the case.

Regina v Zachariah and Others (Kingston Crown Court)

Major SOCA investigation into large scale class A dealing in south London behind cover of a tyre specialist garage in Brixton. Central part of the case was the probe listening device placed in the premises which recorded weeks of conversations and meetings often concerning the supplying of ' boxes ' of drugs. Safe house for packaging and onward supply a short distance from the tyre premises. Z was the principal of the conspiracy.

Imran Khan and others (Kingston Crown Court) Major cannabis importation case from Holland involving tons of skunk loaded on to containers. Well organised conspiracy over lengthy period of time and over fifty trips.

Regina v Callender Martin (Snaresbrook Crown Court)

Large scale importation of cocaine involving trafficking from the Caribbean and distribution in the UK. Substantial evidence of money laundering of the proceeds as well as extravagant lifestyle of principals. CM alleged to have been organiser.

Kidnapping

R v Khakh and others (Southwark Crown Court)

Principal in Southall gangland kidnapping. Case against this Defendant centred on complex phone investigation covering many years.

R v Sany and others (Inner London)

Woman kidnapped in Brighton street allegedly over unpaid drug debt involving her boyfriend. Put in a van and driven away taser weapon used on her. Police alerted. Defendant caught red handed. Defendant acquitted after Judge refused to allow victim's statement to be read in her absence.

People Trafficking/Facilitation Cases

R v Demarku (Southwark Crown Court)

Conspiracy to Traffic for Sexual Exploitation. Albanian gang control young women from Lithuania in large scale sex worker case.

R v Cheema (Canterbury Crown Court)

Large scale organised Facilitation case involving the trafficking of people from Punjab into the UK.

R v Abrahamson (Southwark Crown Court)

Class A Drugs Importation on large scale. Professionally organised with Customs Officer one of those convicted.

Firearms Trafficking

R v Ndikanwu and others (Croydon Crown Court)



Defendant acquitted of supplying handguns, ammunition and silencers, in spite of gang being caught with firearms outside his premises, following a lengthy surveillance operation. Defendants linked to the nightclub scene in London as well as Eastern Europe.

Firearms/Shooting

R v Powell S.18 GBH with intent:

Point blank shooting in daylight. Victim survived shotgun injury to identify Powell as the shooter. Motive was alleged to be the victim having an affair with his estranged partner, who also gave evidence for the Crown. Powell had fled to America after the shooting but voluntarily returned three years later. His defence was that the victim and his former partner had framed him for the actions of another who had been dealing in drugs with both Powell and the victim. The latter was a former Jamaican police officer who was deported from the UK following the shooting as he was an illegal overstayer. He had to give evidence from Jamaica on a live link. Defendant acquitted.

R v Balogun (Inner London)

Shooting down fire escape packed with the people at the Fridge nightclub in Brixton. Whole incident caught on CCTV. Avoided IPP.

R v Johnson and Payne (Inner London) Transfer of loaded gun amongst Brixton gang caught on CCTV. Avoided IPP.

R v Harrison (Inner London Crown Court)

Defendant charged with gang land possession of firearms with intent to endanger life committed on Brixton Estate. Police officers sought to identify him from CCTV footage having known him from the area for many years. Facial mapping and reconstruction part of the defence case. Acquitted at the close of prosecution case after submission of no case to answer was upheld.

R v O'Sullivan (Kingston Crown Court)

Defendant driver of get-away vehicle in Sutton shooting, his defence was lack of knowledge that his passenger had a firearm. The defendant at the time was on licence for a firearm offence. Acquitted.

Fraud

R v Kokabzadeh and others (Northampton Crown Court)

Large scale carousel fraud involving multi-millions of VAT. Multi-handed. Defendant successfully applied to dismiss the case. Co-accused were tried and convicted.

R v Anderson (Cardiff Crown Court/Cambridge Crown Court)

Fraud on Welsh National Assembly and Medical Research Council in Cambridge.

R v Smajlovic (Southwark Crown Court)

Accountants firm involved in allegation of defrauding Inland Revenue with false claims of on behalf of workers in the building and construction industry.

R v Saunders (Guildford Crown Court)

Outsourcing VAT Fraud.

Sexual Offences

R v Dr L (Blackfriars Crown Court)

Dr accused of serious sexual assault on gay suicidal patient in his NHS surgery.



Initially denied any sexual contact had occurred. Forensics showed there had been sexual contact between them. Complainant made allegations immediately after the incident. Dr ran consent before the jury. Acquitted.

R v Rowe (Inner London)

Stepfather accused of 25 count indictment of rape, sexual assault on stepdaughter covering eight years. Acquitted.

R v A and others (Inner London)

Gang of schoolboys falsely imprisoned and sexually assaulted schoolgirl on school premises. Originally indicted on attempted rape. Guilty pleas on lesser charges for all accused and all successfully appealed their sentences before the Court of Appeal.

R v Sterling (Central Criminal Court)

Third sexual offence for offender aged 25. This offence concerned an underage schoolgirl. Successfully avoided IPP sentence notwithstanding his appalling record for sexual offences of the gravest kind.

R v Hazelton (Blackfriars Crown Court)

Historical case involving multi count indictment of sado-masochistic child abuse on single child on Pimlico housing estate by seemingly respectable man. Offence came to light after Defendant refused to prosecute victim who had tried to stab him as an adult, many years after the offences on him had taken place. Extremely emotive jury trial.

Regina v H (Isleworth)

Historic abuse on two boys and a girl which came to light in the aftermath of a widely publicised sex tourism investigation involving paedophiles and the internet. H had been caught by expert analysis of the freckles on his hand from seized film footage shown on the internet. Following his sentence and press/ television coverage of that case the three complainants came forward to allege serious sexual abuse on them by H as children. Multiple count indictment. Jury hung on first trial. H convicted of small number of less serious offences on the second trial over much shorter period than alleged and in respect of the boys only. Defence had been complex and alleged conspiracy against H by all three to 'fit him up' to explain shortcomings in their own lives. Verdicts reflected that to a substantial degree those suggestions made by H were established. Both trials were conducted with the jury knowing H was an admitted paedophile.

R v Gilmour (Isleworth Crown Court)

Teenage Defendant who was alleged to have robbed a youth late at night with a screwdriver as a weapon. In the course of the robbery in an alleyway off Brentford High Street the victim was stripped naked and orally and anally raped. He was found in that state by members of the public after G had left him. The Defendant was forensically shown to have committed the offence after intimate swabs were taken from the victim. G had suffered traumatic upbringing culminating in his being used by local drug dealers to run drugs for them in the area during which time serious violence had been inflicted on him by those people. He avoided being sentenced to IPP.

Perverting the Course of Justice

R v V (practising solicitor)

During multi handed murder trial at the Old Bailey a key Crown witness gave evidence which days later he admitted was false. Told lies as pressured to do so



by a combination of threatening calls from unknown people on mobiles and a solicitor who claimed he was acting for one of those in the dock. The murder trial continued with both principals being convicted. Later extensive forensic inquiry into the perverting calls to the key witness concluded that the source of those calls was from phones used by the principals in prison as well as telephone kiosk calls from a solicitor called V. On arrest he signed a prepared statement stating he had not made those calls. At trial he accepted those calls had been made but there had been nothing said to the witness to change his account. Instead he was acting on behalf of another client who had put him in touch with the witness as he wanted advice. Substantial issues of confidentiality and privilege matters. Defendant acquitted after two-week trial.

Societies

- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit

Other Activities

Lifelong Manchester United and Surrey County Cricket supporter. Actively plays both football and cricket.

Profile updated March 2012