

Robin Howat

Hatfield College, Durham University B.A. (Hons) Law and Politics	1985
Called to the Bar (Inner Temple)	1986
Pegasus Scholar to Canada	1989



Profile

Robin has extensive and comprehensive experience of most aspects of serious crime with an exclusively defence-based practice for over 35 years. Robin has appeared in eighty Crown Court centres conducting a jury trial in more than fifty of those. He has experience as Leading Junior Counsel, Led Junior and Sole Counsel.

His areas of expertise include homicide, serious violent crime, MTIC fraud, RASSO offences including rape and child sex grooming offences, firearms, kidnap, money laundering, drugs importation and supply, sanctions evasion, and prison mutiny.

Robin has widespread experience in the Appellate Courts and Prison Law.



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Notable Cases

R v L, Nottingham, and Leicester Crown Courts

Leading Counsel in a series of three trials lasting twelve months in total for one of the main Defendants in 'Operation Retriever'. The operation was based around a "street grooming gang" based in Derby. The Defendant was acquitted of a substantial number of the allegations he faced. The case received extensive national press coverage and triggered widespread debate about "street grooming gangs" (Operation Retriever)

R v R, Durham Crown Court

Successful defence of a Defendant alleged to have committed three Sexual assaults by penetration upon his partner along with ten other counts including attempted GBH with a Stanley Knife blade, controlling and coercive behaviour, making a threat to kill, four Common Assaults and Criminal damage on a total of three Complainants. One count was dismissed on a submission the other twelve counts were acquittals unanimously returned by a jury in under forty minutes.

R v L, Bradford Crown Court

Successful defence of a client accused of sexual activity with a child in a multi handed "grooming gang" case following a submission of no case to answer. Robin was sole Counsel in a case prosecuted by Leading Counsel and a junior.

R v M, Bradford Crown Court

Successful defence of a man accused of up to ten incidents of historic rapes of an underage girl dating back several decades in a trial with another nine men alleged to have abused the same complainant. The case collapsed at a retrial after four juries were discharged at the original trial ('Operation Hazelshot'). Robin acted as sole Counsel in the case Prosecuted by a K.C. and two Junior Counsel on behalf of the Crown.

R v K, Lincoln Crown Court

Successful Defence of a Man in his mid-seventies accused of Sexual assault of a family friend in her eighties. The jury acquitted despite an apparent confession made by the Defendant in interview whilst unrepresented by a Solicitor.

R v S, Leicester Crown Court

Successful defence of a female client accused of historic sexual and physical abuse of a family member several decades before a complaint was made. Detailed and prolonged pursuit of disclosure of medical records led to an adjourned trial followed by the Prosecution offering no evidence midway through the retrial.

R v J, Northampton Crown Court

Successful defence of a Defendant accused of multiple counts of rape and a firearms matter.

CPS V B, Chester Youth Court

Robin made submissions to the DPP which led to the discontinuance of proceedings against a boy who was alleged to have committed several acts of Rape whilst aged ten on a complainant aged eight years, reversing the local decision to Prosecute.

Notable Cases

R v B, Minshull St Crown Court

Acquittal of a man accused of historic child sex offences dating back more than thirty years when he was approximately fourteen years old, despite the Crown relying on Bad Character of his previous sex offences against a child either side of the dates indicted and there being two complainants.

R v H, Lincoln Crown Court

Successful acquittal of a Defendant at trial of a man accused of historic sexual offences against a disabled family member when she was a child.