

Peter Donnison

Call: 2012

'providing an excellent case strategy'.

Legal 500 2026



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Peter Donnison specialises in serious crime and regulatory law.

Called to the Bar in 2012, he joined 30 Park Place in 2015, following pupillage under Tracey Lloyd-Nesling and Max Davies. He has since developed a strong and varied practice. Peter is recognised for his skill, judgement and commitment across a wide range of complex and serious cases.

Peter is regularly instructed as junior counsel in the most serious criminal matters, including murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, serious sexual offences, complex fraud and large-scale drugs conspiracies. He has acted as leading junior, led junior and junior alone, and has appeared in high-profile multi-defendant trials. He also represents individuals before regulatory bodies and at inquests. His contribution to Operation Queen, a major immigration fraud, was recognised with a Certificate of Commendation from the Home Office and the National Crime Agency.

Recommended by The Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners, Peter is known for his diligence, strategic focus and client-centred approach. Instructing solicitors value his thorough preparation, calmness under pressure and willingness to tackle difficult issues directly.

Peter studied Law at Cardiff University, where he also completed the Bar Professional Training Course with the highest grade of 'Outstanding'. He holds an LLM in Legal Practice and has previous experience working in both legal and advocacy roles, including with Hugh James Solicitors and Christian Aid.

Peter is a keen runner, musician and tennis player, he enjoys attending a local Church in Cardiff and is committed to learning the Welsh language.

Expertise

Crime

Peter is regularly instructed as junior counsel in the most serious criminal matters, including murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, serious sexual offences, complex fraud and large-scale drugs conspiracies. He has acted as leading junior, led junior and junior alone, and has appeared in high-profile multi-defendant trials. Peter also represents children and young people in the Youth Court for offences including those of the

utmost seriousness.

Regulatory

Peter represents individuals before regulatory bodies and at inquests. Peter regularly appears in regulatory cases in the Crown Court including those involving food safety and health and safety.

Appointments

- Criminal Bar Association Executive Committee Wales and Chester Circuit Representative (2021 – 2023)
- Deputy District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) (2021)
- Qualified Advocacy Trainer
- Qualified Pupil Supervisor
- CPS Level 4 Advocate Panel
- CPS Level 3 Fraud Panel
- CPS Level 3 Serious Crime Panel
- HSE Category B List of Specialist Regulatory Advocates

Education

- Cardiff University

Languages

- Welsh (learning)

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association

Notable and reported cases

- R v KG (2025) – Defence murder led by Ignatius Hughes KC.
- R v M (2025) Court of Appeal – Successfully appealed sentence in a historic sex case.
- R v R and Others (2025) – Defence leading junior where the defendant was accused of assisting an offender in a murder.
- R v O (2024) – Defence junior alone where the defendant was accused of manufacturing firearms on a 3D printer.
- R v S (2024) – Defence junior led by Tom Crowther KC in a murder trial involving a stabbing in Newport.
- R v S & K (2024) – Leading defence junior in human trafficking trial alleging breach of immigration laws across Europe and facilitating the transportation of hundreds of people across Europe.
- R v CM (2024) – Defence junior, led by Caroline Rees KC, in a double attempted murder trial. The defendant was acquitted of all charges faced at trial.
- R v SM (2024) – Defence junior, led by Caroline Rees KC, in a case relating to the sexual abuse of a child in a protected setting.
- R v AA (2024) – Defence junior alone where the defendant was accused of Manslaughter and possession of an imitation firearm.
- R v Q (2023) – Leading junior counsel in trial for of Conspiracy to produce and supply in excess of 700 KG of Class A drugs.
- R v A (2023) – Led junior, led by Mark Heywood KC in a matter where the defendant was accused of manslaughter of a young child.
- R v B&B (2022) – Junior, led by Nigel Fryer, in trial of 39 counts of historic sexual offences including rapes in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.
- AG Ref (2022) – In the Court of Appeal Peter successfully mitigated a sentence. Peter was thanked by the Court of Appeal for his “very able mitigation and succinct and focussed oral submissions”.
- Operation Beachway (2021) – Led by Nigel Fryer, in a matter involving conspiracy to supply wholesale amounts of over 42KG of high purity Amphetamine.
- Operation Vermont (2021) – Defence junior to Tom Crowther KC in a trial for one of thirty Defendants charged with Conspiracy to produce and supply in excess of 700 KG of Class A drugs.
- Operation Empire (2020) – Led by Nigel Fryer, in this 11 Defendant case concerning a Class A drug conspiracy to supply a total of over 28 Kg of cocaine valued at in excess of £1 million.
- R v LC & Others (2020) – Defence junior to Caroline Rees KC for one of eight Defendants charged with the Murder of a 17 year old in Barry in the summer of 2019.
- R v SE (2019) – Led defence junior to Caroline Rees KC in an Attempted Murder and Child Cruelty case concerning a mother and her new born baby. The case included consideration of complex issues surrounding intention and post natal mental health.
- Operation Queen (2017 – 2019) – Prosecution led junior by Carl Harrison, in a complex immigration fraud.
- Yemm & Williams Inquest (2017) – Led junior to Nicholas Bowen KC in the four week Inquests touching the deaths of Cerys Yemm and Matthew Williams in Argoed. The case included issues relating to police taser policies and mental health provision in the community.

Privacy Policy

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