# Claire Anderson

Year of call 2011

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Claire Anderson is a criminal and regulatory barrister who prosecutes and defends across the full spectrum of criminal offences, both on her own and as junior counsel.

She is a CPS Level 3 Prosecutor, a CPS Specialist Fraud Advocate, and a CPS Specialist Counter Terrorism Advocate. She regularly works on multi-handed, factually and legally complex cases across the full spectrum of criminal law, including serious violence, sexual offending, fraud, and drug offences. She acts on behalf of various agencies, including the Crown Prosecution Service, HMRC, the DWP, and DVSA.

When defending, Claire is instructed to represent clients charged with serious allegations including matters of sexual and violent offending. She has a pragmatic and no-nonsense style which puts defendants at ease. She is very experienced at defending youths and individuals with mental health issues or learning difficulties. Based in Newcastle, she is known for her friendly, honest approach and thorough preparation of her cases.

Claire has significant experience of being involved in a number of high-profile nationally reported cases, including R v CJ (defence counsel in high value conspiracy to commit burglary), R v GB & Others (Prosecution junior in a 17,000 page, 9 month pension fraud trial), R v MS (Prosecution junior in a nationally reported attempted murder), R v OS (Prosecution junior in a six-week multi-handed trial involving numerous sexual allegations against vulnerable women) and R v LM (Defence junior in a murder/ conspiracy to commit GBH trial).

Claire has a developing regulatory practice and is a ‘Specialist Regulatory Advocate’ (List B). She is also instructed by the General Medical Counsel to represent their interests before the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service.

## Expertise

### Crime



**Leeds**

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Claire predominantly prosecutes and defends in the Crown Court. She is a CPS Level 3 prosecutor with an established Crown Court practice. She has experience in a variety of offences including dishonesty and drugs offences, to sexual offending and violent offences including GBH and murder.

## Notable Crime cases

R v SB (2026)

Prosecution counsel in child cruelty matter. Case involved issues of causation and input from numerous medical professionals regarding a non-accidental injury to 2 year old child. Defendant convicted after trial.

R v CJ (2026)

Defendant charged with historic allegations of rape of a child. He suffered from autism and an extremely low IQ. Defendant acquitted on all counts after trial.

R v AT (2025)

Prosecution counsel in case where D charged with offences under the Explosives Act 1883. A “chemistry set” and guidance on how to make explosives was found at the Defendant’s home address, along with right wing literature. Case involved consideration of the Terrorism Act 2000 and the sentencing of defendant’s subject to the IPP regime.

R v EB (2025)

Represented Defendant charged with sexual offending against a student who attended a SEN school where he was employed.

R v CH (2025)

Prosecution junior in 3 week murder trial. Lengthy evidence from the pathologist about causation, including blunt force and sharp force injuries. Also involved complex evidence from Crime Scene Investigator about blood spatter patterns on the murder weapons and inside the property.

Further details found here https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3v1x91rygxo

R v GB, ML, RB, CHa, CHo, MA, MO, PS & JT [2024/2025]

Prosecution junior in Operation Utah. Instructed by CPS SEOCID in a factually and legally complex multi-handed pension fraud case. Led by Jason Pitter KC and Adam Birkby. Over 17,000 pages and a 9-month trial – the longest ever trial at Newcastle Crown Court.

R v CJ [2025]

Defence counsel in nationally reported case. CJ sentenced to 6y 9m imprisonment for conspiracy to burgle the homes of high net worth individuals. Over £1.3m worth of property was stolen from houses including Newcastle United footballer Alexander Isak and care home operator, Helen McCardle CBE.

Further details available here.



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https://www.newparkcourt.co.uk/2025/05/21/three-members-of-chambers-instructed-to-represent-defendants-charged-with-high-value-burglaries-including-at-the-home-of-newcastle-united-footballer-alexander-isak/

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R v NK [2024]

Defence of NK, in a nationally reported case. NK was sentenced for evading around £630,000 worth of duty on over 2 million counterfeit cigarettes.

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R v KS [2024]

Represented the interests KS in Operation Opaque. She was one of 17 defendants charged by the HMRC with cheating the public revenue. The total value of the fraud was in excess of £1 million. KS received a suspended sentence of imprisonment.

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R v JS [2023]

Successful prosecution of JS, who was charged with numerous allegations of rape. This case involved an extremely vulnerable complainant, who suffered from numerous learning difficulties and developmental delays. JS was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

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R v MS [2023]

Prosecution junior in nationally reported attempted murder case where D received an extended sentence of 32 years. Further details available here.

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R v CD, WW & ID [2022]

DVSA prosecution of HGV drivers committing tachograph offences.

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R v CC [2020]

Prosecution counsel in a finding of fact hearing, where D was found to have done the act and was sentenced to a hospital order with restriction.

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R v DA & ZA [ 2019]

Prosecution junior in a multi-handed conspiracy to supply cannabis case.

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R v GS [2018]

Successfully defended GS, who was charged with possession with intent to supply cocaine.

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R v OS [2018]

Prosecution junior in a six-week multi-handed trial involving sexual allegations against vulnerable women.



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R v LM [2017]

Defence junior representing the interests of LM, who was charged with conspiracy to commit GBH. It was alleged that she had asked family members, including her brother, to assault her partner. Her partner later died as a result of the assault.

R v SO [2017]

Operation Sanctuary: Defence junior in a long-running multi-handed case where numerous males were accused of committing various offences on young, vulnerable women. These cases were reported nationally as ‘Operation Sanctuary’. SO was acquitted of the sexual offences.

## Regulatory

# Appointments

- The FA Regional Discipline Panel (2023)
- CPS Level 3 Prosecutor
- CPS Specialist Counter Terrorism Advocate (Level 3)
- CPS Specialist Fraud Advocate (Level 2)
- Specialist Regulatory Advocate in Health & Safety and Environmental Law (List B)

# Education

- NCFE Level 2 in Mental Health Awareness (2014)
- Linda Sykes Memorial Prize (2011)
- LLB Barristers Exempting, Northumbria University (2011)

# Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- North Eastern Circuit
- Middle Temple
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers



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# Publications

On behalf of the ‘Young Bar’, Claire was part of a subcommittee working group that contributed to the Rivlin Report in 2015.

She was also secretary of a CBA working group examining the issues experienced by barristers in the Criminal Justice System in 2021. A copy of the report can be accessed here
– https://www.criminalbar.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CBA-C-21-Report-Final.pdf.

# Speaking

On behalf of Chambers, Claire has assisted in the presentation of seminars for local solicitors.

She was an associate lecturer at Northumbria University, teaching on the LLB and BPTC modules.

For a number of years, she has also attended local schools in order to assist them in preparing for the National Mock Schools Competition, ran by the Citizenship Foundation.

# Directory Quotes

“Her approach in court allows her to maintain a very positive yet professional rapport with colleagues and the judiciary. She is focused, immaculately prepared and highly persuasive.”

*Legal 500 2026 (Crime)*

“Claire is an excellent barrister. She is brilliant with lay clients, and her forthright, honest approach is a real strength.”

*Legal 500 2026 (Crime)*



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