



# Peter Griffiths QC

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Peter Griffiths QC has acted in some of the highest profile fraud and criminal cases in the UK.

In January 2022 he is due to defend in a substantial [alleged] “baby shaking” murder trial expected to involve complex and disputed expert medical evidence. The expert witnesses may well include experts from abroad.

## Practice Areas

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### Crime

#### Notable crime cases

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##### **R v R & Others [Central Criminal Court]**

A flying squad prosecution of a South London gang of armed robbers whose field of operations was not limited to London. Surveillance had been on-going for a period of at least 18 months.

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##### **R v T [Central Criminal Court / Croydon Crown Court]**

A London terrorist trial.

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##### **R v Dang & Others [Central Criminal Court]**

A three month, multi-handed conspiracy trial. It was the largest ever prosecution of those alleged to have grown and supplied cannabis on an industrial scale throughout the UK. The case included a sub-conspiracy to import the necessary equipment from Europe and China.

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##### **R v W & Others [Woolwich Crown Court]**

The protracted [and highly embarrassing for London’s Flying Squad] Johnson Matthew Gold Bullion Robbery Trial.

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## Fraud

Listed for many years by Chambers & Partners in Fraud. Is a corporate fraud specialist and is regularly instructed to defend in complex and multi-handed fraud and money-laundering cases, frequently with a multi-jurisdictional aspect. High profile cases include successfully defending in what is acknowledged to be the SFO's costliest failure – "Operation Holbein" in which the SFO alleged that certain leading international pharmaceutical companies and their chief executives had formed a criminal cartel and had conspired to defraud the NHS by fixing the price and restricting the supply of antibiotics used by millions of people in this country.

The case ran for three years during its complex interlocutory stages including going to the Court of Appeal on two occasions and also the House of Lords. Has conducted a number of MTIC-VAT fraud trials. Instructed to defend the head of what was said to be an eastern European criminal organisation who removed millions of pounds from online customers of Barclays, HSBC, RBS and Lloyds using an extremely sophisticated "Trojan" virus described by the FBI as "arguably the most dangerous yet". Instructed in 2012/13 in two of the largest Bureau de Change money laundering/fraud cases at Southwark Crown Court (£131 million and the other £180 million.) Currently instructed in a "high-profile" fraud referred to the Welsh Financial Crime Unit by the Welsh Assembly Government.

### Notable fraud cases

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#### **R v P & Others [Winchester Crown Court]**

A multi-million pound construction fraud which, in total, ran for over 18 months. The case, with its complexity of issues and vast detail, has been quoted as one of the finest examples of how a jury can, and should continue, to try serious fraud cases.

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#### **R v S & Others [Leeds Crown Court]**

A former Superintendent of the West Yorkshire Police was alleged to have been the principal in a substantial music industry counterfeiting/copyright fraud.

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#### **R v X [Southwark Crown Court]**

A £131 million Bureau de Change money laundering /fraud case.

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#### **R v K [Southwark Crown Court / Central Criminal Court]**

A £180 million Bureau de Change money laundering /fraud case.

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#### **R v C & Others [Manchester Crown Court]**

A £30m, international VAT/Anti Dumping fraud trial. Aspects of the case included a complex web of inter-trading companies in Europe, Hong Kong and mainland China, with the money laundering to Swiss banks,

banks in the Far East, and elsewhere.

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#### **R v O & Others [Chester Crown Court]**

The country-wide Fireguard (UK) Ltd/European Environmental Controls Ltd fraudulent trading case which was “exposed” by Watchdog [and also by a number of other similar investigative-type television programmes in different parts of the UK]. The case was stopped prior to the jury being sworn after ten weeks of legal argument.

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#### **R v M [Newport Crown Court]**

The trial of a Cardiff solicitor who was charged, with others, with conspiracy to defraud. The Defendant suffered what the defence contended was a nervous breakdown some months into the trial. A permanent stay was ultimately ordered.

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#### **R v W [Swansea Crown Court]**

The trial of two solicitors charged with conspiracy to defraud. [The nature of the defence case necessitated a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the Law Society’s Rules and Regulations relating to the financial management of a solicitor’s practice]. The Defendant, having been acquitted at the conclusion of the prosecution case, successfully fought subsequent disciplinary proceedings brought by the Law Society obtaining costs against that body.

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#### **R v S & Others [Southwark Crown Court]**

This is acknowledged to have been the SFO’s costliest failure – “Operation Holbein” – in which the SFO alleged that certain leading international pharmaceutical companies and their chief executives had formed a criminal cartel and had conspired to defraud the NHS by fixing the price and restricting the supply of antibiotics used by millions of people in this country. The case ran for three years during its complex interlocutory stages including going to the Court of Appeal on two occasions. [It was one of the last cases heard by the House of Lords.]

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#### **R v M [Swansea Crown Court]**

The Defendant was charged with various counts of fraud on the Welsh Government.

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#### **R v X & Others [Croydon Crown Court]**

In this case the prosecution alleged that an eastern European criminal organisation had removed millions of pounds from online customers of Barclays, HSBC, RBS and Lloyds using an extremely sophisticated “Trojan” virus first picked up by the FBI in New York and described by them as “arguably the most dangerous they had ever come across”.

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## Murder & Manslaughter

### Notable murder & manslaughter cases

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#### **R v X [Reading Crown Court]**

This historical murder trial, heard over 30 years after the event, came to be referred to as the “Windsor body-on-the-towpath” murder and involved expert evidence in respect of current forensic processes being applied to the original forensic exhibits taken at the scene and the preservation and integrity of those original forensic exhibits over the years.

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#### **R v W & Others [Chelmsford Crown Court]**

A nine week, multi-handed, murder/kidnapping trial involving, amongst other things, gangland “enforcement” vis-à-vis the supply of crack cocaine in Essex.

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#### **R v T [Swansea Crown Court]**

In this case the Defendant’s co-accused had, during the course of a joint robbery, suddenly produced, and fatally used, a knife.

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#### **R v X [Central Criminal Court]**

In this case, which became known as “the Cobham body-in-the-wheelie-bin” trial, the victim’s body had been locked in a freezer for three years before being discovered in a refuse bin about to be conveyed to the Council’s incinerator plant.

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#### **R v F [Swansea Crown Court]**

A most difficult Welsh murder trial lasting some two months. The defence case was extraordinary. The issues for the jury included (a) were they sure that the deceased did not die as a result of the violent act of a named third party [a prosecution witness suffering from paranoid schizophrenia at the material time], (b) alternatively, were they satisfied on the balance of probability that the deceased died as a result of a suicide pact with the Defendant, (c) if they were satisfied that the deceased died at the hand of the defendant other than in the course of a suicide pact, should the verdict be guilty of murder, or guilty of manslaughter.

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#### **R v J [Newcastle Crown Court]**

This was the PC Bechenivsky murder trial.

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#### **R v Y [Leeds Crown Court]**

A joint baby shaking murder trial in which both parents were charged.

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### **R v VC [Manchester Crown Court]**

This was the infamous, three month, Stepping Hill Hospital insulin murder trial in which the prosecution alleged that a nurse had administered insulin to patients in hospital resulting in death and serious injury.

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### **R v Rejmanski [Central Criminal Court / Court of Appeal]**

This was, and is now, the leading authority on the “loss of control” partial defence to murder – see 2017 EWCA Crim 2061.

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## **Serious Sexual Offences**

### **Notable serious sexual offences cases**

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#### **R v E [Liverpool Crown Court]**

The Defendant who faced numerous charges of a sexual nature, was one of the principal defendants in the “Operation Care” series of trials. The abuse of process argument upon which the defence embarked was detailed, issue focused, and backed by evidence. Ultimately all charges were either dropped or stayed.

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#### **R v M [Liverpool Crown Court]**

In terms of number of counts and number of complainants, the largest case ever to have come out of “Operation Care”. The Defendant initially faced an indictment containing 73 counts. At the conclusion of lengthy severance and abuse of process submissions during which a considerable amount of evidence was called all charges were either dropped or stayed.

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#### **R v T & Others [Central Criminal Court]**

The prosecution alleged that the Defendant was the prime mover in the abduction and false imprisonment of a young woman who was allegedly repeatedly raped while being held for ransom.

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#### **R v R [Central Criminal Court]**

A former scoutmaster charged with numerous sexual offences. The case was stayed following successful abuse of process arguments advanced on the back of neurological and psychiatric evidence called by the defence [but disputed by the prosecution].

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#### **R v S [Liverpool Crown Court]**

The elderly former co-owner of a private care home was charged jointly with her deceased husband with numerous sexual offences on children resident at the home in the 1970’s and 1980’s. The case was stayed following abuse of process submissions during which expert evidence was called both by the defence and

prosecution.

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## Sports Law

Member of the Football Association's Judicial Panel. Has extensive knowledge of procedures and practices. Has conducted arbitrations and has advised solicitors investigated and/or charged with misconduct including a solicitor who acted in the multi-million pound transfer of an English international player between two Premier League clubs.

## Memberships

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- Football Association's Judicial Panel