Compass Chambers

Gavin J Anderson KC



Year called: 2001
Year of silk: 2022
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Practice

Gavin Anderson specialises in white collar crime, Inquiries and regulatory cases. He appears regularly in the High Court of Justiciary, Sheriff Courts and disciplinary tribunals throughout Scotland. He is regularly instructed to defend in health & safety prosecutions involving fatality or serious injury, road traffic offences and environmental crimes involving pollution and waste management, as well as other forms of commercial crime, including fraud, money laundering, bankruptcy, licensing, financial services and company director offences. He has acted for accused persons, partnerships and companies facing prosecution as well as regulators including the Financial Conduct Authority, local authorities and police forces in the exercise of their enforcement functions.

Mr Anderson served as Crown Counsel from 2021 to 2024. He was Lead Crown Counsel for the Scottish Fatalities Investigation Unit and the Health and Safety Investigation Unit where he oversaw the conduct of many complex deaths investigations and health and safety prosecutions. He also worked extensively with the Road Traffic Fatalities Investigation Unit and prosecuted a number of death by dangerous driving cases in the High Court of Justiciary.

As Crown Counsel, Mr Anderson chaired multi-agency meetings following serious incidents, where he oversaw investigative strategy and enforcement action. He is well-placed to advise on internal corporate investigations or compliance with external regulatory action.

Mr Anderson has been instructed in a number of the most high profile and significant public and fatal accident inquiries to take place in Scotland over recent years.

Health & Safety Prosecutions

Mr Anderson has a wealth of experience defending criminal proceedings arising out of fatal accidents in the workplace. He regularly acts for individuals, companies, partnerships and public bodies facing prosecution.

Representative Instructions

- HM Advocate v Kenyon t/a Stonehaven Roofing Services - *Fatal fall from height*
- HM Advocate v Pelagia Shetland Limited - *Serious injury due to missing machine guarding*
- HM Advocate v Streamline Shipping Group Limited - *Serious injury during workplace vehicle movements*
- HM Advocate v Fabweld Services Scotland Limited - *Fatal fall from height*
- HM Advocate v Murform Limited - *Serious injury due to collaping plant*
- HM Advocate v Kinning Park Nursing Home (Scotland) Limited - *Fatality in nursing home*
- HM Advocate v Lambhill Court Care Limited - *Fatality in nursing home*
- HM Advocate v Boswell - *Fairground ride collapse causing multiple injuries*
- HM Advocate v Y Limited (Anonymised) - *Workplace fatality involving car crash on vehicular test track*
- HM Advocate v Goodfellow Environmental Maintenance Limited - *Workplace fatality in roadworks*
- HM Advocate v Sparks Mechanical Services Limited - *Crane collapse causing serious injury*
- HM Advocate v AG (Anonymised) - *Workplace fatality caused by falling plant*
- HM Advocate v A Limited (Anonymised) - *Workplace fatality on wind farm*
- HM Advocate v B Limited (Anonymised) - *Workplace fatality following exposure to hot chemicals*
- HM Advocate v C Limited (Anonymised) - *Fatality following gas explosion*
- HM Advocate v D Limited (Anonymised) - *Double fatality on construction site*
- HM Advocate v E Limited (Anonymised) - *Fatality during lift servicing operation*
- HM Advocate v F Limited (Anonymised) - *Road traffic (haulage) fatality*

Fatal Accident Inquiries and Public Inquiries

Mr Anderson appears in Fatal Accident Inquiry proceedings, often linked to criminal health and safety investigations.

He has appeared in FAIs relating to deaths in the workplace, in custody, in hospital and at school.

Representative Instructions

- The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry – *currently instructed to represent a core participant*
- The James Murray FAI [2026] FAI 8 - *Death of driver during road haulage operations*
- Dr Karen Duncan v The Lord Advocate [2026] SC 30 – *Mr Anderson appeared as Senior Counsel for the Lord Advocate in judicial review proceedings on the interpretation of the legislation which governs FAIs*
- The Chloe Morrison Fatal Accident Inquiry [2025] FAI 8 – *Death of pedestrian struck by moving lorry,Drumnadrochit*
- The John Yuill and Lamara Bell Fatal Accident Inquiry ("M9") [2024] FAI 18 – *Mr Anderson appeared as Senior Counsel for the Procurator Fiscal; failures of police to respond promptly to fatal road traffic collision, Stirling*
- The Kirsty McGregor Fatal Accident Inquiry [2021] FAI 47 – *Death of child in care home, Dunoon*
- The James Kerr Fatal Accident Inquiry [2021] FAI 28 – *Death following crane collapse on vessel, Mull*
- The Sumburgh Fatal Accident Inquiry [2020] FAI 34 - *Multiple fatalities following offshore helicopter crash, Shetland*
- The Sophie Parkinson Fatal Accident Inquiry [2020] FAI 32 – *Death of school pupil, Dundee*
- The Clutha Fatal Accident Inquiry [2019] FAI 46 - *Multiple fatalities following police helicopter crash, Glasgow*
- The Keane Wallis Bennet Fatal Accident Inquiry [2017] FAI 14 – *Death of pupil at school, Edinburgh*

- The Scottish Child Abuse Public Inquiry - *Inquiring into actions of a Benedictine Order during Case Study No.5*

Environmental Offences

Mr Anderson has extensive experience in environmental crimes concerning pollution, waste management, planning and breaches of enforcement notices.

Representative Instructions

- PF Livingston v Bryce - *Tree felling offences*
- PF Forfar v Linford - *Planning offences*
- PF Hamilton v C (Anonymised) - *Noise abatement notice offence*
- PF Perth v R (Anonymised) - *Destruction of habitat offences*
- PF Dumfries v KI Limited (Anonymised) - *Pollution and destruction of habitat offences*
- PF Stirling v Scotbeef Limited [2014] HCJAC 61 - *Breach of SEPA Enforcement Notice, Appeal against Sentence*

Financial Crime and Investigations

Mr Anderson has extensive experience in cases of alleged fraud, money laundering, bankruptcy, licensing, financial services, data protection and company director offences. He has provided advice in relation to bribery both nationally and internationally.

He has acted for both accused persons and companies, as well as financial institutions and regulators concerning bribery and large-scale frauds, including boiler-room fraud, carousel fraud and Ponzi schemes.

The very serious nature of the allegations made against commercial clients in such cases means that often Mr Anderson's work in this field is advisory at the investigative stage, with many contentious matters remaining out of the public domain.

He is a member of the Fraud Advisory Panel and the LexisNexis Panel of Experts for Corporate Crime in Scotland.

Representative Instructions

- A (Anonymised – a liquidator) – *Advice on conduct of liquidation against background of suspected criminality*
- Re L - Investigation concerning *Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 and Bribery Act 2010*
- T (Anonymised - a witness) - *Advice regarding Bribery Act 2010*
- Y (Anonymised - a bank) - *Advice to financial institution concerning suspected fraud*
- HM Advocate v Stephen Farley - *Acted for Financial Conduct Authority in enforcement action concerning £18M fraud*
- HM Advocate v Alistair Greig - *Acted for Financial Conduct Authority in enforcement action concerning £13M fraud*
- X plc (Anonymised) - *"Dawn raid" under Crime (International Co-Operation) Act 2003 in international tax fraud investigation*

Professional Discipline

Mr Anderson provides advice and representation in relation to professional disciplinary proceedings and appears regularly before a variety of regulatory tribunals.

From 2017 until 2021 he was a member of the Legal Advisers Pool for the Disciplinary Scheme of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Media Law

Mr Anderson has advised media organisations in relation to reporting restrictions and contempt of court issues surrounding high-profile criminal proceedings.

Representative Instructions

- X Limited (Anonymised) (2020) - *Advice to media organisation concerning online reporting of a criminal trial*
- A v Procurator Fiscal Dundee 2018 SLT 72 (Anonymised) -*Acted for News Group Newspapers Limited regarding reporting restrictions in blackmail prosecution*
- HM Advocate v AJ (2018*)* (Anonymised) - *Application for lifting of reporting restrictions under Criminal Procedure Rules, Chapter 56*
- X Limited (2017) (Anonymised) - *Advice to media organisation regarding publication of name of former child offender*
- HM Advocate v SM (2017) (Anonymised) - *Application for reporting restrictions concerning mental health of accused*
- HM Advocate v JM (2016) (Anonymised) - *Application for reporting restrictions concerning child witnesses*

Memberships

The Health and Safety Lawyers' Association

The United Kingdom Environmental Lawyers' Association

The Fraud Advisory Panel

The Financial Services Lawyers' Association

The Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

LexisNexis Panel of Experts for Corporate Crime in Scotland

What the Directories Say

~~Chambers & Partners 2026~~

Compass Chambers

Ranked Band 1 for Health & Safety and Public and Fatal Accident Inquiries

"Gavin in responsive and extremely thorough; I trust his legal analysis and his ability to provide commercial advice"

"He has excellent knowledge of the law and is easy to work with. He is always impressive with clients"

Legal 500 2025

Mr Anderson is ranked a Band 1 Silk for Crime and Regulatory

"Gavin masters the detail in complex cases with ease and is able to explain things to clients in a clear and measured way. He is very easy to work with and turns things around very quickly":

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