Compass Chambers

Gordon Balfour KC



Year called:	2002
Year of silk:	2025
Email:	gordon.balfour@compasschambers.com
Qualifications:	BA (Hons) Law, 2:1 (Pembroke College, Cambridge, 1994) MA (1998) LLB (Ordinary, with Distinction) (Edinburgh, 1996) Diploma in Legal Practice (1997)

2027 Chambers Top Ranked UK Bar

Profile

Gordon is primarily instructed to act on behalf of insurance clients in personal injury disputes. He is ranked Band 1 for personal injury by Chambers and Partners.

He has extensive experience in high value claims arising out of catastrophic injury (both spinal and brain injury); functional pain disorders; fatal accidents; and industrial disease. He is particularly skilled in the quantification of damages and has given several seminars on the application of the Ogden Tables.

Representative Cases

- **Crozier or Veale v Scottish Power UK PLC [2023] CSOH 50**
  Junior counsel for pursuers in fatal mesothelioma claim. Successful at debate concerning interpretation of section 5 of the Damages (Scotland) Act 2011.

- **Scottish Hospitals Inquiry**
  Junior counsel for one of the Core Participants in the Inquiry.

- **Kavreli Group Limited v Aviva Insurance Limited [2019] 4 WLUK 585**

Counsel for defender in claim for indemnity under an insurance policy following a fire. Defender assoilzied following proof concerning misrepresentations by the pursuer.

- **O'Connor v Scottish Water [2018] CSOH 75**

Counsel for pursuer in property damage claim involving the formation of a sinkhole. Successful after proof involving extensive technical evidence.

- **AH v Greater Glasgow Health Board [2018] CSOH 57**

Junior counsel for one of the defenders in the leading Scottish case against the manufacturers of vaginal mesh products.

- **Devon Angling Association v Scottish Water [2018] SAC (Civ) 7**

Counsel for the defender in dispute regarding title to sue following an incident where a pollutant had allegedly entered a river.

- **Dundee City Council & others v D Geddes (Contractors) Limited 2014 SLT 764, [2014] CSOH 164, [2017] CSOH 108**

Junior counsel for defender in high value case concerning the supply of chippings for use in road construction. Defender assoilzied after proof in Commercial Court.

- **Cruden Buildings & Renewals Limited v Scottish Water [2017] CSOH 98.**

Counsel for defender in property damage case. Successfully argued that the pursuer had no title to sue.

- **A J Allan (Blairnyle) Ltd v Strathclyde Fire Board 2016 SC 304; [2014] CSOH 135**

Counsel for defender in leading case concerning the duties of care owed by the fire service.

- **Cole v Advocate General for Scotland Court of Session 2015 SLT 504**

Counsel for defender in case concerning res judicata in the context of provisional damages.

- **Campbell Construction Group Ltd v Scottish Water 2015 SLT (Sh Ct) 159**

Counsel for defender in property damage case concerning the extent to which the pursuer had sustained a loss.

- **Mitchell v Advocate General for Scotland 2015 SLT 92**

Counsel for defender in motion for issues concerning the interpretation of the Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Act 1973.

- **Miller Construction (UK) Ltd v Building Design Partnership Ltd [2014] CSOH 80**

Counsel for defender in action for enforcement of adjudicator's award.

- **Cora Foundation & Board of Managers of St Mary's Kenmure v East Dunbartonshire Council 2014 SC 665**

Junior counsel for the defender and respondent in complex case involving statutory construction.

- **Cunningham v Cameron [2013] CSOH 193**

Counsel for defender in case involving fire damage to a residential property. Complex proof regarding the cause of the fire.

- **Whyte and Mackay Ltd v Blyth & Blyth Consulting Engineers Ltd [2012] SLT 1073**

Junior counsel for defender and counterclaimer in complex construction dispute involving enforcement of adjudicator's award

- **Hamilton v Ferguson Transport (Spean Bridge) Limited [2012] CSIH 52**

Counsel for the Scottish Ministers in full bench case concerning the Convention compatibility of civil jury trial procedure

- **Ambrose v Harris [2011] 1 WLR 2435**

Junior counsel for the Crown in Supreme Court case concerning the implications of the Cadder decision in circumstances other than following formal detention

- **Odeon Cinemas Limited v GF Holding (Contractors) Limited and Others**

Junior counsel for the first defender in a construction dispute in which the pursuer sought approximately £10M. Successfully resisted motion for caution and diligence on the dependence. Claim resolved at mediation

- **HMA v Hutchison and Others**

Junior counsel for the first accused in (i) prosecution for regulatory offences concerning fishing in excess of quotas; and (ii) proceeds of crime action in which the Crown initially sought over £3M. Successfully advanced a number of technical arguments in the proceeds of crime action

- **Fraser v HM Advocate [2011] SC (UKSC) 113**

Junior counsel for the Crown in Supreme Court case concerning the Convention compatibility of proceedings in which certain material had not been disclosed to an accused person

- **Cadder v HM Advocate [2011] SC (UKSC) 13**

Junior counsel for the Crown in Supreme Court case considering the Convention compatibility of Scottish procedure for detention and questioning of suspects without access to legal advice

- **Allison v HM Advocate [2010] SC (UKSC) 19**

Junior counsel for the Crown in Supreme Court case considering approach to non-disclosure of previous convictions and outstanding charges of witnesses

- **McDonald v HM Advocate [2010] SC (PC) 1**

Junior counsel for the Crown in Privy Council case considering whether the Lord Advocate's system for disclosing information to the defence in criminal cases was Convention compliant

What the Directories Say

Legal 500 UK Bar 2020 - Ranked Band 1 for Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence - "Recommended for his work on behalf of defenders"

Legal 500 UK Bar 2020 - Ranked Band 2 for Commercial Litigation - "He adds value to every step of a case"

Chambers UK Bar 2020 - Ranked Band 1 for Personal Injury - "His attention to detail is first class and his advice is always pragmatic. He has an impressive grasp of the law and an excellent ability to absorb and understand complicated factual detail."

Chambers UK Bar 2020 - Ranked Band 2 for Professional Negligence - "A first-class advocate with a great eye for detail and a talent for getting under the skin of a case."

Appointments

- Standing Junior to the Ministry of Defence
- Standing Junior to the Scottish Government (2008–2011)
- Ad hoc Advocate Depute (2012–2017)