Compass Chambers

John Scullion KC



Year called:	2002
Year of silk:	2014
Email:	john.scullion@compasschambers.com
Qualifications:	LLB (Hons) and Diploma in Legal Practice (Strathclyde)

Practice Profile

John was a solicitor in private practice for 7 years before calling to the Bar in 2002. He has extensive experience defending clients in the Sheriff Court and High Court of Justiciary. He was appointed as an ad hoc advocate depute in 2006, becoming a full-time advocate depute in 2007. In 2009 he became a Senior Advocate Depute and in 2011 was appointed to the role of Assistant Principal Crown Counsel. Since returning to private practice in 2015 John has become one of the most widely instructed senior counsel at the Scottish Criminal Bar.

He has experience of Public Inquiries, Fatal Accident Inquiries, fatal road traffic collisions, health and safety prosecutions, financial prosecutions and other areas of regulatory crime. He is regularly instructed in high profile complex criminal trials.

Selected Cases

Inquiries

2023: Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry – instructed by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner

2021: FAI – crane collapsed onboard a fishing vessel killing crew member

Financial crime

2023: HMA v MR – Prosecution of manager at Midlothian Council under Bribery Act 2010

2023: HMA v DB – Car dealer prosecuted under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

2022: HMA v AB – Prosecution of a solicitor under Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in relation to money laundering

2020: HMA v LM – Prosecution under Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in relation to money laundering

2018: HMA v JM – Prosecution under Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015

2017: HMA v LT – Accountant prosecuted at Edinburgh Sheriff Court in relation to embezzlement during the course of employment at the Edinburgh International Fringe

2016: HMA v AJM – Employee of Adam Smith College, Fife, prosecuted in the High Court charged with fraudulently obtaining funds from the European Commission European Structural Funds

2015-16: HMA v IA Rangers Case – Advising former director of Rangers Football Club prosecuted in relation to allegations of fraud

2015: Financial Conduct Authority v AG – Multimillion pound fraud action brought against an Independent Financial Advisor

Road Traffic Act 1988

2023: HMA v TH – High Court prosecution in relation to charge of causing multiple deaths + serious injury by dangerous driving

2022: HMA v DM – van driver prosecuted in the High Court in relation to charge of causing death of a pedestrian by dangerous driving

2019: HMA v KK – Teenager prosecuted in the High Court in relation to charge of causing death of a pedestrian by dangerous driving

2019: HMA v MH – Lorry driver prosecuted in the Sheriff Court in relation to causing death of pedestrian by careless driving

2018: HMA v AM – Teenager prosecuted in the Sheriff Court in relation to causing serious injury to pedestrian by dangerous driving

2018: HMA v DS – Lorry driver prosecuted in the High Court in relation to causing death by dangerous driving

2016: HMA v EM – prosecution in the Sheriff Court in relation to causing serious injury to pedestrian by dangerous driving

Health and Safety

2021: HMA v UC – Prosecution under Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998

2019: HMA v RM – Section 3 HSWA following death at work following collapse of a crane

2018: PF v NLL Ltd 2018 – local authority charged with breaches of H&S legislation in relation to exposure of employees to asbestos

2016: HMA v LT T/A Hex Fabrication (4-week sheriff and jury trial): Section 3 HSWA involving a death at work following the collapse of a Mobile Elevating Work Platform

Sexual Offences

2021: HMA v BH – School pupil prosecuted for sexual offences in relation to another pupil

2020: HMA v KM – Retired police officer prosecuted in the High Court for historical sexual offences including rape

2019: HMA v CG – Edinburgh University Student prosecuted in the High Court in relation to allegations of rape involving fellow students.

2018: HMA v DB – Teacher prosecuted for historical sexual allegations

2016: HMA v WM – Church minister prosecuted in relation to allegations of historical sexual abuse made by parishioners

2016: WM v HMA – Appeal against conviction by church minister convicted of charges of sexual assault made by parishioners [2016] HCJAC 15

Selected others

2023: HMA v KB – Farmer prosecuted for shooting a dog in sheep worrying incident

2023: HMA v ACM Police Officer prosecuted for on duty Assault and Attempting to Defeat

2021: HMA v JK – Murder trial were accused was charged with shooting 2 people 15 years apart

2019: Law Society of Scotland v MR – solicitor prosecuted before disciplinary panel following multiple convictions under the Road Traffic Act 1988

2019: HMA v DC – Murder trial where the body of the deceased was never recovered

2019: HMA v JM – Murder trial where accused was charged with killing a witness in a High Court prosecution

2018: HMA v MB – Operation Escalade – prosecution of members of Serious and Organised Criminal gang in relation to the importation of drugs and Firearms

2016: JD v HMA – Appeared for the Crown in murder conviction appeal in relation to the murder of a 16-yearold girl in 1986 [2016] HCJAC

2015: HMA v TA – Professional footballer prosecuted on indictment charged with assault to severe injury and permanent disfigurement

2015: HMA v AP: Notorious murder of Irish student Karen Buckley

2014 - HMA v JD (11-week Murder Trial). The first prosecution to come to trial from the Crown Office Cold Case Unit arising out of the murder of a 16 year old girl in June 1986

2013 - HMA v DBW (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Prisons (S) Act 1989). Solicitor prosecuted in relation to allegations of smuggling controlled drugs and mobile telephones into HMP Saughton.

Appointments

- Assistant Principal Advocate Depute (2011–2015)
- Senior Advocate Depute (2009–2011)
- Trial Advocate Depute (2007–2009)
- Ad hoc Advocate Depute (2006–2007)