

# Charles Hannaford

Call 2017



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Charles is a dedicated criminal defence advocate who is meticulous in his preparation and is regularly instructed in cases involving violence, drugs and sexual offences.

Charles provides excellent client care and understands the importance of the early stages in a criminal investigation having worked as a paralegal in a criminal defence firm and an accredited Police Station Representative before joining the bar in 2019.

Charles has been led in the Crown Court by Colin Aylott KC in a multi-handed conspiracy to murder trial lasting 4 weeks in St Albans Crown Court.

Charles appears attends Courts in the South East of England and occasionally North Wales.

## Expertise

### Crime

Charles advocates for his clients fiercely and is not afraid to advance procedural and legal arguments at any venue. A number of legal arguments have resulted in the Crown offering no evidence against his clients.

Charles has experience in advising and resisting Quasi-Criminal orders such as restraining orders, forfeiture and

restoration orders, Stalking Protection Order's (SPO), Sexual Risk Order's (SRO) and non-molestation orders.

## Notable Crime cases

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### R v GC Court of Appeal (2025)

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Successful appeal against sentence following guilty plea to theft of a caravan in November 2021. COA quashed a sentence of 24 months immediate custody for a 15-month sentence suspended for 2 years with RAR 30 days and 50 hours unpaid work. Driving ban was also quashed.

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### R v AC Liverpool Crown Court (2025)

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Serving PC of 18 years with GMP acquitted of on duty sexual assault of colleague.

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### R v MR Birmingham Crown Court (2025)

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Client acquitted of rape and sexual activity of a child following a retrial lasting five days.

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### R v MS Liverpool Crown Court (2024)

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Client and her partner (represented by [Fiona Clegg](#)) were charged with assisting their son to escape from Liverpool knowing or believing he was involved in the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old two weeks prior. Trial lasted 7 weeks before Mr Justice Goose, resulting in the unanimous acquittal of MS and her partner. Their son and another were convicted of Murder and received life with a minimum of 32 years.

[\(Liverpool Echo\)](#)

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### R v DW Guildford Crown Court (2024)

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Client charged with 8 counts of child cruelty alongside their partner. The case involved the cross examination of child witnesses through the Section 28 pre-recorded evidence procedure.

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### R v CB Inner London Crown Court (2024)

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Client charged with sexual offences with a child and perverting the course of justice. Clients defence was reasonable belief that the complainant was aged 17 at the relevant time. Case involved the review of voluminous text messages and substantial prison telephone calls.

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### R v CD Liverpool Crown Court (2024)

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Suspended sentence following plea on a basis, shortly before trial, that CD's circumstances fell just short of \_\_\_\_\_

duress of threats in respect of County Lines drug supply. It was held to be an exceptional case which warranted moving outside of the guidelines to impose a SSO.

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R v OO Harrow Crown Court (2024)

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Secured the unanimous acquittal of a client charged with sexual assault in a fitness gym.

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R v JR Portsmouth Crown Court (2023)

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Secured the unanimous acquittal of a client charged with rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault. The Jury were directed to acquit the client of false imprisonment at the close of the Crown's case.

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R v RS Reading Crown Court (2023)

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Secured the unanimous acquittal of a client charged with stranger rape.

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R v TJ [2023] St Albans Crown Court

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Junior counsel led by Colin Aylott KC in a multi-handed conspiracy to murder.

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R v TS [2023] Portsmouth Crown Court

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Secured the acquittal of a soldier for ABH due to contamination of identification evidence and significant failings in the investigation to pursue all reasonable lines of enquiry.

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R v SG [2022] Maidstone Crown Court

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Successfully appealed a conviction of domestic assault for a young and vulnerable client with ASD and no previous convictions.

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R v SD [2022] Woolwich Crown Court

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Secured the acquittal following an allegation of sexual assault of a vulnerable complainant at a bus stop in broad daylight. Cross examination of Crown witnesses identified multiple conflicting accounts, and a failure by the Police to consider CCTV evidence covering the incident.

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R v SZ [2022] Central Criminal Court (Nightingale)

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Following extensive legal argument in respect of the definition of "Subject of Her Majesty" and application of

Section 57 OAPA 1861 to Pakistani nationals, the Crown offered no evidence shortly before the trial date.

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#### R v PP [2022] Northampton Crown Court

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Secured 8 months suspended sentence for being concerned in the production of cannabis. In mitigation highlighted features of exploitation, intimidation, and direction.

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#### R v AA and others [2022] Kingston Crown Court

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After a 5 day trial, all three defendants were acquitted of ABH on the grounds of self defence following a street brawl in Kingston. The complainant, who suffered wounds requiring stitches, entered into a verbal argument with D1 which turned physical involving his dog. D2 and D3 came acted in self defence of D1.

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#### R v LB and Others [2021] Inner London Crown Court

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Junior counsel led by Dianna Ellis KC in a complex child neglect case which resulted in dismissal for LB.

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#### R v SB [2021] Isleworth Crown Court

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Standalone suspended sentence order for perverting the course of justice.

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## Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery

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Charles has experience challenging Law enforcement bodies and authorities in respect of seized property and decisions on restoration of goods. Charles has also resisted a number of Quasi-Criminal civil orders such as SRO, SPO, Restraining orders and non-molestation orders.

### Notable Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery cases

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#### CIT v Director of Border Revenue [2022] First Tier Tax Tribunal

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The lorry and refrigeration unit belonging to CIT was seized by UK Border Force following the arrest of the driver for smuggling 42 Kilos of Cocaine inside the load. The decision to refuse restoration of the vehicle and trailer back to CIT was challenged and found to be unreasonable.

# Professional Regulation

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Charles has experience advising on appeals against decisions of the Disclosure Barring Service to add individuals to their barred lists.

# Associations

Criminal Bar Association