

# Sebastian Winnett

Call 2011



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Sebastian has a busy practice in serious fraud and is frequently instructed as a led junior in complex multi-handed matters.

Particularly attuned to the requirements of lay and professional clients, Sebastian is regularly instructed in cases involving defendants and witnesses with complex needs.

## Expertise

### Crime

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Sebastian has significant experience in representing those accused of serious drug offences and is regularly instructed in cases requiring handling of ANPR, telephonic and financial material.

### Notable Crime cases

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#### Operation Arbus [2023] Cardiff Crown Court

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Instructed as junior Counsel to Jim Tilbury in a lengthy trial relating to violent kidnaps committed by an organised criminal group.

Acquittals were secured on all counts.

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R v C [2023] Croydon Crown Court

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Instructed as Prosecution Counsel in an NCA led investigation relating to the importation of 4.5kg of cocaine. A conviction was secured after trial.

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R v R [2022] Harrow Crown Court

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Secured acquittal for Defendant accused of Perverting the Course of Justice.

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R v S & Others [2021] Woolwich Crown Court

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Instructed in relation to a matter arising from an assault on a prison guard.

The case attracted considerable press interest.

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R v B [2020] Inner London Crown Court

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Secured acquittal for young defendant charged with knife point robbery. The Jury heard about the Defendant's previous convictions for carrying a knife.

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Operation Saltford [2020] Isleworth Crown Court

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Instructed as junior to Chris Henley QC in a case concerning the murder of a vulnerable man strangled in his own home.

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R v G [2017] Birmingham Crown Court

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Instructed as junior Counsel to Adam Kane QC in a case involving a vehicle used as a weapon. The Defendant was acquitted of Attempted Murder.

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Operation Prosisit [2019] Blackfriars Crown Court

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Instructed as junior Counsel to Mr Grahame James in a conspiracy to smuggle a large number of firearms into the UK. The case involved close scrutiny of a large volume of telephonic data.

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Operation Arabella [2018] Harrow Crown Court

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Instructed in multi-handed Conspiracy to Burgle involving cell-site analysis. The defendants were alleged to have carried out over 60 offences (including aggravated burglaries) in one month.

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R v M [2018] Court of Appeal

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Appeal Against Sentence relating to Identity Documents. Sentence halved resulting in immediate release. [2018] EWCA Crim 1875

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R v C [2017] Woolwich Crown Court

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Secured acquittal for recently released offender charged with Possession with Intent to supply and being concerned in the supply of drugs.

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R v M & Others [2017] Snaresbrook Crown Court

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Defendant acquitted of PWITS class A. The Defendant was found in drug dealer's vehicle next to large amount of pre-packaged party drugs.

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R v T [2017] Salisbury Crown Court

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Intoxicated Defendant acquitted of multiple Counts of ABH arising from a prolonged fight on New Years' Eve, on the basis of self-defence. Injuries to the complainants included bites to the face and arm.

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R v P & Others [2017] Isleworth Crown Court

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Defendant acquitted of assaulting a prison officer in an incident arising from large-scale violent incident within Feltham Young Offenders involving multiple defendants.

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## Business Crime & Fraud

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Sebastian has previously been seconded to the Serious Fraud Office in relation to ongoing prosecutions regarding Inter-Bank rate fixing frauds, and has extensive experience regarding disclosure, LPP, investigatory powers, and cross-border prosecutions with regards large-scale corruption/fraud investigations.

## Notable Business Crime & Fraud cases

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Operation Electron [2019] Wood Green Crown Court

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Instructed as Junior to Barry Kogan in relation to a 7-handed prosecution for fraudulent evasion of VAT. Secured acquittals on all counts after a trial lasting 6 months.

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Operation Warbird [2018] Manchester Crown Court

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Instructed as junior to Mark Harries for the first Defendant in a complex multi-handed immigration fraud.

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R v F [2018] Southwark Crown Court

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Instructed as Junior to Mark Harries in multi-handed fraud conspiracy. Secured acceptable pleas following representations.

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R v H [2018] Sheffield Crown Court

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Secured Suspended Sentence for care worker who admitted a prolonged fraud against a vulnerable man in his care.

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## Professional Regulation

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Sebastian has a developing practice in professional regulation and has recently undertaken a secondment at Kingsley Napley Solicitors, investigating and presenting cases on behalf of the Architects Registration Board, General Optical Council and Health and Care Professions Council.

## Memberships

- CBA
- ARDL

## Publications

- **Private Prosecution Costs: Refresher**  
Sebastian Winnett provides a short refresher on the law and considerations surrounding recovery of prosecution costs from central funds in privately brought prosecution
- **Sentencing Primary Carers: A Practical Guide**  
Sebastian Winnett provides a practical examination of the relevant factors for advocates preparing for a

sentencing hearing involving an offender with a dependant relative, as well as providing a summary of the key authorities.