

Iain Simkin

1995 , 2023 Kings Counsel, simkin@deanscourt.co.uk



Education

Manchester Metropolitan University

Appointments

List of Specialist Regulatory Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law (List A)

Areas of Specialism

Regulatory

Transport Commissioners

Inquests (including Judicial Review)

Serious Crime

Health & Safety

Environmental

Corporate Manslaughter

Professional Discipline & Regulation

Fire Safety Law

Profile

Iain Simkin was called to the bar in 1995 and specialises in Regulatory law and Serious Crime.

His practice focuses on Health and Safety, Environmental cases, Inquests, Professional Discipline and Serious Crime.

He is known as a robust advocate, and is highly praised for his modern and flexible approach.

Transport Law

Iain is highly experienced counsel who has represented clients throughout the range of carriers. He has worked throughout a variety of different business sectors and a range of different sized enterprises. His work has included the reported case of Parker body repairs but has undertaken cases for national and international carriers such as Menzies Distributions Holdings LTD and Whistl. Iain has received repeat instructions from the aforementioned clients.

Iain possesses a comprehensive understanding of transport law, encompassing both its regulatory framework and practical application across a wide range of cases. His practice frequently involves advising and representing clients in matters relating to commercial and private transport, including licensing issues, operator compliance, vehicle standards, and enforcement actions brought by regulatory bodies such as the DVSA and local authorities.

He is particularly adept at handling complex cases involving haulage and passenger transport operations, where legal intricacies often intersect with commercial realities. Whether dealing with tachograph offences, maintenance failures, or allegations of unsafe practices, he provides clear, strategic guidance tailored to the needs of operators, drivers, and transport managers alike.

Iain has considerable experience representing clients before the Traffic Commissioner in regulatory proceedings concerning the operation of commercial vehicles. His work spans public inquiries, driver conduct hearings, and appeals involving issues such as operator licensing and vehicle maintenance standards. Iain has acted for haulage companies, passenger transport operators, and individual drivers, providing strategic advice and robust advocacy to safeguard professional standing and business continuity.

With a detailed understanding of transport regulations and the expectations of the Traffic Commissioner, Iain is well-equipped to navigate complex cases and secure favourable outcomes for clients.

Serious Crime (Prosecution and Defence)

Iain Simkin is a highly accomplished criminal barrister with a wealth of experience spanning the full spectrum of serious and complex criminal litigation.

He is regularly instructed to act for both the prosecution and defence in high-profile, multi-defendant trials, including cases involving allegations of murder, gross negligence manslaughter, and conspiracy to commit serious offences.

His practice encompasses large-scale financial crime, such as multi-million-pound fraud and money laundering investigations, as well as major drug trafficking operations involving extensive surveillance and evidence. Iain is known for his meticulous case preparation, strategic thinking, and persuasive advocacy, making him a sought-after choice for cases requiring exceptional legal insight and courtroom skill.

He was the lead prosecutor in the case against Reynhard Sinaga, who has been found guilty of raping or sexually assaulting men in Manchester, following four trials spanning the course of 18 months. Sinaga was found guilty of 136 counts of rape, eight counts of attempted rape, 14 counts of sexual assault, and one count of assault by penetration, against a total of 48 victims, and has been sentenced to life in prison with a minimum term of 30 years.

Health and Safety

Iain is recognised as a leading consumer law and trading standards barrister. He is instructed by Local Authorities, as well as businesses and individuals. This ranges from breaches of Food Hygiene Regulations to Fraud, and covers all manner of investigations into businesses and traders.

With a strong track record in health and safety law, Iain has advised and represented clients across a wide range of regulatory and criminal proceedings arising from workplace incidents.

His experience includes acting for both the prosecution and defence in cases involving serious breaches of duties, fatal accidents, and complex investigations led by the Health and Safety Executive. Iain is well-versed in navigating the intricacies of corporate liability, risk management, and compliance frameworks, and regularly appear in the Crown Court and Coroner's Court.

His strategic approach and deep understanding of regulatory enforcement make them a trusted advocate for businesses, directors, and individuals facing health and safety allegations.

Iain is a category A prosecutor with a wide range of defending and prosecuting in regulatory cases. This has included representing a variety of clients for a variety of food hygiene matters.

Inquest (inc. Judicial Review)

Iain has a strong coronial practice and regularly appears in inquests on behalf of Interested Persons. He is extremely experienced in handling Inquests up to and including Judicial Review,

He is frequently instructed in cases involving 'death in custody' and has represented interested parties including prison transport companies, such as SERCO and GEOAmy.

He acts for local authorities in a wide variety of cases including deaths in care homes and he has also been instructed on behalf of families, private companies, healthcare trusts, doctors and other healthcare professionals who have become interested persons in inquests.

Regulatory (including GMC)

Renowned for his expertise across the range of regulatory cases; Iain is a first class advocate and lawyer who has been the first choice for many national and international companies. He has offered his specialised advice, proficiency in negotiation and excellent representation both before and after action has commenced.

Iain represents the General Medical Council in a wide range of fitness to practise proceedings, regularly advising and appearing in cases involving allegations against medical professionals.

Beyond his extensive work for the General Medical Council, Iain has a significant defence practice acting for professionals whose careers and reputations are at risk in regulatory proceedings. He is regularly instructed to represent individuals facing allegations before a wide range of statutory and professional bodies, including healthcare regulators, legal services regulators, and financial oversight authorities.

His defence work spans the full lifecycle of regulatory intervention—from early-stage advice during investigations, through interim order hearings, to fully contested final hearings and appeals. He is adept at navigating the evidential, procedural, and reputational complexities that arise when a professional's fitness to practise is challenged.

Iain is known for his ability to distil complex factual and technical material into clear, strategic advice. Iain's cross-regulatory experience means he is well-placed to advise on the interplay between disciplinary proceedings, employment processes, parallel investigations, and reputational management. His calm, strategic handling of high-stakes cases makes him a trusted advocate for professionals seeking to protect their standing and continue in practice.

CQC Work

Iain has extensive experience involving Care Quality Commission (CQC) at inquests and has also represented care homes in proceedings where CQC involvement was central, both before and after a resident's death, including cases where enforcement action was imminent. He has advised care homes facing potential closure by Local Authorities, with CQC playing a pivotal role, and has delivered training to solicitors on CQC-related matters. His healthcare and regulatory expertise gives him a deep understanding of how the CQC fits into the broader statutory framework, including the Duty of Candour, safeguarding responsibilities, and the adult safeguarding reforms introduced by the Care Act 2014..

Road Traffic Law

In road traffic law, Iain welcomes instructions in serious road traffic matters.

Iain brings a wealth of experience and a meticulous understanding of the legislation that governs this complex area. He is regularly instructed by a range of insurers in the most serious cases, including those involving fatalities and life-threatening injuries, where the legal issues are often intricate.

His courtroom presence and strategic approach have earned him a reputation for handling these sensitive matters with both skill and compassion.

Education

Iain has substantial experience in education law, advising and representing schools, academies, and local authorities on a wide range of regulatory and governance matters. He is particularly experienced in handling appeals against Ofsted decisions, including challenging inspection outcomes and navigating the complex procedural framework surrounding judicial reviews and internal complaints.

Fire Safety

Iain undertakes a full range of cases dealing with Health & Safety and regulatory fire safety prosecutions. His clients have ranged from individuals responsible for fire safety risk assessments up to and including American conglomerates responsible for international chemical companies.

Notable cases include R v LPL this was a large scale fire at a chemical factory which resulted in the catastrophic destruction of the premises and a fatality. The case involves a thorough understanding of chemical process, explosive atmospheres, production techniques and the requisite control measures to guard against the risk of ignition.

Notable Cases

LP Ltd

Practice Area: Fire Safety

Large fatality fire at Chemical facility This was a large scale fire at a chemical factory which resulted in the catastrophic destruction of the premises and a fatality. The case involves a thorough understanding of chemical process, explosive atmospheres, production techniques and the requisite control measures to guard against the risk of ignition.

R v GF

Practice Area: Fire Safety

GF authored a fire safety risk assessment on behalf of a care home in Runcorn. Following an unanticipated fire alarm activation, fire officers attended, from their arrival at the Care Home, the officers were able to identify an adequate horizontal but inadequate vertical emergency exit strategy. The prosecution alleged that the fire risk assessment authored by GF was insufficient to meet the needs of the Care Homes residents. The inadequacies included but were not confined to an insufficient fire risk assessment, insufficient planning organisation, control monitoring and review of measures and absence of appropriate fire detention in the roof spaces and loft of the property and most starkly an absence of a full evacuation plan.

R v SV

Practice Area: Fire Safety

This case involves a hotel which consisted of multiple floors. A fire safety investigation conducted by the Lancashire fire and rescue service revealed a number of alleged failings. Smoke sensors were missing from the system, doors in corridors had been wedged open. Beds and desks had blocked potential escape routes, there were excessive number of refuse bags within the property and the alarm system had been tampered with. The fire service were adamant in their conclusion that the guests at the hotel were at risk of very serious injury and/or death. Articles 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18,19 and 21 were alleged to have been breached.

Menzies Distribution

Practice Area: Traffic Commissioner

Mr Simkin has received repeat instruction in relation to bridge strikes and other instances. He was able to develop a strong working relationship with the senior leadership team, in particular the then CEO Greg Michael. Menzies.

Menzies businesses operate in a broad market of time critical logistics, including distributing newspapers and magazines throughout the UK and Ireland, partnerships with all the UK's major grocers and delivering across all Scottish healthcare trusts for NHS Scotland. The group operates out of 71 separate operating centres and employs a total of 4,300 people. There are currently 14 Operator licences providing a total margin of 1,488 LGV's and 2,410 trailers.

As of 2024, the reported turnover for the parent company of MDHL was 2.6 billion dollars.

Salford Van Hire

Practice Area: Transport

Public inquiry with regards to a full operators license following an unscheduled inspection to the clients place of business. Drafted lengthy submissions, supported by successful oral submissions resulting in a favourable conclusion so far as the client was concerned.

Kettlewell

Practice Area: Traffic Commissioner

Mr Simkin represented a local company who offered public service vehicles to local schools. Represented before the traffic commissioner of the NE.

Issues dealt with - Serviceability of vehicles / Records of defects / issues of financial stability Company continued to operate, kept their licence and continued to provide services to school children.

Whistl

Practice Area: Traffic Commissioner

Mr Simkin represented Whistl in a traffic commissioner proceedings following a bridge strike. There followed a root and branch investigation by the Traffic Commissioner into each aspect of Whistl's business. Submissions were provided in regard to LGV Driver Assessment and Training, tachograph and Vehicle Maintenance, tachographs, Drivers Licences and vehicle defects.

WHISTL is a high-volume collection and delivery service. It collects mail, packets and parcels from a wide variety of customers and locations across the UK. Once items have been processed, they are then transported between WHISTL depots and subsequently handed across to a number of domestic and international carriers for the final leg to delivery. WHISTL handled around 3.5 billion items, undertook around 90,000 collections and its vehicles travelled about 21.2 million kilometres.

Parker Body Repairs - REPORTED CASE

Practice Area: Transport

Public inquiry following deficiencies identified at a scheduled inspection. The client was operating on a restricted license. Lengthy written submissions supported by targeted oral submissions resulted in no regulatory action being taken. However, the case has revealed a novel point of law and an appeal to the upper tribunal is anticipated.

Inquest into the Death of SD

Practice Area: Inquest - Judicial Review

Judicial Review in front of a high Court Judge. Acted on behalf of the Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust

Successful submissions in support of the coroners decisions in the 1st instance.

Factually and legally complex case looking at the prescription of anti-psychotic medication which hid the symptoms of early stage leukaemia.

Dealt with Article 2 and neglect issues. Relied upon evidence of one psychologist and two haematologists during the inquest.

R v Chris Brain

Practice Area: Crime - Defence

Ongoing

R v A

Practice Area: Crime - Defence

Defended serving police officer accused of rape. CPS discontinued trial after cross examination of the complainant

R v Zack Morris

Practice Area: Crime - Defence

Youth attempted murder

R v Paul Fogherty

Practice Area: Crime - Defence

Unlawful Act Manslaughter

R v L Clarke

Practice Area: Crime - Defence

Drugs punishment murder

R v Jane Adamson

Practice Area: Crime - Defence

Gang related murder

R v HRR

Practice Area: Health & Safety

Falling from a height

Didcot PowerStation Collapse

Practice Area: Health & Safety

Briefed in the biggest H&S case in Britain

R v Hickimi

Practice Area: Crime - Prosecution

Serial Rapist - secured conviction

R v Prascevicus

Practice Area: Crime - Prosecution

4 Handed murder - secured conviction

R v Johnson & Others

Practice Area: Crime - Prosecution

Multi-handed Murder

R v Morgan & Others

Practice Area: Crime - Prosecution

Gross Negligent Manslaughter - secured conviction

R v Boeru & Others

Practice Area: Crime - Prosecution

7 handed people trafficking - All parties convicted

R v DJ

Practice Area: Crime- Prosecution

Prosecuted a man who "brutally" murdered a woman and then enlisted the help of his sisters to help cover it up. Defendant received a life order and was ordered to serve a minimum of 17 years and 6 months in Prison.

R v Sinaga

Practice Area: Crime - Prosecution

Lead prosecutor in the case against Reynhard Sinaga, who has been found guilty of raping or sexually assaulting men in Manchester, following four trials spanning the course of 18 months.

Sinaga was found guilty of 136 counts of rape, eight counts of attempted rape, 14 counts of sexual assault, and one count of assault by penetration, against a total of 48 victims, and has been sentenced to life in prison with a minimum term of 30 years.

Kilbride Industrial Services

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Water maintenance worker on large scale cleaning project for Northern Water suffered catastrophic injuries as a consequence of a projectile shooting out of the end of a water pipe. Complex matters – materiality of risk.

High Ridge Roofing

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Fatal accident involving an experienced roofer who fell to his death through fragile roof. Involved matters of construction design and management regulations.

YS

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Involves a very large organisation client with an operative suffering life changing injuries.

Makers Construction Ltd

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Large project to re-clad outside of a shopping centre which led to emission of asbestos dust.

Crystal Architectural Aluminium Ltd

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Fall from height which involved work at height regulations and health & safety general matters.

HSE -v- P (Court of Appeal [2013] 1 Cr. App. R. (S.) 34)

Practice Area: Health and Safety

National food delivery company having accepted liability for an injury to an employee successfully appealed the sentence at higher court.

HSE -v- S (Court of Appeal [2014] EWCA Crim.264)

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Junior alone against QC HSE prosecution resulted in a lengthy sentencing hearing and the defendant appealed. The contested parts of the appeal were successfully defended.

HSE -v- E (Leeds Crown Court)

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Large commercial client charged with serious breaches of the HSWA 1974 following a fatal accident to one of its employees. The risk to reputational damage was severe. A 2 year police/HSE investigation was discontinued at the Crown Court on the first day of trial following a series of wide-ranging representations.

EA -v- A

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Successfully secured the withdrawal of 5 offences relating to the escape of highly toxic chemicals from client's site in North Wales. Allegations that 22 injured and significant potential for environmental harm all withdrawn

EA -v- C (Sheffield Crown Court)

Practice Area: Health and Safety

A major house builder was charged with 15 offences relating to the unlawful carriage and disposal of carcinogenic waste. Successfully persuaded the prosecution to withdraw 12 offences leaving 3 technical offences only relating to paperwork (transfer notes)

EA -v- D (Warrington Crown Court)

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Following a "Panorama" investigation, the client was prosecuted by the EA for offences involving the illegal exportation of electronic waste to West Africa

Inquest - TFGM Re: JB

Practice Area: Inquest

Representing Transport for Greater Manchester in a case which will review security arrangements around the general public travelling on the tram in Manchester.

Inquest Re: OR

Practice Area: Inquest

Construction project in the jewellery quarter in Birmingham following the collapse of building.

Didcot Power Station

Practice Area: Inquest

Large industrial accident involving 4 deaths when Didcot Power Station collapsed.

Re: DR

Practice Area: Inquest

Died in care home following a fall. Suffering from multiple comorbidities.

United Utilities Re : DT

Practice Area: Inquest

Drowned in a reservoir.

Re: T. A "Jamieson

Practice Area: Inquest

Inquest whereby an employee had been crushed to death by a large pane of glass which fell on top of him. Maersk were the owners of the dry dock where the cargo handlers unloaded the glass. The inquest lasted for 2 weeks and legal submissions successfully prevented gross negligence manslaughter being left to the Jury.

Re: C. (Article 2)

Practice Area: Inquest

The deceased was a prisoner who had died by suspending himself. The CSRA, PER and ACCT documentation all had to be closely analysed along with the entirety of the deceased's prison records. All the evidence needed to be interpreted for the jury and there was a great deal of medical information from both System 1 and GP's notes.

Re: F. (Article 2)

Practice Area: Inquest

The deceased died at 18 whilst in custody from a sub-arachnoid haemorrhage, the condition is extremely rare in such a young man. There was voluminous evidence from both neurologists and neurosurgeons all of which needed to be explored and the relevant issues presented to the Jury in a clear, concise and comprehensible way.

Re: G. (Article 2)

Practice Area: Inquest

The deceased was crushed to death at Leeds Bus Station. Despite extensive written and oral submissions the deputy coroner ruled that this was an article 2 inquest. Despite very damning and misplaced recommendations from the assistant coroner, the HSE took no further action.

Re: L. (Article 2)

Practice Area: Inquest

The deceased had died whilst in custody from an overdose of prescribed and illicit drugs. The deceased was a heroin user who, whilst in prison, was under the supervision of IDTS and healthcare. There was substantial evidence to demonstrate that prisoners were diverting their medication and the toxicology report detailed the deceased having taken a cocktail of illicit opiates and benzodiazepines. The "orange book" and the NICE guidelines with regard to dispensing practises were placed before the jury such that they could appreciate the relevant clinical context.

R v E

Practice Area: Trading Standards & Consumer Law

The defendant was charged with the wholesale supply of poisonous (potentially fatal) products into the supply chain, contrary to Regulation 20 of the General Product Safety Regulations 2005. In the event a child drank a prohibited product which resulted in life changing injuries.

R v A

Practice Area: Trading Standards & Consumer Law

Director of a waste management firm took defective material out of the waste system and reintroduced it into the retail chain with near fatal results. Following submissions, the prosecution discontinued the case.

R v B

Practice Area: Trading Standards & Consumer Law

Ongoing case into fraud, bribery and trading standards offences. The defendant is a supplier to a major building company and the allegations concern the provision of bribes to ensure contracts and the precise description of the services provided both to the end consumer and counterparties to the defendant's work.

R v D

Practice Area: Trading Standards & Consumer Law

The defendant was a large-scale egg supplier who (it was alleged) was passing off battery farmed as free-range eggs. The defendant was acquitted.

R v G

Practice Area: Food Hygiene

Prosecution by local council. Following complaint by the general public an investigation was launched into the general hygiene standards at an exclusive café run by a celeb restaurateur in a royal park. The investigation revealed that the kitchens were infested with mice.

R v P

Practice Area: Food Hygiene

A fresh produce concession in a supermarket was investigated and the general standards of food hygiene were beneath acceptable levels. With particularity the meat on sale contained unacceptably high levels of bacteria rendering it unfit for human consumption whilst it nevertheless remained on sale to the general public.

R v S

Practice Area: Food Hygiene

A restaurant had purchased stolen meat. An investigation was launched into the provenance of the restaurants offering. None of the required certification was apparent and the supply chain from producer to consumer could not be demonstrated.

Hayley Fulleylove

Practice Area: Crime

Investigated for manslaughter, issues of causation which hinged upon the report from a neuropathologist.

Russell Frankland

Practice Area: Crime

Series of armed robberies with complicated sequence of events chart.

Jeremy Oketch

Practice Area: Crime

Defendant raped his girlfriend's 2 year old daughter. Pleaded guilty substantial sentence. Film for BBC

Westminster City Council -v- G

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Celebrity chef's restaurant fined after failed inspection. Secured withdrawal of all proceedings against Managing Director of the business and limited the fine.

Bury MBC -v- R (Bolton Crown Court)

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Prosecuted a 3 week trial in the Crown Court concerning the illegal dumping of waste by an established building contractor

R -v- Ahmed

Practice Area: Crime

Rival drugs gang murder where victim was killed following a clash in the street concerning a drugs "turf war"

R -v- Kitchen

Practice Area: Crime

Paranoid schizophrenic charged with murdering his sister over her refusal to fund his drug habit. Ten boxes of medical records required analysing after the defendant was identified following a BBC Crimewatch appeal.

R -v- Abdullahi

Practice Area: Crime

Domestic violence case where defendant murdered her partner following his alleged mistreatment. Issues concerned complex scientific evidence used to determine the identity of the killer.

R v Evans

Practice Area: Crime

Leading junior against a QC and senior junior. Domestic violence and rape against defendant's partners. Prosecuted to conviction after trial. Conviction successfully defended at the Court of Appeal.

R v Johnson

Practice Area: Crime

Junior alone against QC and senior junior. Historic familial rape of a wife and daughter. Victim with severe mental health problems. Prosecuted to conviction after trial.

R -v- Calvert

Practice Area: Crime

Junior alone against QC and senior junior. Historic rape of step daughter over a 20 year period. Issues as to the complainant's capacity to consent. Successfully defended the conviction (against QC) at the Court of Appeal.

R v Miskovic

Practice Area: Crime - Prosecution

Junior alone against a Leading Junior and led junior. Rape allegation involving Czech nationals. Prosecuted to conviction after trial.

R -v- Meiring and others

Practice Area: Crime

Junior alone against QC. Lengthy conspiracy to supply drugs involving many legal and evidential points including juror and defendant prosecuted for contempt.

What the Directories say

'Iain is an exceptional advocate who is capable of delivering unpalatable truths in an unfettered manner but with compassion. He delivers in every way by being responsive to requests, providing advice and other written documents in a very timely manner, and crucially, always being correct in that advice.'

Legal 500, 2025

'Recommended for a wide range of regulatory matters.'

Legal 500,

A fantastic advocate, who is a true fighter and great with clients.

Legal 500

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