



John Downes

Associate
Criminal Defence

London, UK

John was a police officer with the Metropolitan Police Service for 13 years before he retrained as a lawyer.

This places him as an expert when it comes to handling criminal defence cases for serving police officers.

He has substantial experience of serious criminal and misconduct proceedings and with representing clients following investigations by the IPCC.

He also regularly gives lectures to university students undertaking policing studies and related degrees and to Police Federation members on various aspects of criminal law as well as police misconduct.

Cases he has worked on include the Hillsborough investigation by the IPCC, Operation Elveden, where he represented a police officer alleged to have sold stories to the press and "Plebgate" where he represented the principal officer (PC Toby Rowland) involved in the interaction with Andrew Mitchell MP.

He is currently representing an officer from a Metropolitan Police Sapphire (sexual offences) Unit charged with six counts of misconduct in a public office following an IPCC investigation.

He is also representing five Bedfordshire police officers in relation to the IPCC investigation into the death of Mr Leon Briggs.

The officers face allegations of gross negligent and unlawful act manslaughter and misconduct in a public office.

Expertise

- Criminal defence
- Gross misconduct

Career history

- Since 2005 Slater and Gordon