



# Benedict Peers

Call 1998

✉ [benedict.peers@drystone.com](mailto:benedict.peers@drystone.com)

☎ 020 7404 1881

Benedict Peers is a bright and diligent advocate who has spent over twenty years prosecuting and defending in criminal courts across the South Eastern and Midlands circuits.

He has a wide-ranging experience of criminal law cases, however his practice mainly involves cases concerning:

- serious violence – including use of firearms and other offensive weapons
- sexual offences- rape, sexually violent assault and historic abuse
- drug trafficking and
- fraud.

## Expertise

### Modern Slavery

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With the past few years giving rise to more prosecutions relating to modern slavery and human trafficking, Benedict's experience in this field has grown significantly.

Benedict both defends and prosecutes in these cases, which are often complex in terms of both fact and law. He has experience of providing high-calibre advice and advocacy in cases involving:

- sex trafficking and exploitation
- domestic servitude
- forced labour in the construction and agricultural sector
- forced child labour

### Notable Modern Slavery cases

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#### **R v B, L and others (2022), Norwich Crown Court**

prosecuting multi-handed case of exploitation and human trafficking involving sex workers.

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## **R v B (2022)**

defending in a drugs supply case that involved arguments using Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

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## **Sexual Offences**

Benedict has extensive experience of both prosecuting and defending in cases involving allegations of serious sexual offences, including:

- rape and sexual assault
- possession of indecent images
- sexual abuse involving children

These cases often require delicate and sensitive handling, and Benedict approaches each case in a considered way, applying forensic analysis and objectivity where necessary.

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### **Notable Sexual Offences cases**

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#### **R v K ( 2019 ), Norwich Crown Court**

successfully defended trial on counts of 'date rape'

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## **Historic Sexual Offences**

Cases involving historical sexual offences against children committed by individuals working in institutions such as children's homes and churches, are evidentially complex and emotionally demanding.

Benedict has considerable expertise of defending in these cases which, by their very nature require a methodical and skilled approach.

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### **Notable Historic Sexual Offences cases**

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#### **R v M ( 2018 ), Peterborough Crown Court**

defended trial on 32 counts of historic rape and sexual assault with multiple complainants.

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#### **R v U ( 2022 ), Ipswich Crown Court**

defended trial of local religious leader facing 21 counts of historic sexual assault with multiple complainants.

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## **Gangs & Organised Crime Groups**

Benedict has considerable prosecution experience in cases involving Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and county lines drugs supply.

## Notable Gangs & Organised Crime Groups cases

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### **R v M, A, A and others ( 2022 ) Norwich Crown Court**

Successful prosecution of OCG county lines offending.

## Firearms

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Benedict has considerable experience of prosecuting in cases involving the possession of prohibited firearms (shot guns, air weapons and other prohibited weapons) and ammunition.

He has a track-record of successfully mitigating minimum sentence cases.

## Sexual Harm Prevention Orders

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Benedict is experienced in applying for and resisting Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO)

## Driving fatalities/ causing serious injury

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Road traffic collisions that result in the death or serious injury of an individual or individual are often high-profile and emotionally charged.

Benedict brings many years' experience and professionalism to cases involving death by dangerous driving. He is instructed by both the prosecution and defence, which gives him invaluable insight and knowledge.

## Notable Driving fatalities/ causing serious injury cases

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### **R v T ( 2022 ) Peterborough Crown Court**

defended on causing death by careless driving and using a false licence.

## Proceeds of Crime: confiscation

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Expertise in both the prosecution and defence of a wide range of applications under this Act

## Notable Proceeds of Crime: confiscation cases

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### **R v I ( 2018 ) - Peterborough Crown Court**

successfully prosecuted two day POCA confiscation hearing in relation to a drug trafficking case. The case involved over 1000 pages of financial statements and the cross – examination of eight defence witnesses through an interpreter as to the source of the monies.

## R v T ( 2022 ) Norwich Crown Court

managed to agree POCA in complex series of prosecution involving rogue trader.

## Fraud

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Benedict is frequently instructed on fraud and economic crime cases, ranging from cyber-related fraud to forgery. He has experience in both prosecuting and defending in cases involving:

- tax evasion
- benefit fraud
- identity fraud
- online fraud
- motoring fraud

## Notable Fraud cases

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### R v G ( 2015 ) - Cambridge Crown Court

successfully prosecuted a two week trial at Cambridge involving multiple allegations of perverting the course of justice and motoring fraud. Involved detailed cross – examination relating to a substantial volume of financial records.

### R v S ( 2022 ) - Norwich Crown Court

prosecution of multiple counts of company fraud involving the ordering and selling on of company stock.

## Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit
- Midland Circuit
- Cambridge and District Law Society
- Cambridge & Peterborough Bar Mess
- Middle Temple