

# Sam Willis

Call: 2015



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Sam Willis is a highly regarded specialist criminal barrister with a busy practice focusing predominantly on serious and complex cases, including those involving organised crime, violence, firearms, drugs, and fraud.

He is instructed for both prosecution and defence, and has developed a reputation as an extremely smart, well-organised and conscientious advocate.

Sam places great emphasis on thorough preparation. He is skilled at processing large volumes of documentation and evidence, identifying the key issues in a case and finding ways to make complex information easily accessible to judges and juries. Formerly an IT developer, Sam is at ease conducting cases involving digital evidence and bringing technology-based evidence to life in the courtroom. He is experienced in cases with many moving parts, involving multiple defendants and lots of pieces of evidence.

Sam's attention to detail and his capacity to build effective relationships quickly make him popular with colleagues and opponents alike.

Alongside his impressive case list, Sam has been instructed in several long-term projects, including the Post Office 'Horizon' disclosure review, an SFO disclosure review, and a secondment to one of the CPS Crown Court teams. He was a keynote speaker at the [Cityforum Digital Forensics Summit](#), where he presented on the uses of digital forensic evidence in jury trials.

Sam is on the CPS General Crime, Serious Crime, and Fraud Panels at Level 3.

Outside of law, Sam is a keen skier, snowboarder, and scuba diver. He previously competed internationally for Great Britain in Canoe Marathon.

## Expertise

### Business & Financial Crime

## Cases

### R v S & A [Luton]

Long-running employee fraud against the NHS | [Read more](#)

### R v S, W & W [Wood Green]

£170k voodoo money cleaning scam | [Read more](#)

### R v A [Aylesbury]

Employee theft of £45k by manipulating computer records | [Read more](#)

### R v N [Newcastle]

12-handed conspiracy to evade £2.6m duty on tobacco | [Read more](#)

## General Crime

### Cases

### R v K [Lewes]

Stalking through Facebook, involving 74,000 pages of computer extracts | [Read more](#)

## Homicide (Murder & Manslaughter)

### Cases

## R v V [Central Criminal Court]

Hatchet killer convicted of murder | [Read more](#)

## Public Prosecutions

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### Cases

## Operation Varbody [Snaresbrook]

Family OCG trafficking 1 tonne of cocaine around the UK | [Read more](#)

## Operation Narrative [Snaresbrook]

780kg of cocaine concealed inside a shipping container | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tamora [Isleworth]

Containers filled with 270kg of cocaine, 2,500kg of cannabis and 18.6m cigarettes | [Read more](#)

## Operation Forte [Croydon]

Spree of commercial burglaries across London committed by OCG | [Read more](#)

## Operation Lynne [Chelmsford]

OCG providing false passports for cash | [Read more](#)

## Operation Caliadne [Woolwich]

EncroChat cocaine supply conspiracy | [Read more](#)

### R v S, W & W [Wood Green]

£170k voodoo money cleaning scam | [Read more](#)

### Operation Lexes [Southwark]

Bollywood 'cash for visa' scam | [Read more](#)

### Operation Localizer [Kingston Crown Court]

Seven-handed conspiracy to supply cocaine | [Read more](#)

### R v S [Norwich]

s.18 stabbing after threats exchanged over social media | [Read more](#)

### R v A [Aylesbury]

Employee theft of £45k by manipulating computer records | [Read more](#)

## Serious & Organised Crime

### Cases

### Operation Varbody [Snaresbrook]

Family OCG trafficking 1 tonne of cocaine around the UK | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tablemaking [Snaresbrook]

Cyber-criminals selling service to circumvent bank security checks | [Read more](#)

## Operation Sunshine [Harrow]

Supplying 13kg heroin and cocaine using EncroChat | [Read more](#)

## Operation Narrative [Snaresbrook]

780kg of cocaine concealed inside a shipping container | [Read more](#)

## Operation Serious [Snaresbrook]

Using EncroChat to supply an AK-47, an Intratec Tec-9 automatic pistol, ammunition, and cocaine | [Read more](#)

## Operation Vivalas & Kikifeet [Central Criminal Court]

Revolver found after a stabbing, then a shotgun fired into a home through a letterbox | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tamora [Isleworth]

Containers filled with 270kg of cocaine, 2,500kg of cannabis and 18.6m cigarettes | [Read more](#)

## Operation Forte [Croydon]

Spree of commercial burglaries across London committed by OCG | [Read more](#)

## Operation Lynne [Chelmsford]

OCG providing false passports for cash | [Read more](#)

## Operation Caliadne [Woolwich]

EncroChat cocaine supply conspiracy | [Read more](#)

## Operation Lexes [Southwark]

Bollywood 'cash for visa' scam | [Read more](#)

## Operation Localizer [Kingston Crown Court]

Seven-handed conspiracy to supply cocaine | [Read more](#)

## Operation Melrose [Central Criminal Court]

People-smuggling gang linked to 39 migrant deaths in Essex | [Read more](#)

## R v N [Newcastle]

12-handed conspiracy to evade £2.6m duty on tobacco | [Read more](#)

## R v C [Guildford]

Supplying software to 'DDOS' websites and gaming servers | [Read more](#)

## R v K [Lewes]

Stalking through Facebook, involving 74,000 pages of computer extracts | [Read more](#)

## Related expertise

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Business & Financial Crime

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Confiscation, Civil Recovery and Asset Forfeiture

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Counter Terrorism

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Criminal Appeals

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General Crime

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Homicide (Murder & Manslaughter)

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Public Prosecutions

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Regulatory

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Serious & Organised Crime

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## Other Information

### Appointments

- CPS Fraud Panel (Grade 3)
- CPS General Crime Panel (Grade 3)
- CPS Proceeds of Crime Panel (Grade 2)
- CPS Serious Crime Panel (Grade 3)
- The Bar Council IT Panel

### Publications

Sam is the author of 'A Practical Guide to Digital Communications Evidence in Criminal Law' – a textbook aimed at practitioners looking to understand the most common types of digital communications evidence used in criminal prosecutions. It can be purchased directly from the [publisher](#) or from [Wildy](#). A sample chapter is available [here](#). He has also been asked to present Webinars on digital evidence, specifically '[Using Mobile Telephone Data](#)' and '[Call Data, Cell Sites, and Internet Records](#)'.

Sam also publishes a free weekly 'updater' of criminal law news – intended for practitioners, law students, and anyone with an interest in the criminal justice system of England and Wales. You can subscribe to Witness [here](#).

Sam has published two mobile apps for criminal lawyers:

- Crime Fees is a free criminal legal aid calculator for barristers and solicitors. Available for iOS, Android and macOS, it can be downloaded [here](#).

- Crime QRH is an easy-to-use guide to criminal offences for criminal lawyers and court advocates – a searchable database providing quick access to key details e.g. max sentence, guidelines, class of offence, dangerousness provisions. Available for iOS, Android and macOS, it can be downloaded [here](#).

## Qualifications

- MPhil, Criminology, University of Cambridge
- LLB, Law, University of East Anglia
- Sir Louis Gluckstein Prize for advocacy, Lincoln's Inn
- Levitt Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Buchanan Prize, Lincoln's Inn
- Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Hardwicke Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Runner-Up, Law Reform Essay Competition, Bar Council
- Clare Hall Bursary, Clare Hall, University of Cambridge
- Prize for Exceptional Achievement, University of East Anglia