



Jonathan Underhill

Year of Call: 2008

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Firearms

Jonathan Underhill is highly experienced and skilled, acting for both private individuals and police forces across the country, in dealing with applications for, and appeals against the refusal of, certificates and licences relating to firearms and shotguns. Jonathan also provides training and advice to organisations and other legal professionals on the operation of the licencing regime.

Jonathan has dealt with cases in which a variety of objections have been raised to the granting of certificates:

- Applicant's history of criminal convictions.
- Mental health, alcohol or substance abuse.
- Domestic violence or other behaviours involving violence or breach of the peace
- Disputes or allegations of threatening behaviour.
- Lack of a "good reason".
- Lack of a responsible attitude towards firearms/shotguns.
- Association with criminals or criminal groups

Recent Notable cases

WMCC v MP (2026 – Ongoing) – Advice and representation relating to the meaning of "good reason" and application of Chief Constable/Government Guidelines.

MCC v MW (2026 – Ongoing) – Appeal against refusal of certificate on the basis of historic suicidal ideation and mental health concerns, on the basis of lack of declaration to medical professions in application process.

DCCP v LE and CE (2026 – Ongoing) – Acting for both Appellants. Appeal against refusal to renew on the basis of unproven criminal conduct, including material over which Public Interest Immunity has been asserted – applying the proceeding from *Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Crown Court at Kingston-upon-Thames [2023] EWHC 1938 (Admin)*.

CCCC v PC (2025 – Ongoing) – Acting for appellant. Appeal against refusal on the basis of temperament and impact of diabetes. Case involving conflicting medical evidence.

DCCP v JR (2025 – Ongoing) – Acting for Chief Constable. Opposition to appeal, seeking on PII material – applying the proceeding from *Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Crown Court at Kingston-upon-Thames [2023] EWHC 1938 (Admin)*.

CCKP v IA (2025) – Acting for Appellant: Successful against the refusal of a shotgun certificate following a domestic incident to which the police attended and arrested the appellant.

CCBC v AB (2024) – Acting for Police: Opposition to Appeal against decision to refuse renewal on the basis of insecure storage of weapons and ammunition.

Recommendations

"I want to give a huge thankyou to Jonathan Underhill was there at the conclusion of my case and I am so thankful for everything he has done. I can't express my thanks through words but thankyou"

DR – Defence Client

Jonathan Underhill of 3PB Barristers regularly defends individuals and corporations in complex health and safety matters. He has particular expertise in handling cases regarding fatalities and serious injuries arising from regulatory breaches of duty.

Strengths: "He takes good points in cases."

"He is lovely, and very pleasant to work with."

Chambers UK 2025/Health and safety) / Western Circuit - ranked in Band 1

Jonathan Underhill – 3PB 'Jonathan is meticulous in his case preparation and offers a calm and assured presence in court. He is a skilful lawyer who can translate his understanding into persuasive and compelling advocacy.'

Legal 500 2025/Crime (general and fraud) / Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

Jonathan Underhill – 3PB 'Jonathan is meticulous in his case preparation and offers a calm and assured presence in court. He is a skilful lawyer who can translate his understanding into persuasive and compelling advocacy, both in his legal submissions and trial advocacy.'

Legal 500 2025/Business and regulatory crime (including health and safety) / Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

Jonathan Underhill – 3PB 'Jonathan's ability to process detail is outstanding. He brings great technical knowledge, and that gives him a wonderful air of confidence which puts his clients at ease.'

Legal 500 2025/Fraud: Crime/ Leading Juniors/London Bar

"Thanks for this Jonathan and ... for your help on the overall pursuit. This was without question a very serious and challenging issue for our company and you delivered the best result we could have achieved ...I am very happy with the result. I also wish to thank your Chambers admin team for their professional and proactive support that made direct access a simple tool to use."

MS – CEO S Ltd – Direct Access Client (Defence)

"In a conspicuously well-drafted skeleton argument, supported by his oral submissions, Mr Underhill accepts..."

Mrs Justice Farby – In the High Court

"I found his approach to the cases very professional, and his cross examination was excellent, just what is required in cases like this. The council have had several chambers representing the council, I feel that Jonathan has been the best person that we have had."

Mike Johnson ACFM (Senior Auditor) – Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

"Not having been in court before, I found myself in a situation that was very unfamiliar. However, I was instantly put at ease straight away from the approach of my barrister, Jonathan Underhill. He was extremely professional, understanding and took on board everything I wanted to get across in the court room. The attention to detail and the communication filled me with confidence that Jonathan was the right person to get the desired result for myself.

I would highly recommend Jonathan's services, I couldn't have asked for a better representation, he kept me calm and positive throughout my trial, and we ended up getting the correct outcome, not guilty! Thank you again"

JS – Defence Client

"You have been nothing short of brilliant... thank you..."

R Cassidy – Levaes Solicitors

"I would not hesitate in instructing Mr Jonathan Underhill in all manner of Regulatory matters. He has an almost

encyclopaedic knowledge in all key regulatory areas, including Environmental, Licensing, Housing and Planning offences. His preparation is meticulous with close attention to detail. He is extremely approachable and is great at communicating to a wide range of clients, which has always led to positive feedback and requests to instruct him in future matters. He has an amazing ability to advocate complex issues in law, in a way that is easy to understand for Magistrates, Jurors and Judges. His Advocacy is simply exceptional. He is and will continue to be my first choice of Counsel."

C Smith – Criminal Litigation Lawyer (London Local Authority)

"I am indebted to Mr Jonathan Underhill...for his realistic and concise submissions... Mr Underhill was utterly realistic in his submissions to this court, which he advanced with commendable brevity and good sense"

HHJ Jeremy Richardson QC – In the High Court

"I was very impressed with Jonathan Underhill – and he had a glowing report from our environmental health manager for his advocacy at the recent noise trial he did for us"

Local Authority Solicitor

"I would not hesitate in instructing Mr Underhill – cases are always thoroughly prepared, time and care taken with clients and outcomes reported back promptly. The client feedback has been excellent and often accompanies with a request that he represent them again. The quality of his representation is first class."

Lindsey Taylor (Solicitor) – Watkins and Gunn Solicitors

"I have found Mr Underhill to be an excellent advocate who is always well prepared and courteous to all. I have had positive feedback from clients in cases he had conducted on my firm's behalf. I would not hesitate to instruct him."

Paul Lewis (Partner) – Quality Solicitors HPJV

Very clearly presented – a dry subject made interesting. Very useful info. Excellent trainer.

Nikki Hutt, West Sussex County Council

Very informative, clear, concise but with a level of relaxed delivery and humour. I enjoyed Jonathan's 'style'.

Dee Plum, West Sussex County Council

Academic qualifications

- BVC (Graded Outstanding) – Cardiff University Law School
- Inner Temple Prize Winner – Outstanding Achievement
- LLB (Hons) Law & Politics – Cardiff University Law School

Professional qualifications & appointments

- AG Panel Regulatory Advocates – A Panel
- Level 4 – CPS Panel Advocate (General Crime)
- Level 4 – Specialist Fraud Panel
- Level 4 – RASSO Panel
- Level 2 – Proceeds of Crime Panel
- Inner Temple Accredited Advocacy Trainer
- Western Circuit Advocacy Trainer
- SEC Advanced International Advocacy Course, Keble College Oxford

Professional bodies

- Western Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- Proceeds of Crime Lawyers Association
- Private Prosecutors Association
- Health and Safety Lawyers Association

Direct Access

Jonathan Underhill is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public and professional clients under the Direct Public Access scheme.