



# Michael Vere-Hodge QC

**Year of Call:** 1970

**Year of Silk:** 1993

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## Public and Regulatory

Michael Vere-Hodge has expertise in Regulatory law. His areas of experience include:

- Health & Safety Offences
- Professional Regulatory Disciplinary tribunals
- Police disciplinary hearings having served as a Police Disciplinary Tribunal Chairman
- Firearms/shotguns: has acted in several cases involving the firearm and shotgun laws. These have included appeals to the Crown Court against the revocation of firearm/shotgun licences.

### Current Instruction

- Advising a local authority on the prosecution of a registered charity following a fatal fall at work from a mobile scaffold, for breaches of Health and Safety legislation. Represented the Local Authority at the Inquest. Ongoing prosecution.

### Recent cases

#### 2016:

- Represented a 'whistleblower' accused of misconduct by his member Association. Interpretation of Company Articles and Disciplinary Code. Direct Access.

#### 2015 and earlier:

- R v Matthews. Defence of a landowner charged with gross negligence manslaughter following the fatal electrocution of a sub-contractor's employee. The was a multi-handed case involving causation and issues of part delegation of the duty of care. All aspects of Health and Safety and Electricity Regulations involved. Defendant had severe dyslexia and undisclosed PTSD.
- MCA v Serco Ltd. High profile prosecution of Serco Ltd on behalf of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for breaches of Merchant Shipping Regulations following the death of a deckhand on the Woolwich Ferry.
- R v Marsh. Defence of a lorry driver in the Crown Court who had inadvertently failed to properly secure the stabilising arm on a lorry fitted with a hydraulic lifting device. The lorry had defects in its safety design which if fitted would have prevented the accidental extension of the arm whilst the lorry was being driven through bends in the road. The arm swung across the pavement killing a newspaper boy on his rounds. Represented driver at Trial and on Appeal against conviction and sentence.
- Whilst sitting as a Recorder sentencing a company who had pleaded guilty to offences under Health and Safety legislation following a fatal accident at work. A crane driver employed by the company had extended the jib of his crane attachment

to deliver a load. The site for delivery was inherently dangerous because of overhead high voltage electricity cables. The driver had been inadequately trained and the site incompletely risk assessed. The driver was electrocuted during heavy rain when the crane jib made contact with the overhead cables. Further sentencing issues arose because the company had been subsequently sold and was left without any assets with which to pay a financial penalty.

- Appeal to the Crown Court against the revocation of Firearms and Shotguns certificates. Revocation based on police intelligence only. Issues of disclosure.

#### **Asset and tax recovery expertise includes:**

- Fraud: VAT evasion, Government Regional Grants, Leasing, Management of insurance agency, International trade in stolen, cloned 4x4 vehicles from Japan.
- MTIC: Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud, or Carousel fraud.

#### **Recent Cases**

- London Mobile Communications (MTIC)
- Instructed by HMRC to lead 3 Juniors in the VAT Tribunal to successfully respond to Appeals involving a total of £30 million. A very large MTIC case involving mobile telephone trading.
- R v Kayani, Oxford Crown Court. Defence of a drug trafficking confiscation proceeding.
- A previous confiscation order had been made and satisfied some years before. The prosecution applied to have property assets declared to be 'benefit' in these proceedings which were acquired before the first confiscation order and excluded from that consideration. After successful defence argument, the initial claim for in excess of £1 million was reduced to an order for £150k.
- R v Ozanne. MTIC. Defence of a large Missing Trader Fraud involving £4 million VAT on the sale of mobile telephones sourced from Guernsey.

## **Recommendations**

'His expertise includes homicide, serious sexual offences and firearms cases.'

**Legal 500 2018**/Regional Bar - Western Circuit, Crime - Leading Silks - Tier 1

'Very experienced in prosecuting and defending across serious crime matters.'

**Legal 500 2017**/Regional Bar - Western Circuit, Crime - Leading Silks - Tier 1

## **Academic qualifications**

- Winchester College
- Grenoble University

## **Professional qualifications & appointments**

- Recorder authorised to try serious sexual offences
- Legal Assessor to the Nursing and Midwifery Council to 2016
- Legal Adviser to the General Dental Council to 2016
- Bencher of Gray's Inn

## **Professional bodies**

- Member of the Western Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association
- Proceeds of Crime Lawyers Association
- British Association for Sport and Law (BASL)

## **Direct Access**

Michael Vere-Hodge QC is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public and professional clients under the Direct Public Access scheme.