

Regulatory and Corporate Defence Specialist QC

<https://test.richardmatthewsqc.com/introduction/>

Richard Matthews QC is ranked as the best health and safety Silk by the independent guides to the legal profession, *Chambers and Partners*, ('He's a lightning-sharp barrister who knows the law inside out.') and the *Legal 500* ('Without peer in health and safety enforcement, and a dream to work with.') and a leading Silk in Environmental work by both guides. Richard is widely regarded as the foremost regulatory and corporate defence Queen's Counsel in England and Wales.

His expertise spans the breadth of regulatory and business crime, especially health and safety enforcement, fire safety and environmental enforcement. His particular expertise encompasses gross negligence and corporate manslaughter.

He has considerable experience of representing corporations, directors and individuals facing a wide range of regulatory investigations and enforcement action, particularly [health and safety](#), [environmental](#) and [fire safety](#). In addition to prosecutions and trial representation, Richard's experience of these fields extends to actions for judicial review (of both the HSE and Environment Agency) concerning the exercise of powers and issuances of notices with consequent pursuit of claims for damages.

Richard Matthews QC has regularly advised and represented many leading UK and international corporations. He has appeared for interested parties, particularly corporations, in a great many [jury inquests concerned with work related deaths](#) and Public Inquiries. He has advised in respect of a great many of the UK's most sensitive safety related issues over many years.

Richard's experience extends to prosecutions related to unlawful storage of pesticides, trade in 'parallel products', copyright protection and the Proceeds of Crime.

Richard was educated at Girton College, the University of Cambridge, and was called to the bar in 1989. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2010.

Publications

[Health and Safety Enforcement: Law and Practice \(Oxford University Press\)](#)

Published: 2016

Richard Matthews QC, together with James Ageros QC, is the author of the standard practitioner's textbook on health and safety enforcement, which is published by Oxford University Press and is currently in its 4th edition (January 2016)

[Environmental Offences Definitive Guideline Consultation](#)

Published: 2014

Richard Matthews QC acted as the expert advisor to the Sentencing Council in relation to the drafting of Definitive Guideline on sentencing environmental offences. He presented to the Council on [24 February 2012](#) and was quoted in the published Response to Consultation published in [February 2014](#)

[Health and Safety Offences Definitive Guideline](#)

Published: 2014

Richard Matthews QC acted as expert advisor to the Sentencing Council during the drafting and consultation on the definitive Guideline for sentencing in respect of Health and Safety offences. He presented to the Council on [31 January 2014](#)

[Consolidation: the practicality and effects of the options for consolidating health and safety Regulations](#)

Published: 2012

Professor Löfstedt's report [Reclaiming health and safety for all: An independent review of health and safety regulation](#), identified, four broad options that could be considered for consolidating regulations that apply to business.

In January 2012, HSE commissioned research to help decide if the core set of health and safety regulations could be consolidated in any way to provide clarity and savings for businesses.

The research report written by Richard Matthews QC – [“Consolidation: the practicality and effects of the options for consolidating health and safety Regulations”](#) was published in December 2012.

[Blackstone's Guide to the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007](#)

Published: 2008

Richard Matthews QC acted as an advisor to the Home Office lawyers responsible for the drafting of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 and subsequently was the author of Blackstone's Guide to the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 (Oxford University Press, 2008)
