

Olivia Checa-Dover

Call 2007



clerks@5essex.co.uk



+44 (0)20 7410 2000

Olivia is a leading police law, JR, inquest and public inquiry specialist. She also sits as a Recorder, Deputy District Judge and, before the role's abolition, as a Legally Qualified Chair of Police Misconduct Proceedings.

Notable cases include the Undercover Policing Inquiry; inquests into the death of Yassar Yaqub and Andrew Hall; *R (on the application of the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police) v Police Misconduct Panel* [2020] EWHC 1400 (Admin) and *Chief Constable of Cleveland Police v Jemmett* [2024] EWHC 1172 (Admin), which clarified the law in relation to Sexual Risk Orders.

Olivia is described as a “true expert in police law” (Chambers UK 2025) and “an outstanding advocate with unprecedented expertise and knowledge in relation to police defendant work” (Chambers UK 2024).

Expertise

Police Law

Olivia represents Chief Constables around the country in the full range of civil claims, with a particular specialism in judicial review and claims touching upon the Human Rights Act.

Olivia acts frequently as leading junior, as was the case in **Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police v Rashid** [2020] EWHC 2522 (QB); or as sole counsel against leader and junior, for example **R. (on the application of Wilby-Newton) v PAT and Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police** [2021] EWHC 550 (Admin). She has appeared in cases which have helped shape or clarify the law in her practice areas, including **R. (Chief Constable of the West Midlands) v Panel Chair (Police Misconduct Panel)** [2020] EWHC 1400 (Admin). She has particular experience of defending claims brought by complainants of sexual assault and by the estate following a death.

Inquests

Olivia has extensive inquest and inquiry experience acting on behalf of Chief Constables, officers with interested person status, healthcare providers and the Government.

Notable Inquests cases

Inquest into the death of Yassar Yaqub

Mr. Yaqub died having been shot by a firearms officer. Acting for West Yorkshire Police, led by Hugh Davies QC.

Undercover Policing Inquiry

acting for West Yorkshire Police.

Inquest into the death of Chris Penistone

represented the Civil Aviation Authority. Chris Penistone was an aerobatic pilot who died when his plane crashed during a public show.

Inquest into the death of William Mead

acted for SERCO. William was aged one when he died of sepsis. He had fallen ill leading to his mother ringing the NHS 111 service, run by SERCO.

Inquest into the death of Andrew Hall

Mr. Hall died in hospital following a period of restraint in police custody. Acted for West Yorkshire Police, led by Hugh Davies QC.

Professional Discipline & Regulatory

Olivia is recognised as a leader in the field of professional discipline (Legal 500, one of four leading juniors in her area). She presents for Appropriate Authorities across the country at first instance, in the Police Appeals Tribunal and in the High Court by way of judicial review.

Notable Professional Discipline & Regulatory cases

R. (on the application of Wilby-Newton) v PAT and Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police [2021] EWHC 550 (Admin)

acted for the Appropriate Authority at first instance, on appeal and in the judicial review. The case helped to clarify, amongst other things, the admissibility of use of force expert evidence in misconduct proceedings.

R. (Chief Constable of the West Midlands) v Panel Chair (Police Misconduct Panel) [2020] EWHC 1400 (Admin)

acted for the Appropriate Authority and on judicial review in this misconduct case involving racist behaviour. The judgment of Eady J provides authority for the approach to be taken in cases involving racist conduct and the need to adhere to the College of Policing Guidance on Outcomes.

R (on the application of PC H) v PAT and Chief Constable of West Midlands Police

acting for the Appropriate Authority in this judicial review (West Midlands Police).

PC P

leading junior in a case involving multiple failures to investigate serious crime (Humberside Police).

PSs H and C

examining the actions of custody sergeants following a death in custody (Northumbria Police).

PC B

historical sexual abuse of a child (South Yorkshire Police)

Inspector A

disclosure of confidential information to a suspect in a criminal investigation (Northumbria Police).

PC J

sexual impropriety (North Yorkshire Police).

PC W

use of racist language (South Yorkshire Police).

PC P

controlling and coercive behaviour (Humberside Police).

Public & Administrative

Olivia undertakes all areas of public law work, including judicial review, human rights and inquests.

Olivia regularly advises and represents Chief Constables on judicial review claims involving all manner of alleged unlawful acts or omissions including failures to investigate and/or record crime; the use of police PACE and POCA powers and the retention of DNA and other data.

Notable Public & Administrative cases

R. (on the application of Wilby-Newton) v PAT and Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police [2021] EWHC 550 (Admin)

R. (Chief Constable of the West Midlands) v Panel Chair (Police Misconduct Panel) [2020] EWHC 1400 (Admin).

Awards

