

PEER REVIEW OF CRIMINAL FILES (2026)

Name of reviewer:

Date of review:

Client initials:

UFN:

Provider name:

Fee earner:

Case weight: 1 2 3 4 5

Lead charge:

A. How effectively were sufficient information/instructions gathered from:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1) The police/prosecution | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 2) The client | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 3) Others (including potential defence witnesses, experts, intermediaries etc) | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |

B. How timely and appropriate was communication with:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1) The client | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 2) With others (police, prosecution, instructed counsel etc) | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |

C. Police station: how appropriate was:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1) Contact attempted/made with the custody suite/client following DSCC referral | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 2) Record of disclosure | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 3) Record of instructions | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 4) Reasoned advice on what to do in interview | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 5) Notes of interview and outcome (including advice/representations on post-charge bail) | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 6) Actions post-interview and other matters of significance | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 7) Post-interview correspondence | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |

D. Court proceedings: how appropriate was the information/advice on

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1) Offences, plea and venue | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 2) Strength of evidence | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 3) Likely sentence | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 4) Credit on sentence for early guilty pleas | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 5) Matters with potentially adverse consequences (bail conditions, failing to surrender, trial in absence etc) | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 6) Other matters of potential significance (including evidence of bad character, evidence of good character etc) | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 7) Case progression | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 8) Client correspondence | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |

E. Post-conviction: how appropriate was the information/advice on:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1) Cooperating with the Probation Service/YOT for PSR | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 2) Terms of sentence/ancillary orders (including release from custody) and potential consequences of breach | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 3) Appealing against sentence | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 4) (If convicted following trial) appealing against conviction | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |
| 5) Other matters of significance | 1 2 3 4 5 n/a |

F. Assistance

- 1) How effective was the work in securing a favourable case outcome? 1 2 3 4 5 n/a
- 2) Was everything reasonably done to assist the client in advancing their case? Y/N
If not, please specify:
- 3) Was the client prejudiced in any way by the work done or not done in advancing their case? Y/N
If there was prejudice please specify:

G. Ethics and standards

- 1) Were professional standards of behaviour maintained in dealings with the client/police/prosecution/court/Legal Aid Agency/Others? Y/N
If not please specify:
- 2) Where ethical issues did arise (including potential conflicts of interest and professional embarrassment) were they dealt with effectively? Y/N/n/a
If not please specify:

3) Overall standard of work on file:

Investigation	1 2 3 4 5 n/a
Magistrates Court	1 2 3 4 5 n/a
Crown Court	1 2 3 4 5 n/a
Overall file rating	1 2 3 4 5