

# Thomas Cowan

Call 2024

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Tom joins chambers as a tenant following his call to the Bar last year, having spent the previous 8 years practising as a Solicitor both in crime and civil/commercial practice.

Tom brings several years of experience as a prosecutor for the CPS, most notably in the Special Crime Division, often handling complex, sensitive, and high-profile prosecutions. Within the Division, Tom earned a reputation for providing exemplary legal advice and commitment to the cases he worked on. Tom also worked for CPS Yorkshire & Humberside in the Magistrates' Court Team, both as an advocate and reviewing lawyer, covering general crime.

Tom is looking forward to establishing a mixed practice in crime and civil work.

## Expertise

### Complex Crime

**Whilst at the CPS, Tom's experience as a reviewing lawyer covered the following cases:**

Working as part of a prosecution team advising on the Post Office Horizon IT scandal.

Operation Blossom – prosecution of a civil servant for child neglect and assault.

R v M (ongoing) – prosecution of a police officer charged with Misconduct in Public Office.

R v H (ongoing) – prosecution of a police officer charged with Misconduct in Public Office, Unauthorised Access to Computer Material, and Unlawful obtaining/disclosure of personal data.

Operation B (ongoing) – providing early investigative advice to the police regarding investment fraud involving a senior ranking police officer.

Operation R (ongoing) – providing early investigative advice to the police regarding mortgage fraud involving a civil servant.

Operation I (ongoing) – providing early investigative advice to the police regarding an allegation of perverting the course of justice by a senior ranking police officer.

R v Xiao – supporting the Lead Prosecutor in a prosecution against an individual charged with Gross Negligence Manslaughter.

Early investigative advice to Derbyshire Police in respect of a potential offence of undue influence arising out of the General Election.

Early investigative advice to Cambridgeshire Police in respect of changes to postal voting as amended by the Election Act 2022.

R v K (ongoing) – prosecution of a defendant charged with making a false statement during a local election under section 106 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Early investigative advice to Lincolnshire Police as to whether promotional material in a campaign leaflet amounts to an offence under section 110 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

R v M – prosecution of a former councillor charged with making a false statement in nomination papers, contrary to section 65A of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

## Education

2013 – 2:1 Law LLB (Hons) degree

2014 – 2016 – Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (part-time) (distinction)

2016 – Accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator (ADR Group)

2016 – Qualified as a Solicitor

2024 – Qualified as a Barrister via the Transferring Qualified Lawyers Scheme

## Career

2016 – 2018 – Solicitor at Cooper Sons Hartley & Williams, Buxton, Derbyshire

2018 – 2021 – Solicitor at Blacks Solicitors LLP, Leeds (Commercial Dispute Resolution Team)

2021 – Crown Prosecutor with CPS Yorkshire & Humberside (Magistrates Court Team)

2022 – Senior Crown Prosecutor with CPS Yorkshire & Humberside (Magistrates Court Team)

2023 to 2025 – Senior Crown Prosecutor within CPS Special Crime Division (York)