



## Danielle Byford

Called: 2021

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Danielle has built a practice across a range of core chambers areas, including general crime, fraud, confiscation and regulatory law.

She is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in serious and complex cases before the Crown Court, covering offences including ABH, GBH, drug offences, firearms, motoring offences, fraud and sexual offences.

Danielle's experience includes being led in significant matters, including, attempted murder, rape, class A drugs conspiracies, multi-handed-burglaries and theft.

She has handled numerous private prosecutions on behalf of local authorities and has prosecuted and defended confiscation proceedings.

Recently, Danielle was appointed as independent counsel for HMRC and the FCA and was tasked with reviewing potentially privileged documents seized during major criminal investigations and conducted a disclosure reviews.

Additionally, Danielle has a growing regulatory practice and regularly represents individuals and the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Her diverse experience makes her well-equipped to handle a wide range of legal challenges, both in the criminal and regulatory fields.

## Cases

### Criminal Defence

R v AL (2025) – Danielle successfully defended AL, who was charged with robbery. It was alleged AL assaulted and used a stanley blade during the commission of the alleged offence to steal money from a person known to him. The Jury acquitted AL of robbery, after less than 30 minutes in retirement.

R v TS (2024) – Danielle Byford led by [Mitchell Cohen](#), represented TS who was charged on an indictment containing 19 counts, including attempted murder, rape, sexual assault, controlling coercive behaviour and child cruelty, at Cambridge Crown Court.

R v D & Ors – [Liam Edwards](#) leading Danielle Byford, represented the first of nine defendants charged in an industrial scale class A drugs conspiracy, before HHJ Deacon KC at Wood Green Crown Court. The case alleged against the defendants (Operation Wasdale) concerned a national chemsex conspiracy to supply multiple kilogram packages of class A and B drugs, including 45kg packages and £4 million pound contract deals per week, for just over one year. The Crown's case was heard over a period of four weeks and was heavily dependent on digital communication between



parties to the conspiracy and cell site evidence. At the close of the Crowns case, [Mr Edwards](#) and Ms Byford successfully obtain Not Guilty verdicts on all counts alleged against their client, following a submission of no case to answer on 8th April 2024.

R v DD (2023) – The defendant was charged with three counts of possession of a bladed article and driving offences. Danielle made representations to the Crown, which meant one bladed article offence was no longer proceeded with. The defendant pleaded guilty on a basis to the offences which all carried a starting point of six months. Due to Danielle’s persuasive mitigation, the defendant received a community order.

R v AH (2023)- The defendant was charged with possession of a bladed article. After drafting the defence statement and representations for the Crown to review their case, the CPS were persuaded to offer no evidence.

R v LN (2023)- The defendant was a vulnerable 11-year-old youth, with significant learning difficulties, charged with robbery. Danielle was able to build rapport with the defendant, and drafted a basis of plea which limited his involvement. This meant that after entering a guilty plea on the day of trial, he received a 3-month referral order.

R v DF (2023)- The defendant was charged with fraud by false representation. The fraud concerned opening a number of catalogue accounts, and bank accounts in C’s name. The defendant failed to attend Court and the trial proceeded in their absence. Danielle remained instructed to test the evidence of the Crown, and after careful submissions were made, Danielle asserted that the Crown had failed to prove identification. The defendant was formally acquitted of all charges.

R v CT (2023)- The defendant was charged with ABH. On the day of trial, the prosecution wished to apply for an adjournment to secure the attendance of the complainant. Danielle opposed the application to adjourn, and the adjournment was refused. Following this, the Crown wished to proceed, formally making the application of *res gestae*. Danielle was able to successfully oppose the *res gestae* application, which resulted in the Prosecution having no alternative but to offer no evidence.

R v ML (2022) – The defendant ML was charged with section 20 GBH (domestic) and was remanded in custody. The nature of the section 20 GBH allegation was that the defendant hit the complainant with a bottle whilst under the influence of alcohol, causing injury. The defendant pleaded guilty on a basis. Danielle persuaded HHJ that the matter could proceed to sentence without a Newton hearing. Despite the aggravating features in this offence, together with the defendant being under a community order, Danielle persuaded HHJ to sentence the defendant to a minimal prison sentence, with the defendant receiving a six-month custodial sentence, and the community order being revoked.

R v DG (2022) – Danielle represented a vulnerable defendant who faced sentence for multiple drug offences including PWITS Class A. The Crown placed the defendant in significant role, however the basis of plea and interview asserted lesser. Danielle was able to persuade the Court to deal with the case without a newton hearing, and the defendant was sentenced to two years imprisonment, suspended for two years.

R v RR (2022) – The defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of PWITS Class A and possession of a bladed article. The defendant was a second striker for bladed article and third striker for PWITS. After careful submissions, Danielle successfully persuaded



the Court not to impose the mandatory minimum sentences, and the Court imposed a sentence of two years imprisonment, suspended for two years.

## **Criminal Prosecution**

R v P et All (2025) – Danielle Byford led by Mr Wedge, prosecuted a complex multi-handed blackmail and kidnap trial at Wood Green Crown Court.

R v B et All (2024) – Danielle Byford led by Mr Wedge, successfully prosecuted multi-handed conspiracy, concerning a spate of over 300 motorcycle / vehicle thefts during an 18-month Period, equating to a loss of approximately half a million pounds. The typical modus operandi for these incidents involved a number of offenders stealing such motorcycles and fleeing the area. The vehicles were generally then driven in an anti-social manner, causing varying degrees of damage, before being deposited, stored, destroyed or offered for sale.

R v AP (2023)- Danielle secured the conviction of a defendant charged with breach of NMO at Huntingdon Crown Court. The defendant at trial, raised that he had a reasonable excuse in sending the email, which was in breach of the terms of his restraining order, as he stated it was a matter of national security. The defendant was unanimously convicted following trial.

R v VV (2022)– Following trial, Danielle succeeded in obtaining the conviction of a defendant charged with voyeurism. The facts concerned the defendant entering a female toilet at a train station and recording the victim over the top of the cubicle door.

## **Professional Memberships**

- The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
- Criminal Bar Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association
- Women in Criminal Law
- Member of the Junior Junior Panel for the Government Legal Department

## **Awards, Qualifications & Other**

- CPS Advocate Panel: Grade 2
- Nursing and Midwifery Advocate
- BPTC-City Law School: Very Competent
- LLB Law Degree-Greenwich University: First Class Honours
- Ann Felicity Goddard Scholarship: Gray's Inn Pupillage Scholarship (2022)
- The James Crouch Award: Gray's Inn BPTC Scholarship (2018)
- The Rosie Keane Memorial Award: City Law School Scholarship (2018)