



# Applying to the CCRC:

## Procedures and Legal Issues

The Criminal Cases Review Commission is an independent organisation which investigates suspected miscarriages of justice from magistrates courts and Crown Courts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Court Martial and Service.

The Commissioners investigate such cases and decide whether the applicant's case should be referred back to Court for a fresh appeal. This talk will offer guidance on making an application to the CCRC.

- Date:** 19 April 2018  
**Time:** 3pm to 5pm  
**Venue:** Law Society House  
**Cost:** Free  
**Speakers:** Dr Sharon Persaud, CCRC Commissioner  
Stephen Leach, CCRC Commissioner  
Amanda Pearce
- CPD:** 2 hours  
**To book:** [cpdbookings@lawsoc-ni.org](mailto:cpdbookings@lawsoc-ni.org)

**Dr Sharon Persaud** was appointed as a Commissioner with the Criminal Cases Review Commission in 2013. From 1991 to 2006 she was a criminal defence lawyer at Bindman and Partners, a leading human rights and civil liberties firm. She represented defendants at all levels from the Magistrates Court to the Court of Appeal and accused of all offences from minor public order cases to sexual offences, fraud, murder and terrorism. She also worked extensively with voluntary organisations, and community and activist groups who referred clients who were vulnerable or otherwise disadvantaged, in cases where a wider understanding of the context of the case was essential to the defence run.

In 2006-2010, she left full-time criminal work to pursue a doctorate in the legal regulation of 'new' genetic reproductive technologies, although she continued to freelance as a criminal defence lawyer, and lectured in criminal law and procedure at Birkbeck College and the University of Westminster. She also continued to work as a peer reviewer in a project, run jointly by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and the (then) Legal Services Commission, to evaluate and improve publicly-funded criminal defence practice. In 2010, she took up a role as an appeals lawyer in the Criminal Appeal Office at the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). Following her appointment as a CCRC commissioner, she has been extensively involved with the 'joint enterprise' cases which the Commission has considered in the wake of Jogee and Johnson.

**Stephen Leach** was appointed as a Commissioner with the CCRC in 2014. He is a former senior civil servant and was Chair of the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice Board from 2000 to 2009. He was a Parole Commissioner for Northern Ireland from 2009 to 2015, and is currently a Non-Executive Director of the Health and Social Care Board.

**Amanda Pearce** is a solicitor who has worked for the Criminal Cases Review Commission since it opened in April 1997. Since 2012, she has been a Group Leader, responsible for directing one of the five casework teams at the Commission. She has experience of reviewing and investigating the full range of Commission cases - from summary driving offences to cases involving jury irregularities or covert policing methods. She is responsible for the Commission's in-house guidance on sentencing, abuse of process and human rights.