




HOWARD WATSON

PARTNER

[London](#)

Howard specialises in health and safety, product liability and high-value personal injury claims.

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KEY SERVICES

Workplace Health and Safety
Product Liability

KEY SECTORS

Energy
Infrastructure

EXPERIENCE

Howard is based in London and assists corporate entities and senior individuals following major health and safety incidents causing serious injury and death. He helps clients with investigations and the handling of prosecutions, including in relation to corporate manslaughter. Howard also has over 20 years of experience in helping clients with complex or high-value personal injury claims.

Howard also advises clients on their civil and criminal liability arising from dangerous or defective products. He helps a wide range of different industry sectors with advice on product liability issues, including product recall. He has advised clients in relation to claims resulting in test actions involving issues at the forefront of scientific knowledge.

Chambers UK describes Howard as "brilliantly analytical, and the speed with which he can master complex details is outstanding." Legal 500 UK describes Howard as "very astute, a good tactical thinker, loved by clients and able to give clear, comprehensive advice. A seasoned, calm thinker who is peerless". Howard is ranked in Legal 500 UK 2021 as a Leading Individual for Health & Safety and Product Liability and in their Hall of Fame for Personal Injury.

Howard assists clients in relation to the most serious health and safety incidents which give rise to the potential for large fines as well as significant reputational damage involving investigations against corporate entities and senior managers. He also advises clients on their health and safety obligations and liabilities within the statutory framework in which they operate.

In assisting clients in the personal injury field, Howard has handled many large and sensitive stress at work and alleged bullying claims, as well as quadriplegia/paraplegia claims. He frequently litigates in foreign jurisdictions.

Howard's experience includes advising:

- BP in relation to the Inquest and resulting civil claims following the In Amenas terrorist attack in Algeria in January 2013 in which 40 people were killed
- Diageo in relation to product liability issues arising from the distribution of Thalidomide in the late 1950s/early 1960s
- Chevron in relation to the explosion at their oil depot at Buncefield which resulted in one of the largest health and safety investigations of recent years
- Chevron in relation to the police and HSE investigation following the explosion at Chevron's refinery resulting in 4 fatalities
- RSA Engineering in relation to a prosecution following the death of an operative when the lifting lugs of a vehicle in which he was being lifted into the hold of a ship snapped.