

# Shamima Begum hires Gareth Peirce, the human rights lawyer who represented Abu Qatada

*From the [the lawyer of choice "for every accused jihadist and IRA suspect"](#) took over the former Bethnal Green school girl's case last week, the Telegraph can reveal.*

Peirce, 79, of legal firm Birnberg Peirce, replaces Tasnime Akunjee, who had been working pro bono on the family's behalf since Begum fled to Syria in 2015.

Mr Akunjee, whose attempt to meet Begum in Syria last month was blocked by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), said the case was handed over because Peirce has the "legal aid contract to do the work" suggesting that the family has successfully applied for financial aid to appeal Sajid Javid's decision to strip Begum of her British citizenship.

*Yes – you read that right. If legal aid has been granted our taxes will line the pockets of one traitoress as she works to restore the privilege of another traitoress. Nice work if you can get it. I wonder what dirt Jean Jeanie has on the current Secretary of State for Justice or whichever of his minions granted legal aid. It's times like these that not only am I glad I didn't continue into the profession, I'm glad I was thrown on the scrap heap of early retirement from MoJ.*

Begum's family is understood to have lodged a request for a judicial review to challenge the decision. An appeal to the Special Immigration Appeals Commission is said to require Begum's signature.

It comes at a critical moment for the 19-year-old, whom it has

also been claimed had stitched suicide bombers into explosive vests, intelligence operatives told Theresa May and Sajid Javid, according to The Mail on Sunday.

However, there are concerns that such evidence may not meet the legal threshold for trial in Britain due to complications over whether it would be permissible in court.

Peirce, who was educated at Cheltenham Ladies College and Oxford University, made her name representing the Birmingham Six during the Northern Ireland Troubles and one of the Guildford Four from 1987. She has also represented Islamist cleric Abu Qatada (and) Moazzam Begg, the British terror suspect held at Guantanamo Bay.



In Qatada's case, she was said to have pulled off a breathtaking coup against the Home Office in 2012 by filing an eleventh-hour appeal to Europe on behalf of her widely demonised client. The move wrong-footed the Theresa May, then Home Secretary, and delayed the extremist Muslim cleric's deportation to Jordan, which eventually took place the following year.

*The*