

**Mark Waller**

**Doctor of Civil Law**

**Durham Cathedral, 7 July 2022**

Charlie Waller, a Durham University graduate, was a strong, funny, popular, kind young man, with a close and loving family. He was the life and soul of every party, a talented actor with a mesmerising stage presence and a formidable rugby player. He was also flying high in his chosen career in advertising. To the outside world, he had everything to live for.

Yet in September 1997, at the age of 28, Charlie took his own life. Suffering from

education and training free at the point of need to young people and those with responsibility for their wellbeing.

Born and bred in the North-East, Mark studied Law at Kings College, Durham University, based in Newcastle. He became a QC in 1979, a judge in 1989, and was appointed to the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council in 1996. He served as Commissioner of the Intelligence Services from 2011-16, a clear indication of the respect and trust he engendered at the highest levels of Government.

Mark considers himself to have been phenomenally lucky despite being a lifetime supporter of Newcastle United Football Club. This perspective is derived not only from his happy experiences of family and professional life but also from the satisfaction of knowing that he and his family, have helped to change awareness and understanding about mental health on a massive scale. In focusing upon serving the needs of others, rather than his own misfortune, Sir Mark is a credit to our region and our university.

*Chancellor I present Mark Waller to receive the degree of Doctor of Civil Law honoris causa.*