

RM6179 LEGAL SERVICES PANEL

Lot 1: General Legal Advice and Services

VERSION 8 – February 2025



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INTRODUCTION TO DAC BEACHCROFT

A very warm welcome to all at Government Legal Department and participating Central Departments and Agencies at Crown Commercial Services from DAC Beachcroft. We are delighted to have been appointed to your panel for General Legal Advice and Services. Like you, we believe that strong partnerships are the foundation for excellent service, and we very much look forward to developing this relationship with you.

We have a long standing public sector practice, working on projects for Central Government, Local Authorities and NHS Trusts. Our reputation has been built on supporting public bodies with the open and fair implementation of policies and procedures and the successful completion of transactions and projects vital to their objectives.

We provide a comprehensive and diverse range of legal services. Whatever the service we offer, our lawyers are brought together by a common vision; to be recognised for our insight and our outstanding commitment to clients.

Our Cultural Principles of being: Supportive; Determined; Creative; and Clear, describe the way we work together, in support of your success. We are committed to providing advice that is innovative, practical and tailored. We pride ourselves on service delivery and getting to the heart of the issues which matter to you.

We have a dedicated Client Listening & Relationship Management Programme, which measures customer satisfaction and uses customer feedback to drive continuous improvement and strengthen relationships. This includes integrating client feedback into our learning and development programmes and reward and recognition schemes and using it to improve technical and operational delivery.

Our commitment to quality and security management is underpinned by ISO9001, ISO27001 and Cyber Essentials Plus.

Complimentary Services

As part of our service, we are pleased to provide Crown Commercial Services with access to these additional elements:

- Completion Guidance documents, highlighting the main learning points arising in any matter
- Access to all our meeting rooms
- Regular surgeries
- GC Collective – a networking and information sharing group for legal department heads
- HR Directors Forum – a networking and information sharing forum for HR heads
- 24x7 helpline

DACB is operating as a single entity on this Framework and is not a member of any consortium or subcontracting arrangement.



TEAM STRUCTURE

We offer one of the strongest legal networks in the UK, with offices in Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport and Winchester.

We have over 230 partners and 570 lawyers throughout the country, across all areas of law, enabling CCS and Central Government Departments to draw upon further DACB resources whenever required.

This offers you a genuine strength in depth, ensuring you have access to the best talent, wherever and whenever you require it.



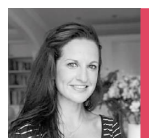
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Our Offices

- DAC Beachcroft office
- Representative office
- Legalign Global
- Associations
- Best friends
- Collaboration



- DAC Beachcroft office
- Legalign Global & Associations



*DAC Beachcroft has offices in New York as well as a representative office in Miami. For states where we do not have a physical presence, we have established robust relationships with leading partner firms, ensuring that our clients receive seamless, high-quality legal services across the country.

SOCIAL VALUE

We drive diversity and inclusion through:

- Ensuring inclusive and accessible recruitment, retention and promotion practices.
- Our graduate recruitment Springboard Scheme ring-fences 10%+ of assessment centre places for Under-Represented Groups who apply via our diversity partners.
- Promoting alternative routes into law by offering work placements/mentoring to Under-Represented Groups via our diversity partners (eg. Social Mobility Foundation, Aspiring Solicitors and 10,000 Black Interns programme).
- Promoting an inclusive working environment via our internal D&I Network Groups including Spectrum (LGBT+); Women+; ACCESS (ethnic minority); Disability Working Group; and Parents & Carers' Forum.

We support our colleagues health and wellbeing through:

- Engaging our workforce in deciding the most important issues to address. For example, appointing external consultants (Corporate Citizenship) to engage with a cross section of our colleagues to help determine the most important issues to prioritise and inform/shape our Health & Wellbeing Strategy.
- Implementing, and continuing to review and update the Mental Health Standards with respect to our workforce. This is evidenced by DACB signing the Mindful Business Charter where we committed to a specific work plan (using the talks/webinars/training outlined below) to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination within 24 months.
- Promoting wellbeing support to our colleagues, as evidenced by our trained DACB Wellbeing Representatives in each office who offer support services, promote events via our Health & Wellbeing Calendar and shape our wellbeing agenda.
- Holding wellbeing talks/webinars at least once a month. For example, our financial wellbeing webinars, anxiety and stress workshops and the art of mindfulness.
- Launching our new flexible working programme, FlexForward, which promotes a healthy work life balance giving all staff the choice on where, when and how they work.
- Delivering specialist mental health training to 100+ colleagues via our Mental Health First Aiders and Champions Programme.

- Running weekly virtual exercises classes and/or talks with nutritionists.
- Encouraging open conversations with those who may be struggling, as evidenced by our free of charge, confidential Employee Assistance Programme available 24/7 to everyone at DACB and their immediate families.
- Offering support to colleagues balancing careers with family life e.g. through our membership to City Parents who provide free access to events/webinars/ resources.
- Reporting publicly on the health and wellbeing of the Contract Workforce and engaging with them on key issues to address.

We deliver on our promise to be a responsible business through four key workstreams:

Social Mobility & Inclusion: DACB provides a wide range of career development opportunities by championing all routes to qualification. The firm runs BPP Business Services and Paralegal Apprenticeships which combine work and study post A-Level. Following the successful completion of a Paralegal Apprenticeship, there is the opportunity to continue this by undertaking a Level 7 Solicitor Apprenticeship, which lasts 6 years and incorporates a law degree.

Sustainable Procurement: We buy our FSC-certified paper and other office supplies from award-winning office supplies company Commercial, which has the largest hydrogen-enabled van fleet in the UK. 38% of our office supplies from Commercial are supplied by hydrogen-powered delivery. 56% of our office supplies from Commercial are certified Green products, for example, the bamboo thermo-mugs given to all employees across the UK as part of our recent re-brand.

Community Investment: We have strengthened our support for local communities through a national strategy for pro bono advice and non-legal community volunteering. The firm provides 20 hours per year for each employee, to encourage participation.

Environmental Sustainability: We are a member of the Legal Sustainability Alliance, and we have reduced our Carbon Footprint by 33% over the past 3 years through our occupancy of energy-efficient offices, and by implementing new policies, for example, on agile working.



COMPETITION LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our team has a unique blend of expertise in applicable public and competition law, as well as the powers and duties of economic regulators.
- We are experienced at managing relationships with concurrent regulators with the CMA in multiple sectors including health, telecoms and finance.
- We have experience of the interface between public bodies and competitive markets, including state aid, abuse of dominance and merger control.
- We offer you an in-depth understanding of market economics, and the role played by public bodies.
- We also understand central government, and have international experience allowing us to compare practices with governments elsewhere.

We can advise you on:

- Cartels and other potentially anti-competitive agreements.
- Abuse of a dominant position.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will offer you a free of charge and with no obligation cross-disciplinary surgery focusing on the legal and economic issues which you have identified.
- We will offer you strategic advice on the best course of action to adopt, and only charge you when we pursue an agreed course of action.
- We have considerable practical experience of the issues faced by government and public bodies, including giving expert witness testimony to both House of Commons and House of Lords Select Committees.
- We have good connections to the competition authorities, including the European Commission – this enables us to include information in our advice that may not always be in the public domain.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



NHS England on competition law including promotion of competition, pricing practices and market structures



The Higher Education Funding Council for England on state aid and the education sector.



Royal Mail on abuse of dominance issues under both public and private ownership.



HRA – Health Research Authority on competition, market structure and the characterisation of its services.

CONSTRUCTION LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We work across Government and the wider public sector providing strategic advice, advice relating to the delivery of capital programmes and, when necessary, dispute resolution advice
- We act for clients that include employers, owners and end users, consultants, contractors, developers, local authorities, transport authorities and NHS Trusts. We have experience of acting for Government bodies including Department for Education, National Highways, HMRC, GPA.
- We work from inception to completion on matters: from advising on contract strategies to managing contract completion procedures.

We can advise you on:

- Alliancing arrangements
- Framework agreements
- Building contracts and sub-contracts
- Professional appointments
- Third party rights
- Performance security documents

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- A national network: We have one of the most comprehensive networks of construction specialists in the UK, with centres of excellence in London, Bristol and Newcastle.
- Specialists: We have specialists in other practice areas such as Procurement, Environmental, Commercial and Planning that work closely with our Construction team which enables us to provide a joined-up service to clients.
- We will deliver a free of charge 'kick-off' session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Crown Commercial Service, supporting on construction framework renewals including on alliancing, call-off contracts and boilerplate.



An **NHS Foundation Trust** on the development of a new multi-storey £100m cancer centre using NEC3.



National Highways to advise on all Procurement and Major Projects including the Legacy Concrete Road Renewals Framework with an approximate value of £270m which will establish a panel of contractors to deliver at least 5 major renewal schemes over the next 6 years.



Nexus, the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive in respect of its Asset Renewal Programme and the contractual arrangements for the redevelopment of South Shields Transport Interchange.

CONTRACTS

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We have a deep understanding of contracts and contract law including commercial arrangements.
- We provide a full commercial contract service to the central government and the wider public sector.

We can advise you on:

- Drafting and negotiating agreements relating to commercial activities including supply of goods and services, outsourcing/contracting out of services, manufacturing, agency and distribution, concession contracts, shared services arrangements, joint ventures and grants.
- Supporting relationships including: advising on rights and obligations, variables, termination/exit and transition between suppliers and advising on complex commercial/contractual reorganisations and restructuring including novations, assignments and changes in ownership.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into your teams or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.
- We will deliver a free of charge “think-tank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Advising **LocatED Property Limited (LocatED)** - a non-departmental public body that has a framework agreement with the Department for Education – in relation to developing the terms of a Total Facilities Management Contract call-off using the NEC4 Facilities Management Contract.



Advising the **Ministry of Justice** with the development of its Secure Schools model documentation including the drafting of commercial agreements – notably the Funding Agreement, in relation to which we were appointed to conduct a full review of the document and advise on levels of protection that the Secretary of State may require to be incorporated.



Advising the **Government Property Agency** - Appointed to provide legal review, guidance and support on decisions involving the novation of various Facilities Management contracts (x 4 on NEC3 TSC terms plus an integrator contracting arrangement) from the MOJ over to the GPA.



CORPORATE LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We act for issuers and advisers on IPOs, reverse takeovers, secondary fund raisings and other public markets transactions.
- Joint ventures and co-investments, using both corporate and unincorporated JV structures, together with partnership arrangements, including partnering and joint venture arrangements between public and private sectors.
- Complex restructuring and corporate reorganisations, demergers and other schemes establishing operations in the UK.

We can advise you on:

- Corporate forms encountered in the public sector
- Corporate governance matters, and general company law and company secretarial advice
- Joint ventures and co-investments
- Mergers and acquisitions (M&A)

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



AIM-quoted client Castleton Tech-nology plc, a software and technology provider in the social housing sector, on its acquisition, by means of a Court-sanctioned scheme of arrangement, by US-based MRI Software for £83m.



GallifordTry on the corporate and funding aspects of their corporate (LLP) joint venture with Trafford Housing Trust for the development of housing in Trafford (Greater Manchester) with a GDV of c £100 million.



Ofgem on transactions in the energy (both renewable and conventional power), infrastructure, transportation and sectors, including on the sale of a number of offshore transmission assets as part of the OFTO tender regime run by Ofgem.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We support you at each stage of the dispute resolution process.
- We like to be involved at the outset of problems, to help identify key questions which need to be resolved and how to get the answers needed. We help craft strategies which safeguard policy and commercial interests and deliver cost-effective solutions.
- We make extensive use of mediation as a flexible, confidential and cost-effective way of resolving disputes. We have extensive experience of adjudication and arbitration and advise on a case by case basis on the merits of one option over another.

We provide advice on:

- Insurance and reinsurance
- Financial institutions
- Construction
- Energy and natural resources
- Health and life science
- Industrials and manufacturing

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



GLD and the **DHSC** in the defence of certain of the judicial reviews relating to the procurement of PPE. We managed a huge and complex duty of candour and disclosure exercise and conducted the preparation of witness statements.



The **NHS** on handling IT disputes involving turnkey project implementation (including NPfIT in the NHS), defective equipment claims, hosting disputes, hardware failures and software licensing disputes.



GLD in relation to the potential termination, by a major Government department, of various PFI contracts. The subject matter of the contracts was highly sensitive and the factual scenario complex. We helped clients understand the subtleties of the contracts and broader legal position to help them reach appropriate solutions without litigation.

LITIGATION

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our team is recognised for its industry leading ability to give clear and decisive advice.
- We have experience of all Courts (including the Commercial Court, the Technology and Construction Court, the Intellectual Property and Enterprise Court) and all forms of alternative dispute resolution (including arbitration and expert determination).
- We offer you full dispute resolution service ranging from high-level strategic advice on the most effective way of resolving complex or high value disputes to the ability to deal with volume litigation.

We can advise you on:

- Commercial litigation
- Technology litigation
- Construction litigation
- Intellectual property
- Enterprise

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver you a free of charge, no obligation quotation for any piece of work outlining the proposed approach and perceived benefits of adopting this strategy.
- We do not believe in litigation at all costs. Sometimes court proceedings are necessary but we always explore quicker, cheaper and more effective alternatives to try to deliver the best available commercial outcome as cost effectively as possible.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Sheffield Children's **NHS Foundation Trust** regarding its obligations under contract and the licence retirement process in the face of a claim for over £700,000.



Former Home Secretary, the Right Honourable Charles Clarke. Advising on claims against Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) arising from the unlawful obtaining and misuse of private and confidential information.



The **NHS** on securing sensitive patient confidential information against disclosure by a disgruntled patient.



EMPLOYMENT LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We advise on all employment issues including complex and highly sensitive individual discrimination and whistleblowing issues; to strategic matters such as industrial relations and major business change. We advise on issues including: equal pay, privacy, human rights, health, international, restructuring, redundancy and outsourcing.
- We recognise that good employment law advisers are about more than just advising on the law - we work hard to understand the people issues and ensure these are factored into our advice.
- Our specialist Pensions team and Business migration team are an important and fully integrated part of our Employment offer.

We can advise you on:

- Discrimination and diversity
- Trade union relations
- TUPE
- Business immigration
- Equal pay
- Partnership and LLP issues

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



The Government Equalities Office to help shape the Gender Pay Gap Regulations ET, EAT, High Court and Court of Appeal employers on a number of high profile and sensitive internal situations involving allegations of discrimination and whistleblowing.



Royal Mail to win an injunction to stop national strike action by over 111,000 postal workers across the UK working at thousands of different sites.



A number of **central government bodies**, including the MOJ, MOD, Home Office, DWP and Ofgem on the implications of TUPE as a result of carrying out significant initial outsourcing and re-procurement exercises. This has included advising on contractual provisions and on disputed TUPE transfers.



NHS England on a collaboration to provide regional service delivery, including advice on TUPE, the collective workforce issues and implications for pre and post-merger reorganisation.



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We focus on the public sector and act for clients across central and local government, statutory bodies and regulators and the NHS.
- To help with the application of treaties, statutes, regulations, common and customary laws addressing effects of human activity on the natural environment.
- We provide understanding and awareness of environmental law.

We can advise you on:

- All environmental and planning matters.
- Environmental and regulatory defence.
- Enforcement functions of The Office for Environmental Protection.
- Compliance including permitting, waste, contaminated land, pollution and emissions.
- Confiscation, restraint and Proceeds of Crime.
- Environmental investigations and prosecutions including pollution and waste management, prosecutions, producer obligations, and transfrontier movement of waste, agricultural pollution, construction waste, tyres and recycling and industrial pollution.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation “think-tank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
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- We offer a 24 hour crisis response service, which gives you telephone access to our specialist lawyers for support in the immediate aftermath of an incident.
- As we have offices across the UK we can reach you whenever and wherever you need us and quickly attend onsite to provide immediate advice and support.
- We can provide early management of the PR issues following a serious incident to help reduce any reputational damage.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



South West Water on sewage and waste water, environmental permitting, river and coastal pollution, enforcement undertakings and other coastal enforcement. Also advising on the largest and most complex prosecution brought against them by the EA to date.



Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust on the environmental aspects of the transfer of community services across Devon from North Devon Health-care NHS Trust to Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust.



Undertaking a full due diligence audit of an **NHS Foundation Trust's** compliance with its legal duty of care for waste management and providing ongoing advice on waste management regulatory compliance. This included advising on the Trust's internal training packages, its waste management policies and operating procedures.

INFORMATION LAW INCLUDING DATA PROTECTION LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- International data protection projects and data breaches across multiple jurisdictions.
- We advise on international data transfers and data breaches.
- Handling data breaches. Conducting privacy impact assessments.
- Briefings at Chief Exec/Board level on the strategic impact of the GDPR.
- We advise on compliance with technical legislation restricting the use of data in NHS and education. Advice on the common law duty of confidentiality and Article 8 rights.
- Handling politically sensitive requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act, the Environmental Information Regulations, and the Data Protection Act including representing clients before the Information Commissioner, the Information Rights Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



ICO on First Tier Tribunal appeals in relation to their FOIA decision notices.



NHS Digital on the data sharing framework and privacy issues arising out of the NHS app, including drafting privacy and cookies policies and negotiating contracts.



Post Office on data protection and information law issues, including undertaking a review of their information access processes and drafting template documents.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAW

○ HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our specialist technology projects team has over 40 lawyers and for more than 15 years has supported large organisations in relation to a wide variety of ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) projects.
- We have extensive experience advising on risk and challenges.
- We have supported a number of central government bodies in recent years in major IT projects.
- We combine quality commercial lawyers with technical expertise and industry insight. We understand the need for cost-effective legal solutions.

We can advise you on:

- Licensing and Software development
- Channels and distribution
- Outsourcing and managed services
- Telecoms and mobile
- Data protection
- Digital Media and E-commerce
- Cloud contracting (Saas, Paas, Iaas, etc)
- Use of CCS frameworks

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation “think-tank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Government Digital Service (GDS) with its negotiation and strategic approach to the UK's relationship with Nominet as to the .gov and related public sector sub-domains.



Crown Commercial Services (CCS) on its £750m national “Cloud Compute” purchasing framework - to allow UK Government to buy public cloud capacity direct from the major public cloud providers in the market including AWS, Azure, IBM, Google etc. Also other framework support such as Technology Services 3.



NHS England with an urgent Covid-related procurement of a SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) technology solution to enable use of a mobile phone App to provide remote advice and support for diabetes patients - within 3 weeks from start to finish.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We consider all aspects of our clients' reputation, product development and commercialisation.
- Our practice covers areas including: Patents, know-how, trademarks, copyright, database rights, designs, domain names, R&D agreements, licensing portfolio management, breach of confidence, brand protection, rights clearance, advertising and marketing, counterfeit and publishing.
- We are proud of the innovations we have introduced for our clients.

We provide advice on:

- Patents & Trademarks
- Copyright
- Database rights
- R&D agreements
- Brand protection
- Counterfeit & publishing
- Advertising & marketing

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation "think-tank kick-off" session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
- Brand 360: A global approach to your needs – we consider all aspects of your business reputation, product development and commercialisation and look at both legal and commercial solutions.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Royal Mail on copyright licensing deals with a number of film studios and international sports federations.



Unilever on its UK and Ireland anti-counterfeiting work where we offer a unique commercial structure to support its strategic objectives of protecting customers.



CCS with its software vendor MoUs and licensing issues.



NHS England in the Lyrica patent dispute involving Warner-Lambert and Actavissons.



NHS England on the use of the clinical trials exemption to conduct the largest study of its kind in relation to Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PREP) for HIV prevention.



NHS England on creating a new type of court order in the pregabalin pharmaceutical.

NON-COMPLEX FINANCE

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Financing structure in transactions, protections, security and intercreditor agreements with competing creditors
- Financing structures to comply with the subsidy control regime
- Needs of Government bodies, for example the involvement of HM Treasury with agreeing financing which falls outside of a departmental budget and the involvement of the Contingent Liabilities Central Capability with guarantees being provided
- Our private sector finance experience helps ensure our advice to Government bodies reflects up to date approaches to structuring, documentation, legal changes and risk sharing
- Financing structures including debt finance, grant funding, equity investment and JVs. Grant award terms and conditions, associated loan, claw back and/or coverage arrangements.

We can advise you on:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ○ Finance structure in transactions | ○ Shareholder loans |
| ○ Grant funding | ○ Due diligence of finance, guarantee and security arrangements |
| ○ Debt finance | ○ Intercreditor arrangements |
| ○ Equity investment | |
| ○ Joint ventures | |

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation “think-tank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.
- Our team combines an understanding of public sector priorities and ways of working with insights and innovations from our experiences advising the private sector

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ○ A leading university on funding being provided by a local enterprise partnership to a joint venture established by the University with a private sector partner (including security and sub-debt arrangements). | ○ A regional property developer on the establishment of a £100m property fund. | ○ Advising various public sector bodies on the refinancing of their PFI scheme, including the Ministry of Justice in relation to the c.£160M bond refinancing of a Prisons PFI scheme. |
| ○ A local authority on a £35m loan to a joint venture established by that authority with a private sector partner. | ○ A local authority on development loans and security. | ○ Advising various public sector bodies on the impact of the switch from LIBOR to SONIA in connection with their operational PFI contracting arrangements. |
| | ○ A development finance facility for a lender in excess of £150m. | |
| | ○ The corporate banking facilities for a FTSE 100 borrower . | |



OUTSOURCING

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We have supported a wide range of UK public sector organisations including several central departments with outsourcing transactions, often advising on transformational projects. Our team has worked with successive generations of UK Government IT services project agreement templates.

We can advise you on:

- Existing Arrangements/Options Appraisal, including due diligence, distressed contract scenarios, leveraged renegotiation.
- Defining the procurement and outsourcing strategy: Supporting the procurement process: RFQ/RFP, vendor evaluation, public sector regulatory expertise. Development of template contract: Drafting is dealt with in light of your long term ability to manage the outsourcing relationship cost efficiently.
- HR issues - early legal analysis to support strategic decisions.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation “think-tank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) with a complex, high profile IT project to procure a replacement ERP system. This covered its 14,000 staff in nearly 270 diplomatic offices in 169 countries.



The Cabinet Office with its ongoing procurement of a new administration solution for the Civil Service Pension Scheme under the Competitive Dialogue procedure, a large-scale and high profile major Business Process Outsourcing procurement for the heart of Government.



UK SBS (Shared Business Services) with its major ERP procurement for a wide range of agencies including RCUK.



Ministry of Justice (MOJ) with its major ERP procurement for a wide range of agencies including RCUK.



Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) with its contact centre outsourcing for Universal Credit telephony.



PARTNERSHIP LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Strategic partnerships and joint ventures (both between public sector bodies and with the private sector).
- Utilising a variety of structures (including commercial joint ventures, limited liability partnerships and other corporate bodies).
- Our teams work seamlessly across corporate, public law, tax, competition and other relevant specialisms to deliver on large and/or complex partnership and joint venture arrangements, and to assist in resolving any disputes concerning the same (whether through a formal dispute resolution process or via commercial negotiations), in an efficient and service-led manner.

We can advise you on:

- Strategic partnerships and joint ventures
- Commercial joint ventures
- Limited liability partnerships

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation “think-tank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

BACKHOUSE Members of the **Backhouse group**, including Backhouse Castle Cary, on the formation and establishment of a joint venture with the Housing Growth Partnership (a government backed vehicle to incentivise the house building sector) to acquire and develop a residential site at Castle Cary.



A number of **NHS Foundation Trusts** on the establishment of a partnership (formed as an LLP) in order to jointly bid for a substantial and complex services contract.



Two NHS Trusts on a joint venture with a large private sector partner (formed through LLPs) in order to outsource the pathology functions of those Foundation Trusts and provide equivalent services to other NHS Trusts.

PENSIONS LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We offer an unrivalled combination of expertise and value for money in advising on all aspects of public sector pensions.
- Our pensions team have advised a number of central government departments including the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health.

We can advise you on:

- All aspects of outsourcings.
- Pensions aspects of acquisitions/disposals/other corporate restructurings.
- Regulatory and compliance issues, including compliance with the Pension Regulator's Code of Practice of governance and administration.
- Advice to public sector pension schemes on investment-related issues.
- Insolvency and exit liabilities.
- Redundancy related pension issues including Beckmann rights.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation "think-tank kick-off" session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
- Regular client briefing updates on public sector pensions.
- Bespoke training sessions on relevant pension topics to keep you up to date on developments in the pensions sector.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



London Luton Airport on complex de-risking issues in relation to its defined benefit pension scheme. We dealt with many legal issues during the course of the year, which involved ongoing liaison with/management of the Trustees, the Unions and Luton Council.



NHS England, and over 70 NHS Trusts on a myriad of NHS Pension Scheme pension issues including advising Guys and St Thomas's on various voluntary and compulsory redundancy issues over the last ten years.



Many **non-governmental organisations** on various pension issues including in relation to LGPS exit liabilities and various Civil Service Pension Scheme issues (e.g. NHS Business Services Authority).



PLANNING LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We advise on the complete range of contentious and non-contentious planning, highways, as well as public and administrative law matters.
- We advise on innovative strategies and tactics to achieve our clients' objectives. This includes seeking to add value at all stages and assessing the appropriate levels of risk and commercial drivers to deliver on the objectives.
- We offer you a clear and practical understanding of central government's objectives, functions and duties and we understand what is necessary to deliver them.

We can advise you on:

- Major residential, commercial & retail mixed-use development
- Non-contentious and contentious planning
- Environmental law and net-zero carbon and biodiversity net gain
- Highways and public and administrative law

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver you a free of charge no obligation "think-tank kick-off" session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route at the start any new project.
- Deep sectorial knowledge in the housebuilding and commercial development sectors as well as CPO and infrastructure.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Royal Mail on planning and compulsory purchase orders and Development Consent Orders.



Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in connection with the planning aspects of its involvement in the promotion and development of the Godley Green Garden Village.



NHS Trusts & local authorities on the redevelopment and regeneration of their assets including the use of compulsory purchase powers and appropriation.



Queen Mary University of London on the Whitechapel life sciences campus, working with the Department of Health and Social Care.



Elysium Healthcare on its acquisition of the Lighthouse Healthcare Group with providing planning and due diligence support.

PROJECTS / PFI / PPP

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We specialise in advising public sector clients on:
- Major high-value and complex projects during each of the procurement, implementation, operational and hand-back stages.
- The creation of standard form documentation and on the delivery from pre-procurement / business case stage through to Financial Close.
- We have advised across most sectors (including: health; education; blue-light; waste; leisure; housing; prisons; MoD; transport; and, mixed use) and have been involved in all major national PPP programmes (including: Building Schools for the Future; Priority Schools Building Programme; the Prisons PFI estate programme; the NHS PFI programme; and, NHS LIFT).
- We are actively advising a mix of public sector clients on their preparations for hand-back and expiry on in excess of ten operational PFI schemes (as at July 2024) in different sectors.
- We have experience of providing advice on all operational issues including:
 - High Value Variations
 - Disputes
 - Refinancing
 - Voluntary early termination
 - Default-based termination

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation “think-tank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, assimilate the projects documents, understand options and risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project or embark on a material variation or similar for an operational project.
- As well as advising the public sector we advise project sponsors/investors and supply chain members, giving our practice a holistic view of PPP project delivery
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from our most senior lawyers through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Government Property Agency on the Workplace Services Transformation Programme, which will look to disaggregate existing TFM contracts into 13 new disaggregated regional workplace services contracts.



HMRC in relation to various facilities within its estate which were originally delivered under the Private Finance Initiative.



NHS on a major new RRR procurement of a £25m project for the construction and operation of a multi-storey car park for an NHS Foundation Trust.



Ministry of Justice successfully in relation to the circa £165m bond refinancing of one of its Prison PFI schemes; and – the delivery of its c.£140m capital value Houseblock programme delivered as high value variations to existing PFI Prison schemes.



PUBLIC LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our public law team is the largest and strongest defendant team in private practice. We are genuine specialists, comprising lawyers who live and breathe public law full time. We have an outstanding reputation for high profile, repercussive and complex judicial reviews.
- We are also particularly known for advisory work on policy development and implementation, and for regulatory advice.
- We offer pragmatic, expert advice to develop robust policies, procedures and decision making processes to make legal challenge unnecessary
- We work seamlessly with your team and our colleagues across DAC Beachcroft to ensure public law issues are addressed in any project.

We can advise you on:

- Policy development and stakeholder engagement including consultation
- Vires including partnerships and JV working between public and private sectors.
- Threatened and actual challenge, by judicial review or otherwise
- Equalities – compliance and challenges
- Governance – including misconduct inquiries

OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

NHS England on R(Gardner) v. SOS Health and Social Care and NHS England, a high profile judicial review of the impact of pandemic response measures on care home residents, to be heard by the Divisional Court in March 2022.

Department of Health and Social Care on a number of Judicial Reviews and Procurement Cases arising from the purchase of PPE during the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have conducted the disclosure and Duty of Candour exercises on a vast collection of document and have prepared the witness statements (including an exercise under the new Practice Direction). We have also assisted GLD colleagues with ad hoc support in these complicated and intense cases.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation “thinktank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates and can design the arrangement around your needs – full or part time, in person or virtual, one individual or a small team.
- All our public lawyers work on non-contentious and contentious matters, giving them a broader perspective on challenge risks at the outset of a project, and insight into the practicalities of delivering a project when defending a challenge.

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Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) on a complex powers mapping exercise identifying relevant enforcement powers across a wide range of unconnected UK and retained EU legislation, tabulating the results in an easy to use and practical single resource, as well as offering advice on the scope, limits and exercise of the powers described.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our integrated national team of contentious and non-contentious public procurement lawyers has advised on a number of procurement processes and challenges of differing complexity and value across a number of central government sectors.

We offer you:

- Strategic and commercially focussed advice on procurement strategy and options. We provide well rounded views and realistic approaches to managing risk and claims, should they come in.
- Pragmatic and straightforward advice on bringing and defending challenges.
- A fully managed procurement process.
- Training to empower procurement teams and evaluators.
- Ad-hoc support during a process, for example, at evaluation and standstill.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver you a free of charge kick off meeting at the outset of a project where we will offer invaluable procurement tips and guidance to help shape the project.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Department of Work and Pensions on their procurement of a new Telephony and Contact Centre for Universal Credit.



The Department of Health on all aspects of the procurement of its Electronic Staff Record system using the competitive procedure with negotiation.



The Cabinet Office on the re-procurement of pensions administration services for the civil service pension scheme and the Royal Mail Pension Schedule under the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation.



The National Highways to advise on all Procurement and Major Projects including the Integrated Delivery Framework worth approx. £30dn which will establish a panel of designers and contractors to deliver all projects in excess of £20m over the next ten years.



REAL ESTATE & REAL ESTATE FINANCE

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our teams contain specialists in all aspects of property portfolio management, investment and development. The depth of knowledge and expertise is spread across the country providing regional benefits also.
- We have considerable experience of advising central government bodies on property matters from BAU asset management matters to strategic, critical and integrated legal input into major portfolio transactions and developments.
- We are well connected and ensure clients have the opportunity to discuss key issues, share ideas, and influence policy.

We can advise you on:

- Planning
- Environment
- Construction
- Funding
- Tax
- Litigation

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We provide on-line access to property deeds and documents via a client-bespoke extranet, which keeps track of deadlines and trigger dates.
- We deliver webinars in the form of generic property updates but also ensure delivery of project “lessons learnt” evaluations as a learning exercise.
- We understand the way in which Government approaches matters such as risk in property transactions – and how this can be mitigated and approved as needed.
- We have experience of working on projects which involved Government Property Agency and understand their strategy/objectives.
- Through strong client relationships with dedicated Real Estate client contacts, we ensure a responsive and consistent service to allow you to deliver your requirements.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Department for Education on all aspects of their capital projects programme including site due diligence to support rebuilding; site acquisitions as part of the free school programme and site disposals where sites are surplus to requirement.

Various public sector clients on wide ranging property matters including strategic investments with meanwhile uses pending redevelopment for occupation; developments to deliver works to school, care home, library and other public service buildings; and disposal of complex sites using conditional agreements and overage arrangements.



HM Revenue & Customs on all aspects of their estate portfolio including freehold and leasehold acquisitions (both in terms of business as usual sites and delivery of strategic developments); landlord and tenant asset management matters; construction contract documentation and disputes; and property disputes. The team have advised on high value regional centre developments around the country including the market engagement with potential landowners/developers as well advice on potentially contentious matters across the portfolio



RESTRUCTURING / INSOLVENCY

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We have experience of advising the public sector on all types of corporate insolvency, formal or informal restructuring, investment recovery, supply chain management, risk management, distressed debt disposal and insolvency centred litigation.
- We have a team of lawyers who have advised on every type of insolvent or distressed situation, large and small, both nationally and internationally.
- We work as part of an integrated transactional team including M&A, employment, tax, real estate, banking and finance.
- We work alongside the firm's debt advisory team, which acts for a range of clients using insolvency as an effective recovery tool.

We can advise you on:

- Formal or informal restructuring
- Distressed debt disposal & acquisition
- Enforcement
- Formal insolvency
- Investment recovery
- Risk management
- Insolvency litigation
- Turnaround

OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



Leonard Curtis on the tax liabilities arising in Chile and inter-company liabilities around a Guernsey registered company.



RSM on the sale of the business of Devon Sweet Factory Limited and other issues arising – one of very few significant pre-packaged sales in the region in the last 12 months.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We understand that protecting tax payer money whilst ensuring continuity of service is often the central focus to any distressed situation.
- We take pride in our delivery of service and in our ability to find a commercial solution. Insolvent situations often require a pragmatic rather than technical approach.
- We support our clients by offering free initial consultations and straightforward views on the appropriate way forward.
- We recognise that speed of service is often of paramount importance, either to maximise the prospects of recovery, or to secure best outcome for stakeholders.
- We offer a free proof of debt and proxy service to our clients, monitoring dividend prospects and collecting and paying out dividends.

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RETAINED EU LAW AND EU LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our team has a unique blend of expertise in applicable public and EU law, as well as the powers and duties of economic regulators.
- We have vast experience of the interface between public bodies and EU regulation, including state aid, abuse of dominance, merger control, public procurement and general EU treaty issues.
- We offer you an in-depth understanding of EU procedures, and have both successfully defended as well as initiated a number of EU legal challenges.
- We understand central government, and have international experience, allowing us to compare practices with governments elsewhere.

We provide:

- Advice on the EU (Withdrawal Act) and/or EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the interaction between them.
- A specialised team of EU lawyers advising on divergence, EU legislation, and the approach of other jurisdictions.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will offer you free of charge and with no obligation a cross-disciplinary surgery focusing on the legal and economic issues which you have identified.
- We will offer you strategic advice on the best course of action to adopt, and only charge you when we pursue an agreed course of action.
- We have considerable practical experience of the practicalities of issues faced by government and public bodies, backed up by a solid academic and publishing track record.
- We have good connections to a number of European authorities, including the EU Institutions – this enables us to include information in our advice that may not always be in the public domain.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



The British Business Bank, the Development Bank of Wales & North East Finance on state aid & public investment funds for SMEs, including the notification of funds to the EU Commission.



Royal Mail on procurement issues under both public and private ownership.



The Higher Education Funding Council for England on state aid and subsidy control

Multiple entities on the ongoing application of the retained EU law, the general principles of EU law, EU passporting and implications of divergence.



TAX LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We have experience of dealing with a range of public bodies and regularly advise several local authorities and the NHS.
- Practical solutions and structures, taking commercial considerations into account.
- A comprehensive knowledge of potential issues and the available concessions, reliefs and HMRC's stance on greyer areas of law.
- We work closely with our clients to navigate the tax landscape, advising at each stage of the process.
- Our team advises across a broad range of taxes bringing different specialisms, to provide both depth and breadth of knowledge.

We can advise you on:

- Commercial tax
- Corporation tax
- Income tax
- Stamp duty / Stamp duty land tax
- NIC
- CGT
- VAT
- Capital allowances

OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

US-based company **MRI Software Ltd** on the acquisition of Castle- ton Technology Plc, a software and technology provider in the social housing sector, for £83m by means of a court-sanctioned scheme of arrangement.

Numerous health bodies (both public and private sector) giving VAT advice relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and other strategic matters.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.
- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation "think-tank kick-off" session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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Tax Director

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Elysium Healthcare on its acquisition of the Lighthouse Healthcare Group, a provider of integrated care through individually tailored hospital placements and enhanced social care services at its learning disability hospitals, mental health hospitals and social care home facilities.



Eight Roads on the remodelling of a previously implemented management based equity scheme.



CHARITY LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Our charity law team are specialists in charity law and regulation, and can provide pragmatic, commercial, and focused advice. Our specialist team regularly advise on all areas of law and regulation as it impacts charities, including:

- Duties and responsibilities of charity trustees
- All aspects of regulation by the Charity Commission, including serious incident reporting, responding to regulatory concerns, and support with statutory inquiries
- Governance reviews
- Amendments to constitutions and other forms of structural change
- Mergers, acquisitions, disposals and joint ventures
- Group structures
- Trading subsidiaries
- Fundraising, including relationships with professional fundraisers and commercial participators
- Grant agreements
- Bank funding and security
- Property disposals and acquisitions
- Disputes, including trustee or membership disputes
- Financial hardship and distress

OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

Assisting numerous charities in reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission on a wide range of issues, ranging from harm to beneficiaries, unauthorised trustee benefits, employment disputes, alleged fraud and other matters impacting on a charity's reputation.

Advising an NHS charity on its conversion to a company limited by guarantee and several other NHS charities on options for independence and potential legal form as well as structuring options when the local hospital landscape changes.

Advising charities on governance reviews, including reviewing constitutional form and governance arrangements and providing training on duties and responsibilities of charity trustees.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We have worked with large national charities, advising on a variety of issues ranging from the acquisition of a new social care provision, to a charity's conversion to a company limited by guarantee.
- We can offer advice on governance arrangements, joint working with a non-charitable provider, and a significant debt arrangement.
- We can help charities on mergers to achieve a greater impact for their beneficiaries.
- We offer pragmatic advice that is there for our clients when they most need it.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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Some Clients:



EDUCATION LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our expertise includes the regulation of higher education, where we have advised on every major change from the end of the binary divide in 1992 to the introduction of fees, fair access provisions, and now the creation of the Office for Students.
- We advise on funding streams in higher and further education, research funding, the conduct of assessment exercises, and institutional issues in higher and further education, such as governance misconduct, real estate transactions, and equality issues.
- Our offering is pitched at the sector strategic level, while also extending down into individual institutional concerns, and we have an “institutional memory” of education policy development stretching back over 30 years
- In terms of the academies programme, we advise both local authorities and multi academy trusts on a range of academisation matters both at conversion and after including re-brokerage.

We can advise you on:

- Funding streams
- Student complaints and claims
- Governance
- Judicial Review

OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



We advise the Department on all aspects of their capital projects programme including the development new school buildings (due diligence and transactions; property, litigation and construction) as well as advice on their commercial requirements including large scale sustainability projects and facilities management contracts.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.
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OfS extensively on all matters to do with its set up and the creation of its regulatory framework for higher education. This has included both the creation of the new framework and complex transitional provisions dealing with how the sector will move from HEFCE regulation in 17-18 to full OfS regulation in 19-20.



FOOD, RURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our team of specialist lawyers provide legal services in both a defence and advisory capacity concerning food safety, supply chain issues and environmental matters.
- Our specialists work with a range of public bodies and private companies to help protect legal interests and manage reputational risk.

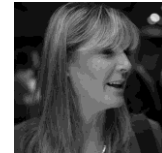
We provide advice on:

- Food Safety, environmental and regulatory defence.
- Environmental, trading standards and other regulatory matters including marine, farming and food.
- Hygiene and food safety investigations, including foreign body complaints, food poisoning outbreaks, adverse hygiene standards and pest control issues.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- Via our dedicated Brexit Think-Tank group we can help you navigate the complicated legal issues around the UK's exit from the EU and the impact on our rural communities, farming and supply chains.
- Our specialists work with a range of public bodies and private companies to help protect their interests in relation to food safety and environmental law.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.
- We provide a rapid response in the case of major incidents, understanding the need for early legal advice to effectively manage investigations, the Regulators' involvement and communications.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

- On an Environment Agency investigation following a diesel spill at a distribution centre. We advised our client in responding to the allegations, and no charges were brought against our client.
- A defendant who spontaneously added particular ingredients to a food product sold. This inadvertently introduced an allergen which was not listed on the menu. Whilst a custodial sentence was deemed by the court as likely, the final penalty was a fine which was a great relief to our client.
- On a number of food safety issues including contamination, product recall and underage sales.
- A number of companies investigated under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. Examples include allegations of misleading communications and packaging.

FRANCHISE LAW

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We are able to advise on the most appropriate route to market for those wishing to expand, and regularly advise franchisees considering entering into a franchise on franchisor's standard terms.
- We use "user friendly" checklists to ensure that the frequently lengthy and complex aspects of the agreement are fully understood and the key risks considered.
- We can call on our team of experienced lawyers around the world to provide advice on local regulatory environments.

We can advise you on:

- Expansion
- Franchise
- Data Protection
- Restraint of Trade
- Misrepresentation

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation "think-tank kick-off" session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer virtual secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

- On and drafting a template franchise agreement for a household manufacturer of lock systems to establish a network of mobile "branded" locksmiths.
- On training for an international beverage company on the legal benefits and features of franchising and master franchise arrangements in an international context.
- A restaurant chain on a suitable network structure for its first phase of national franchising, including drafting a standard franchise agreement and discussing key issues such as exclusivity, post-termination restrictions and fees.
- A High Court claim, the amount being claimed in excess of £200m; acting for a claimant local authority in a multimillion pound claim for defective goods.

HEALTH & HEALTHCARE

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We deliver advice to the broadest range of health and social care providers and commissioners nationally and internationally.
- Our advice ranges from issues such as emergency applications to the Court of Protection, CQC compliance, mental health and service redesign through to regulatory due diligence within M&As.
- We provide strategic regulatory advice at Board level, providing wise counsel to the leaders of health and social care commissioners and providers, often at the most challenging of times enabling them to manage and mitigate risk.

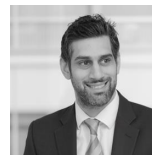
We can advise you on:

- Defending Judicial Reviews and procurement challenges.
- Supporting the design and implementation of complex procurements.
- Establishing Joint Ventures, shared services and collaborations.
- Information Governance (Data protection, Freedom of Information & GDPR)
- EU, competition and state aid

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We have extensive experience of advising the NHS and health organisations, bringing deep sector and policy knowledge.
- As well as expert technical lawyers we have a team of specialists in governance and regulatory who have worked within health organisations and have a deep understanding of the regulatory landscape.
- Real and virtual resources: We can bolster your own team with expertise and resource, including secondments and virtual secondees.
- We will deliver a free of charge no obligation “think-tank kick-off” session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



NHS England across all disciplines but majoring on commercial and public law to the NHS England New Business Models team. This entails being required to deliver on a range of new contracting and delivery models to promote the integration of health and care services.



Department of Health and Social Care both with commercial and data protection secondment support, as well as providing external counsel support on a range of regulatory issues relevant to medical devices, as different COVID19 testing solutions were being deployed during the pandemic.



HEALTH & SAFETY

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our market leading regulatory team offers extensive coverage through our network of offices across the UK. We have particular expertise in Construction, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Health and Social Care, Retail/Leisure, Rail/Transport and Public Sector.
- Our team regularly advises individuals and organisations facing criminal investigations for corporate manslaughter, gross negligence manslaughter and breaches of regulatory law related to health and safety, fire safety, food safety, environmental law; and safe care and treatment.

We can also:

- Provide representation in the investigation following an incident.
- Conduct corporate internal investigations under legal privilege.
- Challenge appeals against enforcement notices and charges under the FFI scheme.
- Defend individuals and/or organisations against any enforcement action.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We are one of the largest specialist teams in the UK. We offer a 24 hour crisis response service, which gives you telephone access to our specialist lawyers for support in the immediate aftermath of an incident.
- Our cross-sector approach and our experience of acting for large organisations in the public and private sector as well as SMEs and individuals means that we have a thorough understanding of the range of safety issues that can be encountered and how best to deal with a criminal investigation.
- We gain a thorough understanding of your operations and ensure that all factors including reputational and commercial damage, business interruption and the emotional distress for both frontline workers and senior management are taken into account with any strategic advice.
- As well as responding to incidents we provide advice on risk management to organisations and their boards by delivering bespoke training, combined with leadership and strategic reviews to help minimise the risks of incidents.
- We work with lawyers in other parts of our practice where additional sector specific input is required, including colleagues from our employment, health and public sector groups.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

NHS

We have particular expertise in providing advice and representation in the defence of Corporate Manslaughter cases, notably *R v Errol Cortnish and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust*, where we successfully defended the first **NHS Trust** to be prosecuted for Corporate Manslaughter.



Rydon Maintenance Limited (“RML”) in relation to the fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017. RML was the main contractor during the refurbishment of the Tower which included the installation of a rain screen cladding system to the external façade of the building. We were instructed by RML on the morning of the fire. We act for RML in relation to the Inquiry and related civil and criminal proceedings.



LIFE SCIENCES

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- Our team has 60 years' experience in the public healthcare sector and is ranked as a leading healthcare advisor.
- Our life sciences department provides specialist advice to the industry on all aspects of regulatory, liability and product safety issues, having defended the majority of significant pharma/ medical device cases in the UK over the last four decades.
- We advise on drug development, orphan drugs, intellectual property, joint ventures including international collaborations, clinical trial agreements and claims, contract research, marketing authorisations, supply chain and other contractual issues, consumer safety and liability, competition law and procurement.

We can advise you on:

- Regulatory & compliance issues
- Approval & licensing pharmacovigilance
- Clinical trials
- Complaints, claims & recalls
- Product liability and safety

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We work with medicines, devices and MedTech manufacturers throughout the lifecycle of their products.
- Our highly experienced team is top ranked for product liability in both of the profession's leading legal directories.
- Our resources can bolster your own team with expertise and resource from partners through to trainees at competitive secondment rates. We can place people direct into each department or, to reduce costs, can offer "virtual" secondees available via, for example, Microsoft Teams and FaceTime.
- We will deliver a free of charge initial consultation session with your key stakeholders to help you define objectives, understand risks and navigate the right route before you start any new project.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:

NHS The clinical trial insurers in respect of claims arising from the TGN1412 phase 1 trial at **Northwick Park Hospital**.

NHS England NHS England in the patent litigation concerning pregabalin.

NHS NHS Blood and Transplant and all NHS Trusts in the HIV Haemophilia and Hepatitis C litigations.

NHS England A purchasing body in relation to the **CMA investigation** into pharmaceutical supplies.

HDI HDI in respect of both medical devices and pharmaceutical products. The firm deals with a number of cases on behalf of HDI who are a major underwriter of clinical trial insurance.



PUBLIC INQUIRIES & INQUESTS

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We have a dedicated and specialist national inquiries team with unprecedented experience and knowledge of key sectors, including health, education, social care and local and central government.
- Our roles have included appointment as advisors to the inquiry panel, advisers to corporate bodies involved, and also to key individuals.
- We have one of the most extensive teams of advocates appearing weekly in coroner's courts nationally, as well as one of our partners being an Assistant Coroner, ensuring strategic advice to our clients from all perspectives.
- We ensure our advice is focussed, clear and unequivocal. Our advice ensures you can make an informed, risk-based decision on the next steps, confident that key legal, policy and reputational factors have been considered.

We can advise you on:

- Public inquiries
- Non-statutory inquiries
- Strategic reviews and inquests

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We have a deep knowledge of public inquiries & investigations, including core participant status, inquiry scope, and relevant lines of inquiry.
- We have extensive experience in the disclosure process, with significant stakeholder experience via our work for the Police, NHS and Social Services Departments.
- A number of our team have SC level security clearance, enabling them to manage sensitive and confidential data.
- We have a 24/7 rapid response helpline service to help manage a crisis, including a DACB Crisis Room App.
- We are well versed in bringing an in-depth yet streamlined approach to representing participants to an Inquiry, allowing us to reconcile legal and political pressures against budget pressures for our clients.

Call one of our team for a free informal chat



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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



NHS England and Improvement on all aspects of their response to the Covid Inquiry.



Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, as one of the main haemophilia centres nationally in the Infected Blood Inquiry.

- **Three individual NHS Trusts** (acute and mental health) in the Savile Inquiry and on their respective internal investigations.
- **Participants** giving evidence at the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

- **A core participant** in relation to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and related civil and criminal proceedings. Our client was the main contractor during the refurbishment of the Tower which was completed in 2016.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We have a deep understanding of the telecoms sector and have acted on a variety of large and complex telecoms deals. We act for both telecoms providers and customers, which helps our perspective and understanding of telecoms transactions.
- We are familiar with the current telecoms programmes sponsored by government and advise on the range of services available under these programmes.

We can advise you on:

- Mobility and connectivity services
- Leased line, interconnect and roaming
- Reseller and distribution arrangements
- PSN (Public Services Network) procurement
- Contact centres & inbound/outbound services
- Mobility and connectivity services
- Leased line, interconnect and roaming
- Reseller and distribution arrangements
- PSN (Public Services Network) procurement
- Contact centres & inbound/outbound services

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OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



The **City of London** for a concession enabling the roll out of wireless infrastructure for the support of both mobile telecoms and public broadband/wifi.



Arqiva (formerly National Grid Wireless) on the procurement of broadcasting equipment for use in the UK's Digital Switchover programme.



Rutland County Council's Next Generation Broadband project with BT plc funded through the Department of Culture, Media and Sport £530m BDUK Programme.



On BDUK programme-funded projects in Wales, Surrey, Sussex and BDUK Phase 3 procurement.



The **Welsh Government** on the original procurement for its PSBA private secure managed WAN and, subsequently, voice and mobility services. PSBA was a model for the first PSN procurements and he has since worked on PSN projects in Surrey and the Sussex shared ICT service, LINK.



THE LAW OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INVESTMENT & REGULATION

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- As a large, full-service commercial law firm with a network of overseas offices our practice inevitably and routinely advises on transactions and disputes with an international dimension. These matters are often in areas of trade with applicable local regulation and here our local offices support.
- On the commercial contracts side, our practice regularly handles deals involving overseas parties and/or where the performance of the deal is international.
- Advice on transactions with multi-jurisdictional aspects. Our team of international lawyers regularly co-ordinates advice across multiple offices on technical issues including health, telecommunications, energy and insurance.

We can advise you on:

- A wide range of regulatory issues as they affect life and general insurers, brokers, banks, wealth managers and other financial institutions.
- Passporting, new authorisations and perimeter issues in multiple sectors over whether authorisation is required.
- Outsourcing arrangements, joint ventures, and shareholders or LLP agreements.

OUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES ADVISING:



The Financial Ombudsman Service on the first successful judicial review of the Financial Ombudsman Scheme in over ten years.



Partnerships in Care in relation to various acquisitions, including the Choices Lifestyles group of companies, and the mental health division of Care UK.



The **FCA** on providing full legal and regulatory support on a number of applications for FCA authorisation, change in control and variation of permission.

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