



Public Sector Legal Services Framework

REF: CPC/DU/LS/03

Overview

We act for more than 50 local authorities and various central government departments. We are familiar with working under a framework agreement with in-house lawyers and other disciplines from local authorities.

Our legal specialists have the experience, knowledge and expertise to provide innovative solutions and understand the pressures and demands placed upon you by the sector. More than anything else, we recognise the importance of delivering value for money whilst not losing sight of the bigger picture. Many of our lawyers have worked for local authorities so they understand the culture of public service provision including the political dimension. We provide a full range of legal services to the public sector, including:

Property

The firm's commercial property, construction and development team is the largest in the firm. It is recognised as providing outstanding advice and is described in Legal 500 as "excellent with good strength in depth and very good industry knowledge" and "having a very balanced team which is both responsive and flexible" by Chambers. We have experience of development and regeneration, housing requirements, compulsory purchase, public inquiries and planning agreements.

Planning

The team comprise planning lawyers and a planning consultant who advise on the full gamut of issues that arise in the local authority setting. Many of them are former local authority planning specialists including head of development control and a chief planning officer. They deal with a diverse and complex range of issues including heritage and historic issues, planning enquiries and appeals, judicial review and policy issues. Recently, they have provided detailed advice to a number of local authorities in connection with all section 106 matters.

Construction

We act for major developers and builders in connection with construction contracts and have advised on development agreements, JCT contracts, warranties, parent company bonds, performance bonds, dilapidation issues and utility documentation.

Contract and procurement

We have acted on a number of public procurement contracts in particular relating to property and planning, employment and service outsourcing matters.

Funding

We have advised on a number of funding arrangements both for colleges, independent schools and academies. We act for a number of well known banks providing secured lending advice as well as advising on a whole range of financial options in the public sector. This includes the redevelopment of the Ageas Bowl mentioned above which involved prudential funding, state aid issues and other public procurement matters.

Dispute resolution and mediation

We offer the full range of dispute resolution and advocacy services. We have a number of mediators in the team, and regularly advise and act for local authorities across a diverse range of issues, including local authority contracts, procurement, data protection and employment matters.

Human resources and employment

A number of the team were formerly employed by local authorities and advises a number of authorities on issues such as maternity, paternity, family friendly policies, equal pay, TUPE and reorganisations and redundancies. They deal with all aspects of tribunal work, including appeals, employment contracts, unfair dismissal, complex discrimination and whistle blowing, senior management terminations and trade union matters. In order to help you stay on top of the fast-changing area of law, we regularly conduct in-house training and deliver, twice yearly, a widely acclaimed employment seminar.

Safety, health and environment, safeguarding

We both undertake and defend prosecutions on behalf of a number of government or quasi-government

Find out more

Please contact us to discuss your requirements or to find out more.

departments. We also undertake cases in respect of licensing, breaches of health and safety and environmental issues.

Joint ventures

The firm's commercial department acts for a number of national companies and organisations in relation to Joint Venture (JV) agreements, special purchase vehicles and JV transactions relating to property matters and collaboration agreements with third parties.

In addition, we cover the following areas:

- Data protection
- Freedom of Information
- Intellectual property
- IT contracts
- Governance issues including probity, member and officer responsibilities and duties

Our aim always is to make sure that we offer advice that is timely, relevant and leaves you feeling confident of your individual circumstances.

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