

Local Government Law Conference

Thursday, 6 December 2018

9.00 am - 3.30 pm

St John's Chambers

St John's Chambers' Public & Administrative Law team are hosting their 7th annual local government law conference in Bristol.

Local authority legal teams face increasingly complex legislative provisions with an avalanche of new guidance, case law and legislation. Challenges to their decisions continue unabated. And all in a time of seemingly never ending budgetary pressure. This one day conference provides the opportunity to explore and receive expert views on a number of topical issues faced by legal teams in local government across the country.

The aim is to equip delegates with the latest developments in some central areas of their work and practice in order to assist them in their daily work. And while there is no such thing as a free lunch, the course at £40 per delegate comes pretty close.

Programme



9.00 - 9.25 am **Registration and refreshments**

9.25 - 9.30 am **Welcome and introduction**

Peter Wadsley, Head of Public & Administrative Group, Barrister, St John's Chamber's

9.30 - 10.00 am **Noise, Caravans and Chaos: A look at enforcement and injunctions in local government practice**

Peter Wadsley, Head of Public & Administrative Group, Barrister, St John's Chamber's

10.00 - 10.30 am **Putting your foot down at the end of the road
(to make sure you get where you want to go to)**

Timothy Leader, Barrister, St John's Chambers

An overview of compulsory purchase and compensation in the light of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. The object of the talk is to set out the basic principles and steps involved in the compulsory purchase of land in a non-technical way to de-mystify a very useful tool. The talk should be of interest to those involved in any discipline that involves securing the control of land to implement a scheme that a local authority wishes to promote in the public interest, especially in a planning, housing, highways or education context.

10.30 - 10.45 am **Refreshments**

10.45 - 11.15 am **State aid update and what may happen after Brexit**

Matthew O'Regan, Barrister, St John's Chambers

11.15 - 11.45 am **Natural nuisances and the liability that may follow**

Richard Stead

11.45 - 12.15 pm **Judicial Review update**

David Fletcher, Barrister, St John's Chambers

12.15 - 12.45 pm **Lunch**

12.45 - 1.15 pm **Recovering costs in licensing appeals**

Professor Roy Light, Barrister, St John's Chambers

General principles; third party costs orders; abandoned appeals.

1.15 - 1.45 pm **Hire a dog but bark yourself: Can Village Green Registration Authorities disagree with the advice of their Inspectors?**

Leslie Blohm QC, Barrister, St John's Chambers

1.45 - 3.30 pm **Panel Discussion**

St John's Chambers Barristers

Presenters



**Peter Wadsley,
Head of Public &
Administrative Law, Barrister
(Call 1984)
St John's Chambers**

*"Peter has an aura about him,
and is highly respected for his
encyclopaedic knowledge.
'Pragmatic, experienced and
approachable.'
'A good advocate.'
CHAMBERS UK, 2018*

As a senior barrister in the local government field, Peter has considerable experience in all aspects of planning and environmental work, including public inquiries, appeals to the High Court and Court of Appeal and in judicial review of local authority decisions.

He advises in all these areas assisting local authorities, developers and other bodies, including interest groups and other public bodies. Particular areas of interest and expertise include renewable energy (particularly wind farms and biomass); major housing inquiries (including three where viability in the present economic climate was an issue); retail inquiries; mineral and waste inquiries; all aspects of enforcement appeals; and listed building and conservation area issues (and appeals).



**Leslie Blohm QC, Barrister
(Call 1982; QC 2006)
St John's Chambers**

*"Leslie is noted for his expertise
in judicial reviews concerning
property-related decisions and
offers unique expertise in
challenging local authorities
over licensing fees."
CHAMBERS UK, 2018*

Leslie is one of the Western Circuit's leading commercial and chancery silks, both in advisory work and in litigation in all Courts from the most local up to and including the House of Lords and the Supreme Court. He is an expert in town and village green law, and as well as advising, both appears before Inquiries, sits as an informal inspector advising registration authorities on applications to register land as a village green. He has also appeared on judicial review applications to challenge registrations decisions on highly contentious applications, notably in *SDR v Bristol City Council* and *Mann v Somerset County Council*.



**David Fletcher, Barrister
(Call 1971)
St John's Chambers**

*"David is respected for his solid
planning practice, which
involves an emphasis on
housing and retail
developments. He typically
represents local authorities in
planning disputes, including
statutory appeals and judicial
reviews."
CHAMBERS UK, 2018*

David has, over the years, been extensively engaged in a wide range of important Judicial Review cases, notably in housing, discrimination and planning. A number of these have reached the House of Lords (now Supreme Court) and Court of Appeal. He lectured on Administrative Law at Bristol University for some years prior to commencing practice at the Bar and has recently been re-appointed as Senior Associate Lecturer.

David was engaged by claimants in one of the five high-profile Judicial Review cases heard jointly in December 2012 seeking to review the Government's decision to proceed with the High Speed train (HS2) on the basis of failure to carry out meaningful consultation.

Presenters



Richard Stead, Barrister
(Call 1979)
St John's Chambers

"Richard offers deep knowledge of the insurance elements of property damage cases. 'He has gravitas and presence.' 'Knowledgeable, very commercial and very good with clients.'"

CHAMBERS UK, 2018

One of Chambers' most senior barristers, Richard has an extensive practice which encompasses personal injury, clinical negligence, professional negligence claims and property damage matters, including a number of high profile cases. Richard's practice is also complemented by his highly sought-after expertise in construction disputes.

Richard has considerable experience in property damage cases arising from fire, flooding, tree root induced subsidence, land slip etc, and in insurance coverage matters.

“A number of its barristers are experienced in high-value and complex cases. They more than hold their own against London sets.”

CHAMBERS UK, 2018



Roy Light, Barrister
(Call 1992)
St John's Chambers

"An extremely able lawyer who understands the commercial reality of what the client needs. 'He demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of many areas of licensing.' 'Energetic, experienced and charming.'"

CHAMBERS UK, 2018

Roy is one of the UK's foremost licensing barristers and has appeared in a number of leading cases. His extensive experience includes alcohol and entertainment, late night refreshment, open-air festivals, race courses, gambling, taxis and firearms.

Roy advises and acts for local authorities, police forces, independent operators and public corporations throughout England and Wales. He is pleased to take instructions on all matters from simple preparatory advice to High Court challenges.

Presenters



Timothy Leader, Barrister
(Call 1994)
St John's Chambers

Tim specialises in planning, compulsory purchase, local government and commercial law. He appears regularly on behalf of local planning authorities and developers in planning appeals, Judicial Review, statutory challenges of appeal decisions, and development plans, especially those dealing with housing need, the supply of land for housing, and heritage assets. His commercial practice focuses on commercial and real estate matters and contractual disputes.

Tim has been involved in some of the leading cases on the FOAN / 5-year housing land supply: *Bloor Homes (East Midlands) v SSCLG and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council*; *King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council v SSCLG and Elm Park Holdings*; *Oadby & Wigston Borough Council v SSCLG and Bloor Homes*. He has also helped to advance a number of post-framework local plans, including most recently plans for East Hampshire District Council, Warwick District Council, and Melton Borough Council.



Matthew O'Regan, Barrister
(Call 2015)
St John's Chambers

"He is very responsive and practical and can deal with things calmly. He is also very good at talking to clients."

CHAMBERS UK, 2018

Matthew, a former Solicitor, is a specialist competition and regulatory lawyer. He was called to the Bar and joined St John's Chambers in 2015, having previously been a Partner in the Competition Group of Burges Salmon LLP. He also practised for over a decade in the Brussels office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP.

Matthew has extensive experience of all aspects of EU and UK competition law, State aid and economic regulation. He advises and represents clients in all types of competition disputes before the UK and EU courts, including appeals, in cartel and state aid cases, follow-on damages actions and commercial disputes raising competition issues. Matthew has considerable State aid experience, including advising a wide range of local authorities and other public bodies on the State aid aspects of transactions and projects, whether as an investor, recipient of funding (including from the European Regional Development Fund) or provider of funding to others.

“ St John's Chambers has been recommended as a 'Top Tier Set' in the Western Circuit's Leading Set by The Legal 500 and a 'Top Ranked Set' in the 2018 edition of Chambers UK.