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## Public Law and Judicial Review

*"An excellent public law set"*  
(Legal 500)

### Who we are

We are acknowledged experts in the major legal directories: recognised as a leading set in the fields of administrative and public law (Legal 500), local government law (Chambers and Partners) and planning (Legal 500; Chambers and Partners). This wide-ranging skill base means we have extensive experience of judicial review proceedings and similar statutory challenges.

The strength, and depth, of expertise we have in all our areas of practice ensures we can provide the right level of experience for our clients, when it is needed (even at short notice).

With our premises in Cardiff we are well placed to represent clients in the High Court there. Many members are experts in both the English and Welsh systems of local government.

### What We Do

- We have extensive experience of defending and challenging public law decisions in a wide range of fields including planning, housing, highways, community care, immigration, human rights and licensing.
- We appear in all courts and tribunals.
- We are regularly involved in judicial review proceedings, and similar statutory challenges and appeals.
- We act for regulatory bodies in disciplinary hearings and related statutory appeals.
- We are adept at dealing with public law claims at short notice.
- We act for many public and private bodies and individuals, as well as over 300 public authorities.
- A number of us are experienced as Adjudicators, Inspectors, Investigators, Boundary Commissioners and also as officers and elected members of local bodies.
- We have extensive experience in advising on local authority powers, and the full range of constitutional, procedural and conduct issues facing authorities.
- We have particular expertise in the local authority power to promote well-being.
- Our specialist expertise includes Freedom of Information, Data Protection and the Environmental Information Regulations. We also act for a number of Local Education Authorities, and in relation to children's services generally, and educational institutions.

## Cases

## **R (on the application of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council) v Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform [2008] All ER (D) 159 (Jul)**

Licence for a major offshore wind farm under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 granted by the Secretary of State. Challenge to decision on basis:

1. That a licence which dealt with part only of the whole wind farm was unlawful;
2. That the Secretary of State should have considered whether it was appropriate to hold a public inquiry as well as the objections of the planning authority; and
3. The Secretary of State should have been told that an officer had visited the site and had expressed serious reservations about its location but the Secretary of State was never informed of this prior to his decision.

Court held that the Secretary of State was entitled to grant a licence for part only of the whole wind farm since the part in question was a 'generating station'. Further that the Secretary of State had properly considered the need for a public inquiry and had not acted unlawfully. Thirdly the fact that one officer had expressed the view that there were serious problems with the location of the wind farm which were not reported to the Secretary of State did not invalidate the decision.

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## **R v Wandsworth ex parte Winder [1985] A.C. 461 (HL)**

Constitutional law

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### **Other Work**

Conducted quasi-judicial inquiries into housing conditions in Peckham for Southwark Council and child abuse for Hackney Council.

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## **Associations**

- Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)
- Planning and Environment Bar Association (PEBA)
- Member of the Parliamentary Bar
- Member of the Bar of Texas
- Sits as legal assessor to the RICS disciplinary board.