

Housing, Public Law & Human Rights



Who we are

Andrew Brookes
Partner

Timothy Waitt
Partner

Debra Wilson
Partner

Charlotte Collins
Solicitor

Giles Peaker
Solicitor

Sara Stevens
Solicitor

All our lawyers are members of the Housing Law Practitioners Association (HLPAs) which promotes equal access to the legal system and reform of the system for tenants and others who receive housing services or who are disadvantaged in the provision of housing.

Find out more

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S O L I C I T O R S

Our housing, public law & human rights department is renowned for challenging public decisions in those areas which affect ordinary day-to-day life. These include decisions made by local authority housing departments, planning departments, social services and education authorities. Our clients often feel they need help in challenging these larger organisations. We can provide that help through our specialist knowledge within a diverse range of legal issues.

The passing of the Human Rights Act 1998 has placed an emphasis on the individual's rights in a vast number of areas that affect our lives. We aim to promote such rights where possible, within the framework of the various legislation that affects our clients' lives.

Housing

Housing is a fundamental part of everyone's life and the effects can be devastating when things go wrong. In most instances we can help. We can handle all types of work in this field. We act for council tenants and leaseholders, private tenants and the homeless.

Alongside the issues many people face when in need of Housing assistance are those that concern social welfare provisions. We can assist the elderly, sick and disabled in challenging decisions that affect their everyday lives, such as community care assessments to determine an individual's particular needs.

Often people feel that they need help in challenging large organisations like Local Authorities. We can provide that help through our specialist expertise in housing and social welfare.

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What we do....

Our lawyers can assist and represent expertise in all areas of housing, public law & human rights including the following:

- Possession proceedings where tenants face losing their home. This usually arises where there are rent arrears. We can help tenants to keep their homes and to arrange agreements for reducing arrears. We can sort out Housing Benefit problems and obtain backdated payment and challenge failures to process Housing Benefit applications.

- Mortgage possession cases where for example a borrower has fallen behind with repayments and is facing repossession and eviction.
- Disrepair cases, for example when homes are damp, have leaks, are suffering from structural problems or where the central heating system is not working. We can obtain an independent surveyor's report on your home and compel the landlord to carry out repair works. We can also obtain compensation for the inconvenience that the disrepair has caused.
- Homes suffering from pest infestation such as mice, rats, cockroaches, or ants. We can obtain treatment works and compensation.
- Applications to the Local Authority for housing where the application has failed. We can challenge decisions made by the council with a view to securing permanent housing.
- Advice to leaseholders in relation to service charge disputes, leasehold enfranchisement, and applications to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal.
- Housing and support for asylum seekers.
- Challenging illegal eviction of tenants from their home. We can also provide assistance where tenants are being harassed.
- Assistance to tenants in their transfer applications.
- Advice on decisions made by local education authorities including special needs and decisions on admissions and exclusions. We can act on a private basis in respect of representations concerning school exclusion cases and where representation is required before an appeals tribunal.
- Advice on challenges arising under the Human Rights Act 1998.
- Provisions upon discharge under the Mental Health Act and for those in hospital.

How you pay...

If you are either on Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance or State Pension you will be eligible for public funding. If you are on a low income you may be eligible. We also act for privately paying clients and in some cases we can offer funding on a "no win, no fee" basis. We have legal services commission franchises for both Housing and Community Care which can help us act even more quickly in urgent cases.