



Public Sector

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Roger Henderson QC 'is widely recognised for his skill in dealing with finance matters and public procurement.'

Chambers UK

Its 'helpful, pragmatic and reassuring' team represents local authorities and public bodies in procurement, compliance and state aid matters generally, proving 'well clued up and on top of the law.'

Chambers UK

Rhodri Williams QC 'is very knowledgeable and persuasive.' A man of fantastic all-round ability.

Chambers UK

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Chambers has a well-established reputation for excellence in the field of public and administrative law. Led by “the doyen of the Bar” Roger Henderson QC, Richard Mawrey QC, Professor Alan Dashwood CBE QC and Rhodri Williams QC, the Public Law Group covers five practice areas: public and administrative law, public procurement law, local government law, European law and professional discipline, and is recognised in both Chambers UK and the Legal 500 for its expertise in these fields. Six Members of Chambers are members of the Attorney-General’s Panels and two are on the Welsh Assembly Government’s Public Law panel.

Members of the Group are “well clued up and on top of the law,” according to Chambers UK, and the Legal 500 reports that our “legal acumen is very good.”

Chambers has particular expertise in the fields of public procurement law and state aid, advising a broad range of clients including suppliers and contracting authorities in contentious and non-contentious matters.

Our “helpful, pragmatic and reassuring team” (Chambers UK) has extensive experience in all areas of local government law, in particular finance and the scope of local authority powers. We also have expertise in areas relevant to local authorities and other statutory bodies, such as property, planning, highways, housing, compulsory purchase, finance and audit, environment, education, social services, elections and pensions.

Members of the Group have appeared in many of the leading professional disciplinary cases of the last decade, including Harold Shipman and Professor Sir Roy Meadow in the medical field and, most recently, Roger Henderson QC chaired the Equitable Life hearing in the field of accountants’ regulation.



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Roger Henderson QC commands a wealth of respect for his experience and knowledge.
Chambers UK

Andrew Kinnier is ‘very quick and practical’ and ‘a highly regarded junior.’
Legal 500

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Geraint Webb is ‘a fantastic tactician who is recommended both for challenging and defending decisions.’
Chambers UK

Roger Henderson QC is ‘a true heavyweight in this area.’
Chambers UK

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Public and administrative law

Since the “Fare’s Fair” litigation in the early 1980s Chambers has a well-established reputation in all aspects of public and administrative law and in many other areas of work relevant to central government, local authorities and other statutory bodies, such as property, planning, highways, compulsory purchase, transport, telecommunications, finance and audit, environmental, education, social services, employment and pensions. We act for central government departments, devolved institutions, local authorities and other public and statutory bodies, dealing with judicial review and other matters, both contentious and non-contentious. Advisory work particularly focuses on budgetary and financial matters and the extent of the powers of public bodies in a range of contexts.

Members regularly advise central government through their positions as Junior Counsel to the Crown and Junior Counsel to the Welsh Assembly Government’s Public Law panel.

Members have worked on a number of high-profile public inquiry cases, including the Clapham, Southall and Ladbroke Grove rail inquiries, and the Marchioness and Herald of Free Enterprise maritime inquiries in addition to the Shipman Inquiry and the E-Coli Inquiry.

Public procurement

We provide suppliers, contracting authorities and utilities with a full range of services, from non-contentious advice during the tender process to representation in complex litigation and, where appropriate, arbitration and mediation.

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Richard Mawrey QC is particularly praised for his advice to local authorities on public procurement.
Chambers UK

Andrew Kinnier’s ‘advice is always very clear and he always shines a light on the way forward in any case.’
Chambers UK

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Alan Dashwood QC is ‘one of the finest European brains in the country.’
Chambers UK

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Specific areas of expertise include regeneration schemes, concessions and Part B contracts, health service procurement, utilities procurement, social housing, state aid, project finance and PFI/PPP issues.

Members of the group have appeared in procurement matters in the High Court, the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and the European Court of Justice, as well as the courts of Northern Ireland.

Local government law

We act for many local authorities, including the Greater London Authority and most London boroughs, as well as public bodies such as Passenger Transport Executives and Waste Disposal Authorities in relation to powers, finance, procurement, planning, traffic control, local authority contracts, waste and employment.

Our advisory work covers issues such as the rights of access to information held by public bodies under the Local Government Acts and Freedom of Information Act, and advising local government in relation to the regulation of their finances by central government, particularly with regard to capital controls.

European law

We advise on all aspects of European law, contentious and non-contentious, including constitutional matters, the law relating to the internal market (free movement of goods, freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services), competition, public procurement, state aid, anti-dumping and external relations generally, agriculture, fisheries conservation, social policy, sex-discrimination, education, environment and EU staff matters.

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Adam Heppinstall is recommended as a ‘highly capable junior’ who demonstrates his skill across a broad range of areas.
Chambers UK

Kenneth Hamer is known for being ‘incredible on the detail.’
Chambers UK

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Professional discipline

We have a long-standing track record in advising both regulators and professionals, from drafting procedural rules, appearing in landmark and high profile cases (including on appeal and CHRE references), to mitigating on behalf of professionals.

Our work covers a wide range of sectors, including medicine, solicitors and barristers, architects, surveyors and engineers, accountants, sports professionals, financial services, railways, telecommunications, electricity and water.

Members of Chambers also act as Legal Assessors to or Chairmen of the Disciplinary Panels and Committees of General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the General Osteopathic Council, the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the General Dental Council and the Institute of Actuaries.

Chambers is an active participant in the Association of Regulatory and Discipline Lawyers.



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The set’s barristers are ‘excellent in delivering clear, concise advice.’
Legal 500

‘helpful, pragmatic and reassuring’ team.
Chambers UK

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Recent examples of the cases in which members of the Group have been involved include:

- The [London Authorities Mutual Ltd](#) case which considered the scope of local authorities’ well-being powers and the Teckal exemption
- [R \(on the application of D\) v Secretary of State for the Home Office & National Assembly for Wales](#): the first claim against the Welsh Assembly for damages for breach of the Human Rights Act 1998
- [Concordia Bus Finland](#) which considered the use of environmental criteria in the award of public procurement contracts
- [R v HM Treasury ex parte University of Cambridge](#) which considered the definition of ‘body governed by public law’ for the purposes of the EU public procurement regime
- [R \(Western Riverside Waste Authority\) v Wandsworth Borough Council](#) which considered the scope of the respective functions of a waste collection authority and waste disposal authority
- [Birgit Bartsch v BSH Bosch und Siemens Hausgerate Altersfursorge](#) (Age discrimination)
- [Al-Faqir and Others v Council](#) (Terrorism – freezing of assets)
- [Palacios de la Villa](#) (Age discrimination)
- [Advokaten voor de Wereld](#) (Validity of European Arrest Warrant)
- [Ealing Community Transport Ltd v Ealing London Borough Council](#), which dealt with the enforcement of rights under EU public procurement regime by way of relief other than damages
- [The Shipman Inquiry](#)
- The GMC’s disciplinary investigation of [Professor Sir Roy Meadow](#)

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Keeping watch over it all, turbo-charged, entrepreneurial head clerk John White. Chambers Student Guide

A ‘tone and culture’ of service that is a cut above other sets. Chambers UK

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At Henderson Chambers, we are committed to achieving the right outcome for our clients. We are proud to offer “a quick response; good value for money, in proportion to the problem at hand” (Legal 500).

The foundations of our excellence in client service are our pedigree, our intellectual ability and our knowledge of our specialist areas of practice. We consider ourselves approachable, friendly and enthusiastic. At the heart of our client-friendly ethos is our open-door policy and our commitment to dealing with every client on a personal, individual basis.

We take on a wide range of cases, and no matter what the issues, we take pride in understanding our clients and their differing needs, including the commercial realities they face and the markets they operate in. The Legal 500 states we offer “common sense and good business thinking,” adding that we show “a high level of skill” and “work directly and promptly.”

We invest considerable effort and resources in ensuring that our clerking function delivers the quality and consistency of service that we believe our clients deserve. Legal 500 highlights our “impressive, efficient clerking,” while Chambers UK refers to “a client service mentality that is streets ahead of most.”

Our website was the first to offer direct access to the public. We believe direct access – which is used by smaller business, commercial and insurance clients – is an important element of the service we offer and which our clients need.



Henderson Chambers is home to 42 barristers, including nine QCs – “large enough to offer a versatile and wide ranging service, but not so large as to be impersonal” (Chambers UK).

We are recognised in both Legal 500 and Chambers UK as having expertise in all of the main areas in which we practice and we are a winner of a Chambers Bar Award 2010.

We aim to provide a flexible and commercial service tailored to the needs of our clients. In addition to receiving instructions from solicitors, we accept instructions under the Licensed and Public Access schemes from a wide range of organisations.

Members of Chambers regularly deliver seminars, in-house training and lectures to ensure our clients are both informed and able to benefit from our specialist expertise and advice.

In addition to our own European law expertise, we have close links with barristers practising in Brussels, and we are able to advise and provide representation regarding all European law matters, including competition, trade, anti-dumping, public procurement and state aid, as well as appearing before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Contact us

For any public law enquiries, or for questions regarding any other practice group areas, please contact John White, Chief Clerk:

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Email: clerks@hendersonchambers.co.uk





We also have the following brochures available for our other practice areas:

- Product Liability & Group Actions
- Health, Safety & Environment
- Commercial, Insurance & Arbitration
- Technology & Construction
- Property
- Finance & Consumer Credit
- Employment

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Friendly and approachable barristers.
Chambers UK

Always helpful and eager to work in a team.
Chambers UK

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