



GET FREE PUBLIC LAW ADVICE

THE PUBLIC LAW SPECIALIST SUPPORT ADVICE LINE

PLP is funded to give advice on public law to all organisations with an LSC Contract or Quality Mark. We welcome calls from advisors or organisations new to the concepts of public law, as well as from more experienced practitioners.

A query is likely to fall within our remit where it arises from a decision, act, omission, or policy of any public body. As examples, we set out below matters in respect of which our lawyers have recently assisted other organisations, or in which we have particular interest or expertise. This is a non exhaustive list:

- Practical, procedural or tactical issues in relation to judicial review proceedings.
- Any perceived unfairness in the policy and practice of local Councils. We may also be able to assist with public law issues arising from decisions to cut or 'contract out' local services.
- Decisions of the Independent Safeguarding Authority relating to individuals' suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults, and appeals arising from those decisions.
- Matters relating to or stemming from an individual's immigration status other than that status itself (such as entitlement to asylum support, community care services, medical and health care), the policy and practice of the UK Border Agency and/or individual decisions that do not give rise to an appeal to the AIT.
- Decisions to exclude children from maintained schools and/or academies, and appeals against those decisions.
- Issues arising from freedom of information or data protection legislation.
- Public law problems raised by the recovery of overpayments of benefits and tax credits
- Any issues arising under anti-discrimination legislation as it applies to the provision of public services (and in particular the need for public authorities to pay due regard to the duty to promote equality).
- Any issues arising from the availability of public funding ('legal aid') or decisions of the LSC. For example, PLP can assist lawyers to make applications for civil public funding or to appeal/challenge unfavourable funding or LSC assessment decisions where appropriate.

Public law queries may overlap with practice areas of specialist knowledge (such as welfare benefits, immigration or community care). The LSC continues to fund (for the time being at least) nine advice lines. Where a query may additionally or alternatively require expert knowledge in other areas PLP lawyers can signpost advisors to further specialist support as appropriate.

The future of this service is uncertain – please use it.

**The advice line is open 10.00 am-4.00 pm Monday-Friday.
You can ring us on 0808 808 4546.**