



PUBLIC LAW SPECIALIST SUPPORT

AVAILABLE ON 0808 808 4546

The Public Law Project (PLP) is a national legal charity which aims to improve access to public law remedies and improve access to justice. Under the LSC funded 'specialist support' advice line PLP can provide solicitors, caseworkers and advisors with advice or assistance in respect of any public law query. PLP's support may be one-off or on-going as necessary.

We can assist 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.
- Public law problems raised by the recovery of overpayments of benefits and tax credits
- Any perceived unfairness in the policy and practice of local Councils (for example, the way a Council enforces or collects Council Tax debt, or the way it assesses an individual's needs for social services). We are also interested in any decisions to cut or 'contract out' local services.
- Decisions of the new 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.
- Any issues arising from freedom of information or data protection legislation (including the retention or publication of individual's conviction information).
- 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).

Public law queries may overlap with practice areas of specialist knowledge (such as welfare benefits, immigration or community care). The LSC funds 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 advice line is open 10.00 am- 4.00 pm Monday-Friday

You can ring us on 0808 808 4546