
Robin Hopkins

Robin is a market-leading specialist in information law: data protection, privacy, media and technology issues and freedom of information.

Robin is a top-ranked junior in Chambers & Partners for data protection ('star individual' junior, 2018 to 2023), consistently a Tier 1 junior in Legal 500, and is also a ranked junior in Group Litigation.

He has vast experience on GDPR and DPA issues such as data breaches, compensation claims (individual and multi-party litigation), ICO regulatory actions, subject access requests and compliance challenges to data-driven business models. His experience includes acting for a number of major multinationals (including Meta/Facebook, Experian, Ticketmaster, Equifax) on some of the ground-breaking cases emerging under the GDPR.

Robin has appeared in hundreds of information rights appeals (FOI and environmental information) and jointly runs 11KBW's **Panopticon** blog.

He is on the Attorney General's A Panel of counsel, and also has a judicial role in the Ecclesiastical Courts, as Commissary General (Chancellor) of the Diocese of Canterbury.



Professional Summary

Called 2008

Contact Details

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Clerk Lee Cutler

Clerk Tori Eastwick

[Contact Clerks](#)

Specialisms

Information Law

Robin has vast experience in all aspects of data protection, for which he is ranked as a Band 1 Junior (Chambers and Partners). He has appeared in numerous leading data protection cases, and works with clients on issues such as GDPR regulatory and compensation actions, social media and apps, artificial intelligence, data-sharing, adtech and marketing, subject access and erasure disputes. He acted for a successful intervenor in **Lloyd v Google** [2021] 3 WLR 1268 and his current cases involve high-profile companies such as **Meta**, **Experian**, **Equifax** and **TikTok**.

He has appeared in hundreds of appeals concerning FOIA and EIR matters, including leading cases. Current and recent work includes **Department of Business and Trade v IC and Montague** (Court of Appeal; Brexit trade negotiations) and, in a commercial context, **Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust v IC and Rowland** (EA/2021/0047).

Media & Privacy

Robin works extensively with both media and individual clients on privacy disputes in the context of news, online content and reputation management. He works with major national news publications and content hosts, and is experienced in right to be forgotten/take-down disputes.

Public Law

Robin's public law practice often encompasses privacy issues. Most recently, he has acted – alongside Lord Pannick KC and Sir James Eadie KC – in the judicial review challenges to the government's immigration arrangements with Rwanda. His experience in public law matters also includes **R (Catt) and R (T) v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and Others** [2015] UKSC 9 (Supreme Court; application of Article 8 ECHR and the DPA to policing information).

Human Rights

Robin's specialism in information rights and privacy matters routinely involves human rights issues, in particular under Article 8 and Article 10 ECHR.

Local Government

Robin works in all aspects of local government law, with extensive experience in information rights matters in particular. Those include FOI and environmental disputes – often in commercial contexts – as well as data protection issues such as disclosure, retention and data-sharing. He appeared in the leading case on local authorities' retention of child protection information (**R (C) v Northumberland CC & ICO** [2015] EWHC 2134 (Admin)) and assets of community value (**Banner Homes v St Albans** [2018] EWCA Civ 1187).

Recommendations

"Robin Hopkins is the complete package – not just great technical skills, but exceptional client service and a wonderful manner. The most senior clients will find him personable and expert." **Chambers & Partners**

"I have no hesitation putting Robin in front of even the most challenging of clients – he is sure-footed, immensely commercial and pragmatic and focuses on the answers that a client needs, rather than feeling the obligation to show off the breadth of his knowledge." **Chambers & Partners**

"Robin is wonderful to work with, excellent with clients, and almost always persuades the judge or panel and is successful." **Chambers & Partners**

"Robin balances gravitas with approachability, and is able to cut through the noise to identify what really matters in a case." **Chambers & Partners**

"Robin is a standout junior in a set and an area of law with many excellent barristers" **Legal 500**

"He is bright, willing to argue his corner, and happy to debate points of law" **Legal 500**

"He is just brilliant. For a barrister's view on any issue going to court, he gives the most helpful input and feedback." **Chambers & Partners**

"He is the best junior around for data protection and truly has no weaknesses in the area." **Legal 500**

"A superstar junior with sense well beyond his years." **Legal 500**

"He is superb all around and always a real pleasure to work with. He makes the job easier." **Chambers & Partners**

"An outstanding junior in the data privacy field, he is exceptionally bright and makes dealing with the most complex matters seem effortless." **Legal 500**

"He has a wonderful manner with clients, a great way of presenting complex issues in a clear and simple manner, and is a real team player." **Chambers & Partners**

"He is extremely responsive, has good knowledge and experience of the data protection area and is a pleasure to work with." **Chambers & Partners**

Recent Cases

Experian v Information Commissioner

EA/2020/0317 (regulatory action against marketing business)

Lloyd v Google LLC

[2021] UKSC 50 (loss of control damages; representative claims; acting for interveners)

Re AB

[2020] EWHC 691 (Fam), [2020] 1 WLR 3119 (access to deceased's medical records)

Scott v LGBT Foundation

[2020] EWHC 483 (QB), [2020] 4 WLR 62 (oral disclosure of personal information)

DB v GMC

[2018] EWCA Civ 1497 (mixed personal data)

Ittihadieh v 5-11 Cheyne Gardens/Deer v Oxford University

[2017] EWCA Civ 121, [2017] 3 WLR 811 (subject access; personal purposes; judicial discretion)

Holyoake v CPC and Nicholas Candy

[2017] EWHC 52 (subject access; surveillance; investigations; LPP)

Department of Health v Information Commissioner

[2017] EWCA Civ 374, [2017] 1 WLR 3330 (freedom of information; ministerial diaries)

DBEIS v IC and Henney

[2017] EWCA Civ 844 (meaning of environmental information)

R (Catt) and R (T) v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and Others

[2015] UKSC 9 (Supreme Court; application of Article 8 ECHR and the DPA to policing information)

Edem v IC and FCA

[2014] EWCA Civ 92 (Court of Appeal; definition of 'personal data')

Re Southern Pacific Personal Loans Limited

[2013] EWHC 2485 (data protection in commercial insolvency context)

Appointments

Attorney General's Panel of Counsel (A Panel)

Commissary General, Diocese of Canterbury

News, Articles & Publications

Maintains and regularly contributes to 11KBW's **Panopticon** blog.

Education

Rhodes Scholar (South African College School, 2001)

City University, London: Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction)

Oxford University: BA (PPE); Master of Studies (Philosophical Theology)

University of Cape Town: Bachelor of Business Science (Finance)

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