Jane Oldham



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Jane Oldham specialises in public, local government, information and education law. She has appeared at all appellate levels. The directories have for many years ranked Jane consistently as a leading junior in public and administrative, local government and education law, saying that "she has a fine track record of handling sophisticated public, information and education law matters". Jane is Chambers UK 2026's top-ranked local government junior at the London Bar.

> ***Jane has a particular focus on education clients which was one of the reasons for instructing her. We were impressed with attention to detail and quick grasp of facts. Very user friendly***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Expertise

Recent cases

v

Breckland DC v Information Commissioner (2023) UKFTT 103 (GRC)

(2023) UKFTT 103 (GRC)

on commercial confidentiality exemption and the relationship between EIR rights and the statutory rights of electors and auditors to information

Corderoy v Information Commissioner and National Audit Office

EA/2021/0366

Nikhil Prabhu vs Information Commissioner and Birmingham Children's Trust

Nicholas Robert v Information Commissioner and Devon County Council

EA/2021/0349

Pharmacists Defence Union v NHS Business Services Limited

(EA/2019/0239) (FOI)

R (Imperial London Hotels Limited) v London Borough of Camden

(2019): resisting JR challenge to a healthy streets project.

R (Throssel) v Outwood Grange Academy Trust

(2019): JR challenging use of isolation booths in a school.

R(F) v Fulham Boys' School

(2018): JR challenging haircut policy (prohibition of dreadlocks).

Rutherford v Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

(2017): challenge to levy.

London Borough of Ealing v Information Comm

(EA/2016/0013) (2017) (FOI).

Wainwright & Cummins LLP v Lord Chancellor

R (Hunt) v North Somerset Council

[2015] UKSC 51, [2015] 1 WLR 3575 / JUDICIAL REVIEW

(2015): Challenge to government's procurement of two-tier criminal legal aid contracting.

[2015] UKSC 51, [2015] 1 WLR 3375 (JUDICIAL REVIEW REMEDIES, COSTS); [2013] EWCA CIV 1320, [2014] BLGR 1 (BUDGET-SETTING, PSED, CONSULTATION, REMEDY), [2013] 16 CCL REP 530 (COSTS) ; [2012] EWHC 1928 (ADMIN) (18 JULY 2012); [2012] EQLR 951 SC:

Refusal of judicial review remedy where breach of statutory duty found, no order made quashing decision and claim for declaration not pursued or formulated. Claimant's costs recoverable, but in reduced proportion. CA and HC: Public sector equality duty and consultation challenge to Council's budget-setting decision to reduce funding for, and review methods of provision of, youth services.

R (Hamill) v Chelmsford Magistrates' Court

[2015] 1 WLR 1798

Delegation of power: whether lawful. Scope of DPP v Haw, Carltona principle considered.

R (Branwell) v Rochdale MBC

[2013] EWHC 1024

Consultation and equalities challenge to local authority's council tax support scheme for 2013- 2014.

R (Lewisham London Borough Council and Others) v AQA and Ofqual [2013] EWHC 211

Judicial review challenge to the 2012 English GCSE awards

R (UNISON) v NHS Wiltshire Primary Care Trust and Others

[2012] EWHC 624 (ADMIN) (15 MARCH 2012) [2012] ACD 84

Trade union's judicial review challenge to ten PCTs' proposed outsourcing of their family health services in alleged breach of procurement requirements, and Wednesbury rationality. Framework agreements, variation of contracts, time limits, standing.

R (Omotosho) v The Governing body of Harris Academy Crystal Palace

[2011] EWHC 3350 (ADMIN) (18 NOVEMBER 2011)

Judicial review of Academy school's admission arrangements and admissions appeals process.

Davis v Information Commissioner and Board of Trustees of the Tate Gallery

EA/2010/0185 (16 SEPTEMBER 2011)

Legal professional privilege exemption in FOIA, representing the public authority

Sikka v Information Commissioner and HM Treasury

Suppiah v Sec State for Home Dept and Others

Treasury

EA/2010 0054 (12 JULY 2011)

Disclosure of report into collapse of BCCI; representing the Information Commissioner;

Others

[2011] EWHC 2 (ADMIN) (2011) 108(4) LSG 18

Unlawful detention of failed asylum seekers and their children pending removal – intervention on behalf of Local Children's Safeguarding Board concerning the disclosure of a Serious Case Review about detained children.

Ministry of Justice v Information Commissioner

EA/2010/0181 (10 MARCH 2011)

Ministry of Justice's appeal against the Information Commissioner's decision, based on the MoJ's evidence then supplied, that a letter from the then Prime Minister to the Secretary of State for Justice relating to the End of Custody Licence Scheme, should be disclosed. Acted for the Information Commissioner.

R (M) v Oxfordshire County Council and SSHD

(JUNE 2010): CO/133379/2009 AND CO/12546/2009

Age assessment of asylum-seeker. This was one of the first judicial reviews of age assessment of asylum seeking children post- the decision of the Supreme Court in R (A) v LB Croydon [2009] UKSC 8.

Youth Justice Board v Information Commissioner and Children's Rights Alliance for England

EA/ 2010/0013

Disclosure of training manual re restraint techniques used on children in custody, representing the Information Commissioner resisting the appeal against his decision that it should be disclosed, resulting in the YJB withdrawing its appeal and disclosing the information.

Dun v Information Commissioner and National Audit Office

EA/2010/0060

Representing the National Audit Office.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council v Information Commissioner

UKIT [2010] EA/2009/ 0069

Disclosure under Environmental Information Regulations of property search information for HIPs, and whether power to charge for disclosure.

Financial Services Authority v Information Commissioner

Commissioner

[2009] EWHC 1548 AND 1784 (ADMIN)

Degree to which context of request for information to be taken into account in considering exemption under Freedom of Information Act 2000; whether certain information about financial services providers is confidential information under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 so that disclosure is prohibited under that act and so exempt under section 44 FOIA. Munby J also made observations about the role of both the IC and the public authority in appeals from the Tribunal, for the purposes of costs orders. Costs: [2009] EWHC 1784 (Admin).

Department of Transport v Information Commissioner

(2009) Whether procurement information about train company franchises should be disclosed; appeal to Information Tribunal. After a partial hearing, the appeal was withdrawn. Jane appeared for the Information Commissioner resisting the appeal.

RMGL v Information Commissioner

(2009) Whether information about Royal Mail Group Limited's spending should be disclosed. Appeal to Information Tribunal, Jane appeared for the Information Commissioner resisting the appeal. After a partial hearing, the appeal was withdrawn.

Financial Services Authority v Information Commissioner

Representing the Information Commissioner.

Secretary of State for Health v Crouch and (1) South Birmingham Primary Care Trust (2) British Dental Association

[2009] ICR 461, [2008] EWCA CIV 1365

Acted for the British Dental Association. Construction of the principal contract for orthodontists and whether Primary Care Trusts had a unilateral right of termination.

R (Swords) v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

R (Save Dartington College Limited) v South West Regional Development Agency and

Communities and Local Government

[2007] EWCA CIV 795

Housing transfers by local authority to housing association under government's "decent homes" policy; lawfulness of Secretary of State's consent. Appeared for the housing association.

West Regional Development Agency and University College Falmouth

CO/2008/1893

Representing University College Falmouth– closure of Dartington College and transfer of its courses to university; security for costs in judicial review where claimant formed company.

Lawton v Information Commissioner and NHS Direct

[2008] UKIT EA/2007/0081

Representing the Information Commissioner.

Tuckley v Information Commissioner

[2008] UKIT EA/2006/0077

Representing the Information Commissioner.

Financial Services Authority v Information Commissioner and Riverstone Management Agency Ltd

[2008] UKIT EA/2008/0047

Disclosure by Financial Services Authority. Representing the Information Commissioner.

Boddy v (1) Information Commissioner and (2) North Norfolk County Council

[2008] UKIT EA/2007/0074

Legal professional privilege; representing the Information Commissioner.

Brook Area Residents and Shopkeepers Group v Information Commissioner and Birmingham City Council

[2008] UKIT EA/2006/0077

Whether a body is a "publicly owned company" within FOIA (relationship of local authority with a company): representing the Information Commissioner.

North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee v Information Commissioner

[2008] UKIT EA/2007/0133

Whether information is environmental information; commercially confidential information; representing the Information Commissioner.

Welsh v Information Commissioner

[2008] UKIT EA/2007/0088

Whether a request for information is vexatious (in the medical context); representing the Information Commissioner.

McBride v Information Commissioner and Ministry of Justice (formerly Privy Council)

[2008] UKIT EA/2007/0105

Whether information is "held" for the purposes of FOIA; representing the Information Commissioner.

Craven v Information Commissioner

[2008] UKIT EA/2008/0002

Salmon v Information Commissioner

[2008] UKIT EA/2007/0135

[2008] UKIT EA/2008/0002

Disclosure by Financial Services Authority.

[2008] UKIT EA/2007/0135

Application of FOIA to college within a collegiate university, and whether information held is confidential information; representing the Information Commissioner.

Hargrave v Information Commissioner

[2007] UKIT EA/2007/0041

Law enforcement (detection of crime, administration of justice, in the context of an unsolved murder case)); representing the Information Commissioner.

Achievements

Education

MA (Cantab). (Law, Trinity College, Cambridge.)

Other

Languages, scholarships, memberships:

Jane was called to the Bar in 1985 and was awarded prizes and scholarships by Trinity College, Cambridge, where she read law, and Middle Temple. She is a member of the Administrative Law Bar Association, the Commercial Bar Association, the Procurement Lawyers' Association and (in relation to her local government practice) the Planning and Environmental Law Bar Association. Jane practised part-time between 1992 and 2010, plus various periods of family leave during that time, and returned to full-time practice at the end of 2010.

Jane Oldham also covers a wide canvas but is particularly known for the work she does relating to local authorities and their business relations with the private sector

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barrister of choice in commercial matters

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immensely sensible, thorough and driven

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With bucket loads of experience and calm approach to advocacy that never fails to impress

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Interviewees praised Jane Oldham for her "genius and sheer hard work"

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Her client care is also highlighted as a particular strength

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Jane Oldham is perceived as "a feisty lawyer who goes from strength to strength"

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Jane Oldham is "on the ball straight away" and handles complex cases well. She is further considered an advocate who "understands the law, works well with clients, and possesses intellectual weight"

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She handles everything from pre-dispute advisory work to judicial review, and has experience of the Supreme Court disputes.

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