

Heather Emmerson

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Heather Emmerson practises in the areas of public law, regulatory law, professional discipline, data protection and information law.

Heather has over 15 years' experience advising and acting in litigation spanning all areas of her practice. She is regularly instructed in high profile and complex litigation and has appeared before a wide range of courts and tribunals including the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Heather has considerable advocacy experience including multi-day trials, judicial review claims and appellate litigation. Heather is also frequently instructed to advise on ground-breaking and novel points of law. Heather acts for a wide range of clients from private individuals to multi-national companies, regulatory bodies to local authorities, and charitable organisations to governmental bodies.

She is ranked as a leading junior in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 across all main areas of her practice and described in the directories as *"truly excellent in the field"*, *"an accomplished junior who is the all-round package"*, and *"an extremely good advocate"*. Clients have commented that Heather is *"all over the detail, incredibly thorough and technically excellent"*, *"has an encyclopedic understanding of the law"* and is *"supremely intelligent and also very practical, approachable and easy to deal with"*.



An extremely good advocate.

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Expertise

Media & Privacy

Heather is an experienced data protection and privacy practitioner. She advises public bodies, individuals and companies on data protection issues and has extensive experience of advising on regulatory action taken by the Information Commissioner's Office. She also has experience of private law claims in this sphere, including data breach claims and has also been instructed in claims before the European Court of Human Rights relating to the retention of biometric data and conviction information.

Heather has an extensive advisory practice in this field and recent work includes advising on regulatory action taken in respect of cyber-attacks breaches, advising a regulatory body in relation to a pilot project for information sharing overseen by the ICO and advising in relation to claims for damages for breach of confidence and misuse of private information arising from inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information.

Heather is a public law and human rights specialist and is able to apply her experience and knowledge of Article 8 issues to the sphere of data protection. Heather also has a keen interest in media law and was instructed as part of the team of Counsel to the Inquiry on the Leveson Inquiry in relation to the press and the media. She is ranked as a leading junior in this area in Chambers and Partners and described as "fiercely bright."

Bonne Terre Ltd v RTM

[2026] EWCA CIV 488

Acting for the Information Commissioner as intervener in a ground-breaking appeal before the Court of Appeal concerning the meaning of consent under the GDPR.

O'Carroll v Meta

Acting for the Information Commissioner as intervener in civil proceedings in the High Court concerning the right to object to personalised direct marketing on Facebook.

Achievements

Education

Before coming to the Bar, Heather graduated from St Catharine's College, Cambridge University with a first class degree in Law.

Appointments

Attorney General's A Panel and Welsh Government A Panel.

Other

Heather is a member of the Administrative Law Bar Association and the Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers.



She is really excellent to work with. She is all over the detail, incredibly thorough and technically excellent.

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She provides an excellent level of client service. She is responsive, personable and can cut through to issues in a clear and concise manner.

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Heather Emmerson is very strategic and clever when coming up with points on procedure or substance that are exceptionally helpful to clients. She has a pre-planning brain, is a team player and is brilliant on paper.

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an impressive individual involved in some big litigation.

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a very strong barrister technically and in formulating case strategies. Her drafting is excellent, and she has an impressive ability to absorb large quantities of evidence and identify the key issues.

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She radiates assurance.

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***Truly excellent in the field.
A star of the future if not
the present.***

LEGAL 500



***An accomplished junior
who is the all-round
package.***

LEGAL 500



***The full package. She is
meticulous in her grasp of
the facts and law, and also
responsive to the needs of
her client and other
stakeholders in the
litigation.***

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