Peter Oldham KC



Silk: 2010 Call: 1990

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Peter is a well-known practitioner advising and litigating in public, local government, education and employment law, and has always appeared as a leading silk in the directories. Peter regularly advises and appears in the cutting edge cases in his fields.

> ***Peter is rightly recognised as a leader in his field over many years.***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Expertise

Public

Peter advises and litigates across the range of public law. Apart from his very extensive work with local authorities (details on Peter's separate local authority webpage), his cases include disputes involving central government departments and agencies, police authorities, fire authorities, combined authorities, health bodies, CQC, medical bodies, ombudsmen (local government, pensions), election matters, trade regulators, and education and examination regulators (e.g. OFSTED, ISI, OfS, OIAHE, QAA , and JCQ)– details on Peter's separate education webpage).

Peter has recently advised on matters including:

- Fire authorities
- Election issues
- Numerous JR challenges to medical bodies
- The conduct of business by a statutory trade regulator
- Numerous challenges to education regulator decisions about provider quality

For local authorities, Peter has recently advised on matters including:

- Numerous challenges to cuts and closures
- Powers, including the general power of competence
- Budgets
- Budget crises and s 114 of the LGFA 1988
- Local government reorganisation and the LGPIHA 2007
- Vires and general power of competence
- Best value
- Prudential borrowing, accounts and the CIPFA code
- Education issues (please see separate Education webpage for full details)
- Rating
- Social services and community care
- Museums
- Local government ombudsman
- Staffing, including Chief Officers' statutory rights and JNC terms of employment

- LGPS issues (complaints, shortfalls, Pensions Ombudsman, termination rights, admission bodies etc)
- Bias and conduct of meetings
- Data protection and freedom of information
- Health powers
- Audit and accounts
- Investment and borrowing powers
- Highways
- Harbour
- Waste collection, disposal and recycling
- Assets of community value
- Elections
- Trading and commercial initiatives
- Inter-authority care/health disputes and ordinary residence
- Bus services and transport
- Regeneration projects, including state aid and procurement (please see separate Procurement & State Aid page)
- Section 123 of the LGA 1972 and sales at an undervalue
- Assets of community value
- Members' standards and the Localism Act 2011
- Indemnities for officers and members
- Political balance
- Termination of employment of chief officers
- Parking regulation
- Operation of joint authorities
- Operation of combined authorities

R (Heart of Wales Ltd) v Swansea Council

(APRIL 2026, ONGOING IN THE COURT OF APPEAL)

challenge to setting of care home fees

R (H) v Buckinghamshire Council

(MARCH 2026)

challenge to reorganisation of adult day care provision

R (BH) v Kirklees Council

(MARCH 2026, COURT OF APPEAL)

challenge to sale of care homes

R (Coventry CC) v Home Office

(JULY 2025)

challenge to Home Office's policy on procurement of accommodation for asylum seekers

R (CKT) v Twyford School and others

(JULY 2025, ONGOING IN COURT OF APPEAL)

admission criteria for Church of England School and indirect race discrimination

R (NAA) v Haringey LBC, A School and an Independent Review Panel

(JUNE 2025)

exclusion from school, county lines, Art 4 of the ECHR and modern slavery

R (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council) v Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

(JAN 2025)

challenge to LGSCO's decision on nursery charges and free early education entitlement

R (X) v Bristol City Council

(DECEMBER 2024)

challenge to LA's entry into "safety valve agreement" with DfE for SEN funding

R (Mid Ulster DC) v Department for Communities

(DECEMBER 2024)

challenge to refusal of IT grant application to central government

R (Birmingham CC) v Department for Transport

challenge to cessation of PFI funding from DfT

R (Mid Ulster DC) v Department for Communities

(OCTOBER 2023)

rate support grant, equalities and rural considerations

R (Bristol Boaters Community Association) v Bristol CC

(OCTOBER 2023)

challenge to LA's harbour charges

R (X Limited) v OFSTED

(OCTOBER 2023)

challenge to OFSTED report by apprenticeship provider

R (RhAG) v Neath Port Talbot CBC

OCT-22

Welsh language and school reorganisation

R (City of Wolverhampton and six other LAs) v Home Secretary

JUL-22

LA challenge to Home Office's asylum dispersal policy

R (AB) v Slough BC

JUL-22

challenge to closure of LA day centre for disabled adults

R (YA) v Swansea Independent Appeal Panel

FEB-22

school exclusions

R (KD) v Leicestershire CC

APR-20

school transport, disability and human rights

R (MI) v Waltham Forest BC

JUL-20

cuts to SEN budgets

SFM v Christ the King College and Isle of Wight Council

(MAY 2020)

bar on maintained school borrowing as a defence to a private law claim

Achievements

Education

MA History, first class, University of Cambridge

Diploma in Law, distinction, first in year

Other

Peter worked in banking for a number of years before studying law and becoming a barrister.

> ***Down to earth and willing to put himself in his client's shoes.***
>
> **LEGAL 500**

He handles things very well, is very responsive, has a fine academic brain, and is always willing to listen to clients and meet their needs.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

His strengths include his intellect, analysis and expertise, and his approachability.

LEGAL 500

He's quick at turning advice around and is always very thorough.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He has a calm confidence, is excellent with clients and has the ability to quickly identify the key issues in a case.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He is really good in cases involving novel points of the law and is excellent with clients. He's wonderfully softly spoken, unbelievably bright and very responsive.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

A very good advocate who is very experienced in local government matters.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He provides practical and pragmatic advice and real world solutions.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He exudes confidence with sound and pragmatic advice.

LEGAL 500