# Jane Oldham

Call: 1985

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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.

> ***She provides incredibly good advice***
>
> **LEGAL 500, 2022**

# Expertise

## Information, Technology & Media

Jane has been instructed extensively for and against public authorities and for the Information Commissioner on Freedom of Information Act, EIR, GDPR and DPA issues and has acted in both Information Tribunal (over 30 cases, see selection below) and High Court matters. She has a strong record on behalf of her clients of participating in or responding to ICO investigations effectively.

She has been on the Information Commissioner's List of Counsel and has contributed to the Information Law Reports.

Frequently instructed in relation to protection of commercial interests in the FOIA, EIR and GDPR/DPA fields. She also has experience of controversial subject access requests, data sharing, DPA duties in the context of disciplinary action by professional regulatory bodies, and disputes about release of reports in the regulatory sphere.

Recent work includes:

- *Breckland DC v Information Commissioner* (2023) UKFTT 103 (GRC) on commercial confidentiality exemption and the relationship between EIR rights and the statutory rights of electors and auditors to information (2023).
- FTT appeal on Covid VIP Fast Lane PPE procurement information (2022).
- FOI dispute between school and parents objecting to a diversity and inclusion activity (2022).
- FTT appeal on disclosure of names of recipients (including foster carers) of payments for outsourced childcare (2022).
- FTT appeal on "neither confirm nor deny" FOIA exemption (2022).
- *Pharmacists Defence Union v NHS Business Services Limited* (EA/2019/0239) (FOI) (2022)
- Advising on disclosure of personal data of drivers involved in car accidents.
- ICO investigation into use of personal data to provide automatic opt-in for unwanted commercial discount scheme.
- Advising university on scope of duties in respect of a data breach (student personal data).
- ICO investigation into EIR dispute about disclosure of verbatim responses to a public consultation.
- ICO investigation into EIR dispute about disclosure of a hospital's information about the fire safety of the building materials used in its construction.

> ***A fine track record of handling sophisticated public, information and education law matters***
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> **CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**

Jane has also advised and appeared in collateral interventions in proceedings in which disclosure issues have been raised. For example the challenge to the lawfulness of the government's policy concerning the detention of children of unsuccessful asylum-seekers pending their deportation, in which she intervened successfully for a Local Children's Safeguarding Board concerning the disclosure of a Serious Case Review about detained children (*Suppiah v Sec State for Home Dept and Others* [2011] EWHC 2 (Admin)).

# 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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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

> ***immensely sensible, thorough and driven***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

*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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