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*".

> ***Unfailingly industrious. She is undoubtedly one of the best juniors working in the human rights arena.***
>
> LEGAL 500

Expertise

Information

Heather is an experienced information law practitioner who regularly advises and acts for a wide range of clients on information law issues. She has acted for and advised central and local government, regulatory bodies including the Information Commissioner's Office, NGOs and individuals on FOIA/EIR issues and has extensive experience of appearing in both the First-Tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal in information law cases. Her recent work has included a range of high-profile cases concerning requests for information relating to law enforcement strategies in respect of small migrant boats crossing the English Channel.

Heather's expertise in information law complements her public and regulatory law practice and she is often instructed in cases which involve cross-cutting issues. For example, Heather is frequently instructed to advise public authorities including governmental, regulatory and professional disciplinary bodies on matters involving information law issues, ranging from policy development to responses to individual information requests.

Walawalkar v ICO and His Majesty's Coastguard

[2025] UKUT 105 (AAC)

Acting for HM Coastguard in the Upper Tribunal in relation to the meaning of section 11 FOIA and whether HMCG was required to disclose distress calls from migrant boats in response to a FOIA request.

X v GMC

Acting the GMC in FTT proceedings relating to disclose of information relating to the identify of decision-makers.

X v ICO and Home Office

Acting for the Home Office in FTT proceedings concerning the disclosure of information relating to the effectiveness of French policing operations concerning migrant boats.

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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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

> ***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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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

> ***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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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

> ***an impressive individual involved in some big litigation.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

She radiates assurance.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS