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.

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

Education

Peter has a particular specialism in education law and he has continuously been in the very highest rank in the education directories for over twenty years. His work covers all aspects of education, whether in schools, academies, universities, colleges, professional and vocational settings, specialist settings, the independent sector, etc.

Peter has recently advised on the following amongst other issues:

- Various academy issues, including transfer of property on academisation
- The impact of increased energy costs on school budgets
- Numerous OFSTED challenges in different educational settings
- School closures
- School transport cuts
- Welsh language rights and duties in education, and the Welsh Language Tribunal
- Special educational needs and disability
- Teachers' pensions
- Disputes over maintained school borrowing
- School photocopier lease disputes
- School and university staffing disputes
- Religious, disability and sex discrimination in schools
- Consumer Rights Act 2015, universities and independent schools
- The operation of statutory and private law trusts for voluntary schools
- Independent schools, discipline and contracts of education
- School transport
- University staffing disputes
- University governance and statutes
- Universities, sexual harassment and discipline
- Students' claims against universities (private and public law)
- Students unions
- FE colleges
- Foundation trustees' powers and duties
- Charity Commission issues
- DfE and withdrawal of funding

> ***He has a brilliant intellect and an encyclopaedic knowledge of complex education legislation.***
>
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- Regulation of examination and awarding bodies
- Admissions
- Exclusions
- Boarding and fee charging
- Constitution of governing bodies

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 (An Association) v Department for Education

(OCT 2024)

challenge to exam rules/disability

R (British Medical Association) v Royal College of GPs

(OCT 2024)

challenge to exam rules/disability

R (X Limited) v OFSTED

(OCT 2023)

challenge to OFSTED report by apprenticeship provider

R (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg) v Neath Port Talbot CBC

OCT-22

Welsh language and school reorganisation

R (YA) v Swansea Independent Appeal Panel

FEB-22

school exclusions

R (KD) v Leicestershire CC

JUL-21

school transport cuts, 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-20

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

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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.

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

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He provides practical and pragmatic advice and real world solutions.

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He exudes confidence with sound and pragmatic advice.

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