

Robin Hopkins KC

Silk: 2026 Call: 2008

E: Robin.Hopkins@11kbw.com

T: +44 (0)20 7632 8500



Robin is a market-leading specialist in information law: data protection, privacy, platform disputes, data breaches, online safety, media and technology issues and freedom of information.

He is vastly experienced in complex and high-value data protection disputes, including compensation group litigation, regulatory enforcement actions, cyberattack and data breach responses, privacy and anti-hacking injunctions, contentious subject access requests and compliance challenges to data-driven business models. His cases have involved major multinationals, including Meta/Facebook, Experian, Google, TikTok, Ticketmaster, Skybet and Equifax.

Before taking silk, Robin was a consistently top-ranked data protection junior in the legal directories, and Legal 500 named him Technology, Data and Crypto Junior of the Year in 2024.

Robin has appeared in hundreds of information rights appeals (FOI and environmental information) and jointly runs 11KBW's Panopticon blog. He also has a judicial role in the Ecclesiastical Courts, as Commissary General (Chancellor) of the Diocese of Canterbury.



Robin is a standout junior in a set and an area of law with many excellent barristers

LEGAL 500

Expertise

Information, Technology & Media

Robin has vast experience in all aspects of data protection, spanning contentious and advisory work. He regularly leads responses to data protection group actions and ICO enforcement matters. He works with clients on issues ranging from social media and apps, artificial intelligence, data-sharing, anti-hacking injunctions adtech and marketing, subject access and erasure disputes. He has appeared in numerous leading data protection cases, including Lloyd v Google (data protection compensation), RTM v Bonne Terre (marketing consents), Experian v ICO (marketing profiling), TikTok v ICO (age assurance measures) and DB v GMC (subject access).

Robin has also appeared in hundreds of appeals concerning FOIA and EIR matters, ranging from issues of commercial sensitivity to leading cases of legal principle, e.g. Department of Business and Trade v IC and Montague (Supreme Court; Brexit trade negotiations).



He is the best junior around for data protection and truly has no weaknesses in the area.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Media & Privacy

Robin works extensively with both media and individual clients on privacy disputes in the context of news, online content and reputation management. He works with major national news publications and content hosts, and is experienced in right to be forgotten/take-down disputes.



He is the best junior around for data protection and truly has no weaknesses in the area.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Public

Robin's public law practice often encompasses privacy issues. Most recently, he has acted – alongside Lord Pannick KC and Sir James Eadie KC – in the judicial review challenges to the government's immigration arrangements with Rwanda. His experience in public law matters also includes **R (Catt) and R (T) v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and Others** [2015] UKSC 9 (Supreme Court; application of Article 8 ECHR and the DPA to policing information).

Human Rights

Robin's specialism in information rights and privacy matters routinely involves human rights issues, in particular under Article 8 and Article 10 ECHR.

Local Government

Robin works in all aspects of local government law, with extensive experience in information rights matters in particular. Those include FOI and environmental disputes – often in commercial contexts – as well as data protection issues such as disclosure, retention and data- sharing. He appeared in the leading case on local authorities' retention of child protection information (**R (C) v Northumberland CC & ICO** [2015] EWHC 2134 (Admin)) and assets of community value (**Banner Homes v St Albans** [2018] EWCA Civ 1187).

Recent cases

x

RTM v Bonne Terre and Hestview

[2025] EWHC 111 (KB)

consent, direct marketing and cookies, gambling platforms

Harrison v Cameron and ACL

[2024] EWHC 1377 (KB)

A High Court claim for a data subject access request, concerning questions relating to the meaning of "controller" and the mixed personal data exemption (as a pupil, assisting Robin Hopkins).

Experian v Information Commissioner

Major Tribunal appeal against a significant GDPR Enforcement Notice

R (AAA and others) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

[2023] EWCA CIV 745

Court of Appeal; data transfers in contact of Rwanda asylum programme

Lloyd v Google LLC

[2021] UKSC 50

class action claim against Google for alleged abuse of personal data.

DB v GMC

[2018] EWCA CIV 1497

Court of Appeal; mixed personal data

Holyoake v CPC and Nicholas Candy

[2017] EWHC 52

subject access; surveillance; investigations; LPP

DBEIS v IC and Henney

[2017] EWCA CIV 844

Court of Appeal; meaning of environmental information

Experian v Information Commissioner

[2024] UKUT 105 (AAC)

regulatory action against marketing business

Lloyd v Google LLC

[2021] UKSC 50

Supreme Court; loss of control damages; representative claims; acting for interveners

Scott v LGBT Foundation

[2020] EWHC 483 (QB), [2020] 4 WLR 62

oral disclosure of personal information

Ittihadieh v 5-11 Cheyne Gardens/Deer v Oxford University

[2017] EWCA CIV 121, [2017] 3 WLR 811

Court of Appeal; subject access; personal purposes; judicial discretion

Department of Health v Information Commissioner

[2017] EWCA CIV 374, [2017] 1 WLR 3330

Court of Appeal; freedom of information; ministerial diaries

R (Catt) and R (T) v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and Others

[2015] UKSC 9

Supreme Court; application of Article 8 ECHR and the DPA to policing information

Edem v IC and FCA

[2014] EWCA CIV 92

Court of Appeal; definition of 'personal data'

Achievements

Appointments

Attorney General's Panel of Counsel (A Panel)

Commissary General, Diocese of Canterbury

News, Articles & Publications

Maintains and regularly contributes to 11KBW's **Panopticon** blog.

Education

Rhodes Scholar (South African College School, 2001)

City University, London: Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction)

Oxford University: BA (PPE); Master of Studies (Philosophical Theology)

University of Cape Town: Bachelor of Business Science (Finance)

“

I have no hesitation putting Robin in front of even the most challenging of clients – he is sure-footed, immensely commercial and pragmatic and focuses on the answers that a client needs, rather than feeling the obligation to show off the breadth of his knowledge.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

“

Robin is a standout junior in a set and an area of law with many excellent barristers

LEGAL 500

“

A superstar junior with sense well beyond his years.

LEGAL 500

“

“

Robin is wonderful to work with, excellent with clients, and almost always persuades the judge or panel and is successful.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

“

He is bright, willing to argue his corner, and happy to debate points of law

LEGAL 500

“

He is superb all around and always a real pleasure to work with. He makes the job easier.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

“

Robin balances gravitas with approachability, and is able to cut through the noise to identify what really matters in a case.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

“

He is just brilliant. For a barrister's view on any issue going to court, he gives the most helpful input and feedback.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

“

He has a wonderful manner with clients, a great way of presenting complex issues in a clear and simple manner, and is a real team player.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS