
Robin Hopkins

Robin is a leading specialist in information law: data protection, privacy and freedom of information.

Robin is the top-ranked junior in Chambers & Partners for data protection (2018's 'star individual'), and a top-tier junior in Legal 500. He has vast experience on issues such as subject access requests, data-sharing, direct marketing, monetary penalties, DPA compensation claims, media disputes and preparations for the GDPR.

Robin has appeared in hundreds of information rights appeals (FOI and environmental information) and maintains 11KBW's **Panopticon** blog.

He also practices in public, human rights and local government law, with substantial experience in assets of community value litigation.



Professional Summary

Called 2008

Contact Details

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Clerk Lee Cutler

Clerk Joe Freeman

[Contact Clerks](#)

Specialisms

Information Law

Robin has vast experience in all aspects of data protection, for which he is ranked as a Band 1 Junior (Chambers and Partners). He has appeared in numerous leading data protection cases, and works with clients on issues such as GDPR preparations, social media and apps, artificial intelligence, data-sharing, direct marketing, subject access and compensation disputes.

He has appeared in hundreds of appeals concerning FOIA and EIR matters, including leading cases. Current work includes **Department of Health v IC and Lewis** (Court of Appeal; ministerial diary) and **DECC v IC and Henney** (Court of Appeal; definition of environmental information). Robin is also highly experienced in information rights in a commercial context: notable cases include **Worcestershire CC and UBB v IC** (EA/2015/02) and **Southwark v IC and Lend Lease** (EA/2013/0162).

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, the DPA's journalism exemption and the intersection of data protection and defamation (e.g. **David v Gabriel and Others** [2016] EWHC 2799 (QB)).

Public Law

Robin's public law practice often encompasses privacy issues, including **R (C) v Northumberland CC & ICO** [2015] EWHC 2134 (Admin) (child protection information), **R (MS) v Independent Monitor** [2016] EWHC 1629 (Admin), [2016] 4 WLR 88 (challenge to enhanced criminal record certificates) and **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 has extensive advisory and litigation experience of Article 8 ECHR cases in particular. Reported cases include **R (MS) v Independent Monitor** [2016] EWHC 1629 (Admin), [2016] 4 WLR 88 (challenge to enhanced criminal record certificates) and **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).

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).

Robin is also highly experienced in Assets of Community Value matters. He has appeared in numerous Tribunal cases as well as the leading case in this area of law, **Banner Homes v St Albans** (to be heard by the Court of Appeal later in 2017).

Recommendations

"He's so receptive, responsive and user-friendly, and his advice is robust." **Chambers & Partners**

"Calm, focused and clear in his submissions, he commands respect from the court." **Chambers & Partners**

"A superstar junior with sense well beyond his years." **Legal 500**

"What he doesn't know about data protection law isn't worth knowing." **Legal 500**

Recent Cases

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

[2017] EWCA Civ 121, [2017] 3 WLR 811 (subject access; personal purposes; judicial discretion)

Holyoake v CPC and Nicholas Candy

[2017] EWHC 52 (subject access; surveillance; investigations; LPP)

Department of Health v Information Commissioner

[2017] EWCA Civ 374, [2017] 1 WLR 3330 (freedom of information; ministerial diaries)

DBEIS v IC and Henney

[2017] EWCA Civ 844 (meaning of environmental information)

R (C) v Northumberland County Council & ICO

[2015] EWHC 2134 (Admin) (retention of child protection records)

IPSA v IC and Leapman

[2015] EWCA Civ 388, 1 WLR 2879 (FOI; MPs' expenses and meaning of 'information')

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')

Niebel v IC

[2014] UKUT 255 (AAC) (privacy and electronic communications; monetary penalty)

Re Southern Pacific Personal Loans Limited

[2013] EWHC 2485 (data protection in commercial insolvency context)

Appointments

Attorney General's Panel of Counsel (B Panel)

Deputy Chancellor of the Diocese of Chichester

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)



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