

CCS Prospectus

VWV

Lot 1 - Full Service Provision

Version 1.4

March 2024



Crown
Commercial
Service
Supplier

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Disclaimer

We confirm that the use of information provided throughout (with particular regard to that given in case studies and key contact biographies) is not commercially sensitive, and where it is not a matter of public record then appropriate permission has been sought for inclusion.

Introduction

Our Firm

We are a public sector law firm, working nationally with offices in Bristol, Birmingham, London and Watford.

We have over 500 employees, and 90 partners, many of whom are recognised as experts in their field.

We have chosen a committed and enthusiastic core team to support CCS clients. They have a deep understanding of, and commitment to the public sector.

Our partners are fully involved in all work and take responsibility and accountability for quality assurance.

Our Ethos

Our ethos is reflected in our core values, which underpin the way we work with clients:

Teamwork & Collaboration: We train our staff from induction and throughout their careers to work as part of a team and to develop their collaboration skills. These behaviours are extended to the way we work with clients and other advisers.

Client at the Centre: Our public sector clients are extremely important to our business. We have the resources and capabilities to deliver an excellent service and to innovate with our clients to continually improve service delivery and efficiency.

Commercial Approach: We commit to understanding our clients and their requirements and priorities. Our advice, and our value added services, will be tailored to meet our clients' objectives and manage cost.

Working for the Public Sector

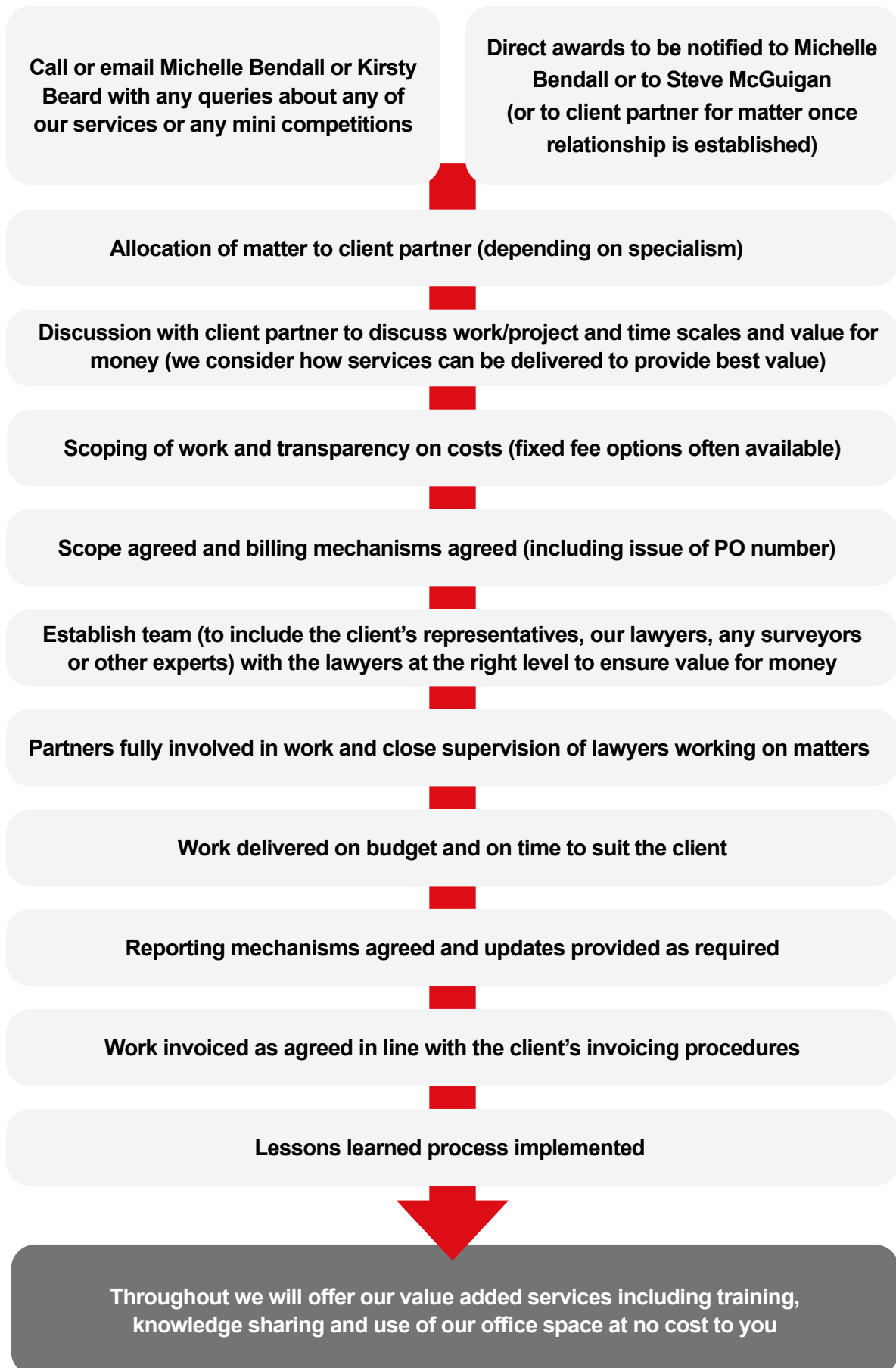
Public sector clients have been a core focus of the firm for over 30 years. We are very proud of our track record and the relationships we have built.

Our team understand the environment in which public sector clients operate, including legal, reputation and financial considerations.

Our team includes lawyers who have previously worked in-house within public sector bodies.

We have worked for central government departments, executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies and local authorities, as well as health, education, and emergency services providers.

Service Delivery



Team Structure



Michelle Bendall
Supplier Relationship Manager
07384 813 083
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Kirsty Beard
Key point of contact for bid & tender opportunities
07884 580 136
kbeard@vww.co.uk



Allison Cook
Partner & Head of Public Sector
07787 126 336
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Steven McGuigan
Deputy Supplier Relationship Manager
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Key figures/roles relevant to the provision of services under RM6240 Legal Service Panel

Administrative and Public Law

Mark Heath | 07788 263 256 | mheath@vww.co.uk

Corporate Law

Robert Collier | 07769 696 075 | rcollier@vww.co.uk

Data Protection and Information Law

Vicki Bowles | 07469 245 724 | vbowles@vww.co.uk

Pensions

Allison Cook | 07787 126 336 | acook@vww.co.uk

Non-Complex Finance and Investment

Joe Kwok | 07876 745 216 | jkwok@vww.co.uk

Public Procurement

Stephanie Rickard | 07384 251 896 | srickard@vww.co.uk

Property, Real Estate and Construction

Steven McGuigan | 07909 680 219 | smcguigan@vww.co.uk

Infrastructure

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Employment

Gareth Edwards | 07899 915 692 | gedwards@vww.co.uk

Intellectual Property

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Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Ben Holt | 07715 048 666 | bholt@vww.co.uk

Outsourcing / Insourcing

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Information Technology

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Partnerships

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Energy, Natural Resources & Climate Change

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Contracts

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Planning

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Restructuring and Insolvency

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Health, Healthcare and Social Care

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Life Sciences

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Education Law

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Tax

Alexandra Ueno-Park | 07880 335 935 | aueno-park@vww.co.uk

Immigration

Tom Brett Young | 07393 148 352 | tbrettyoung@vww.co.uk

Competition Law

Stephanie Rickard | 07384 251 896 | srickard@vww.co.uk

Social Value

How We Contribute to and Deliver Social Value

Delivering social value is a core focus of the firm's senior leadership team. Our Equality & Diversity Policy and Disability Discrimination Policy as well as our support of charities and pro bono work are embedded in the firm's culture.

Delivering Social Value in the Work Place - Recruitment, Retention, Promotion and Leadership

As signatories to the Social Mobility Pledge, we understand that access to employment within the legal sector can be difficult for some groups. We have joined Aspiring Solicitors: the leading UK legal diversity organisation whose aim is to increase diversity in the legal profession. They work with us to provide opportunities (such as training contracts) for aspiring solicitors from diverse backgrounds.

We are introducing a Solicitor Apprenticeship scheme targeting A-Level students to provide a route to qualification as a solicitor without attending university, and recruiting trainee solicitors through the SQE route.

We continue to work hard to improve our promotion process to make it more inclusive and promote equality at VWV. Since 2007, our total % of female partners has risen from 17% to 47% and more females than males are in the pipeline for this years' promotions.

We continue to develop our promotion process to ensure that it promotes diversity and by promoting mentoring by empathetic mentors who can work with candidates to prepare them for the process and future progression.

We lead on Initiatives promoting an inclusive working environment, including activities focussed on:

National Inclusion Week, International Women's day, Pride and Black History Month.

We have developed our staff-led Engage Network platform providing space to connect, discuss and promote meaningful diversity and inclusion within the firm.

Contributing to Social Value in Society

VWV has launched a Schools Outreach Programme for schools to enter into a partnership with a law firm. We believe that accessing schools as early as Year 7 will encourage access to the profession. We are also participating in University of the West of England's Equity Mentoring scheme, where VWV mentors provide career support to students from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

We host Insight Days where employees, including those from minority backgrounds, talk to students about their roles to encourage informed choices about the subjects they study and to inform their aspirations.

VWV supports a wide range of charities including charities chosen by the staff in each office to support through various fundraising activities and staff volunteering.

We are committed to managing our environmental impact and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and apply a range of initiatives through our environmental sustainability action plan.

We are ISO 14001 certified and plan to introduce regular emissions and energy use reporting to enable the setting of goals and targets going forward.

RM6240 Public Sector Legal Services

Mandatory Specialisms

Lot 1 - Full Service Provision



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Administrative and Public Law



Mark Heath

Consultant - Administrative
and Public Law

The public sector needs pragmatic, solution focused legal advice. Against the backdrop of reorganisation within government, our public sector team advises central and local government in addition to other non - departmental government bodies, our team advises on all issues relating to the powers, functions and duties of Local and Central Government and other publicly funded bodies.

We regularly advise on issues of lawful decision making, vires, judicial review and constitutional issues.

Recent examples of our work include:

A large local authority required advice in relation to its constitution and its decision making powers following significant challenges for its Senior Management team and its elected members.

We have provided advice and support to a Local Authority's Monitoring Officer on a series of complex and serious complaints made by the senior officers against members and from members in relation to senior officers. Advice was provided in relation to the engagement of the Council's Code of Conduct, its limitations and potential sanctions.

Non-Complex Finance and Investment



Joe Kwok

Partner - Banking and
Secured Finance

Joe Kwok leads our finance and investment work, with support from Leila Inman and a wider team of specialist lawyers. We act regularly for both borrowers and lenders on all aspects of finance and investment, including secured and unsecured loans, structuring, taking security and guarantees.

Recent examples of our work include:

Acting for Homes England on a range of finance and investment matters including grant funding and Home Building Fund loans to support the development of new housing.

Advising a Russell Group University on a c.£200m loan to develop new campus facilities.

Advising lenders (including Investec Bank plc and Santander) on real estate finance to fund investment.

Our specialist property development expertise means we advise a number of borrowers and lenders on complex property development funding, including a c.£15m revolving credit facility to a residential developer.

Contracts



Ed Rimmell

Partner - Contracts

Our contracts team advises on a broad range of contracts for clients across the public sector, including central and local government, universities and other public sector organisations. The contracts team works closely with colleagues across our procurement, employment and data protection teams - together with other legal and sector specialists - to ensure that our advice expertly addresses all relevant issues.

We advise on the drafting (and, where appropriate, negotiation) of contract terms as part of regulated procurement processes, as well as on contract management during the contract term. That contract management advice includes support on variations and extensions, as well as on understanding your rights and obligations under your contracts in the context of issues which arise during the term.

Recent examples of our work include:

Advising a number of local authorities and private sector providers in relation to long term waste services contracts. For example, we worked with a Local Authority on the procurement and commercial strategy for bringing their waste collection services back in-house (together with advice on the terms on which the agreement with the incumbent contractor would be brought to an end early). We advised on the various options available to the Local Authority, and provided an analysis of the risks and benefits of each, following which we supported them in the implementation of the preferred solution.

Competition Law



Stephanie Rickard

Partner - Subsidy Control
and Procurement

We have for many years provided Subsidy Control (and formerly state aid) advice to the public sector and Stephanie Rickard and her team are well known for providing commercially focused advice to clients including Dorset Council, the University of Bristol, Fareham District Council.

We advise on competition law where it arises in a wider transaction, with support from specialist counsel.

Recent examples of our work include:

Advising a Council on State Aid in connection with its application for c.£4 million in grant funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport under the 5G Programme Rural Connected Communities call for competition.

Advising a combined authority on structuring a grant funding competition to comply with procurement subsidy and competition issues.

Drafting subsidy control policies and procedures for local authorities and universities.

Regular provision of subsidy control opinions in relation to grant funding agreements.

Corporate Law



Robert Collier

Partner - Corporate

Our experienced team of corporate lawyers advises clients on a broad range of corporate transactions and provides specialist corporate legal services to businesses throughout the UK and internationally via our offices in London, Watford, Bristol and Birmingham.

As lawyers regularly working with the public sector and recognising the agenda for commercialisation and the way in which the public sector engage with the private sector more generally, we have a great deal of expertise and experience in working with the public sector in advising on incorporation, corporate structures and in relation to the powers and rights associated with a jointly owned corporate entity.

We are fully conversant with the unique issues that relate to transactions of this nature in the public sector including, vires, lawful decision making and the importance of the Governance arrangements that are put in place.

Data Protection and Information Law



Vicki Bowles

Partner - Data Protection

Our information law team advise on all aspects of information law, including data protection, freedom of information/environmental information regulations, privacy and confidentiality. Our team has experience of working with (and for) the public sector, and so understands the importance of the context of any advice given. Our extensive experience includes advising on complex information law requests, data breaches, documentation, and information sharing, as well as dealing with litigation involving data, international transfers, cybersecurity and cookies.

Recent examples of our work include:

Advising on the contractual arrangements required between various public authorities involved in data sharing arrangements. This included analysing the legal basis for the transfer of personal and confidential information to assess the most appropriate basis for the transfer, and then putting in place the necessary legal agreements to reflect the differing positions of the parties. This advice had to take into account the position under the law, but also the practicalities of putting in place multiple agreements, ensuring that a commercial approach was taken to ensure compliance in the most practical way possible.

Employment



Gareth Edwards
Partner - Employment

Our large and experienced employment team provides specialist legal advice to the public sector including Local Government, Fire and Rescue Services, non-departmental public bodies and not for profit organisations operating in the sector. We understand the unique challenges facing publicly funded bodies and can provide sector specific advice in a timely and pragmatic way. We provide the full scope of employment law advice to our clients including advice in relation to industrial action, outsourcing and insourcing, TUPE, discrimination and complex whistle blowing disputes. We regularly represent our clients at Employment Tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal and where necessary, the High Court.

Recent examples of our work include:

We recently advised a Local Authority in relation to its investigation into the lawfulness of decisions relating to the pay of its Chief Executive. We fully supported the Council in dealing with the resulting report including its publication, data protection issues, governance and the resulting disciplinary and governance issues.

We have advised numerous public bodies on outsourcing arrangements and ensuring that the contractual arrangements regarding any transfer ensure that the client is adequately protected both from the point where employees transfer to a third party but also where they may be a subsequent transfer on termination.

Information Technology



Sarah Webb
Partner - Commercial

Our technology law team advises a broad range of clients, across the public and private sectors, in relation to their IT contracts and IT law requirements.

We have experience working on high value and business critical IT projects with a range of local and national public sector bodies, universities other education institutions. Our team advises on software development and software licensing (traditional and cloud / SaaS models), multi-party platform development, hosting, support and maintenance and complex frameworks and data management contracts.

Much of the work of our IT team is in the context of public sector procurement and collaboration, and as such we are used to advising on IT contracts against the backdrop of regulated procurement processes.

Our team knows and appreciates the complexities and pain points confronting our clients in the sector and has experience in overcoming the issues that come with this dynamic and innovative sector. Our IT lawyers work closely with colleagues in our procurement, IP and data protection teams - as well as other legal and sector specialists relevant to each matter - to ensure that our advice seamlessly addresses all areas of risk to you.

Infrastructure



Dan Hall

Partner - Infrastructure

We have a team dedicated to advising infrastructure operators/developers as well as landowners affected by infrastructure. Our specialism is on-shore pipelines, including cross-country and local pipelines. We advise on telecoms, gas, electricity, water and sewage. We also act on district heating projects. We can advise on the acquisition of rights - both by voluntary agreement or by compulsory purchase. We also advise on highways schemes - whether for developers, local authorities or the national road network. We can provide advice to public sector landowners on telecoms equipment including mobile phone masts. We can also advise on flood defence schemes.

Recent examples of our work include:

Acting for the promoter of the 94km Southampton to London Pipeline, currently under construction (2022-2024). We acted from project inception and continue with the final pieces of the acquisition 'jigsaw puzzle'. This scheme is recognised as the UK's largest linear DCO scheme.

Acting for a local authority in relation to the diversion of an existing pipeline including the surrender of old rights and the grant of new.

Intellectual Property



Paula Williams

Partner - Intellectual Property

Our team of specialist intellectual property lawyers has extensive experience of advising clients across all sectors (private, public and third sector) on a wide range of intellectual property issues and in particular on IP centric commercial partnerships where these sectors connect. The team is well-equipped to deploy its expertise in helping to support in the management of all forms of innovation generated across the public sector from copyright subsisting in primary/applied research and software developments to ground breaking inventions and extensive knowledge databases.

Opportunities created through the government's innovation strategy means that it is becoming increasingly important for the public sector to identify and protect its core IP so as to maximise opportunities for commercialisation.

We regularly work on consortium arrangements with organisations partnering to bid for grant funding and advise on the subsequent contractual arrangements.

We have the benefit of a dedicated trade marks team (including a chartered trade mark attorney); registered trade marks are not only an important tool in the protection of goodwill and reputation but can also raise income via licensing arrangements and the generation of valuable goodwill.

Litigation and Dispute Resolution



Ben Holt

Partner - Commercial
Litigation & Dispute
Resolution

Our Litigation and Dispute Resolution team specialises in helping the public sector to resolve disputes in the most efficient and cost effective way. A significant part of our work relates to advising on potential disputes and how to avoid them. Particularly where there are long standing relationships and public money at stake, litigation is rarely the best solution. The team is experienced in all forms of alternative dispute resolution, including informal negotiations, expert determination, mediation and arbitration.

That said, where litigation is necessary, the team has extensive experience in litigating matters through the County and High Courts (including injunctions), as well as in specialist tribunals.

We regularly act on procurement disputes, both for authorities and disappointed bidders. This gives us a broad understanding of the strategic approach and concerns from both perspectives, increasing the prospect of us securing early settlement. Cases have involved: £100m+ contract for transport services; provision of medical goods and services (including on one claim acting for around 20 authorities); supply of food products; and a contract for major building works.

Partnerships



Oliver Pool

Partner - Partnerships

Our partnership team have specialist expertise in advising both professional and trading partnerships. We are able to bring this experience to the work that we undertake with our public sector clients, be that to professional partnerships working in the NHS sphere or to professional partnerships working with the public sector. We have worked on a wide range of issues be that in respect of the provision of specialist consultancy services or in relation to the establishment of consultancy services to other public bodies. As a result of our experience of working with a whole range of public sector bodies, we are fully conversant with not only the law applicable to partnerships but also the funding arrangements and the specific contractual obligations that are associated with these arrangements.

Recent examples of our work include:

Advising on the creation of superpartnership - mergers of 6 GP practices or more, creating practices with registered patient lists of well over 100,000

Acting for the largest GP partnership in the country

Routinely dealing with partnership changes for GP practices - we have acted for over 2000 GP partnerships over the past 30 years

Pensions



Allison Cook

Partner - Employment

Pensions and the advice that organisations require can be complex and technical. Our team advises on all aspects of pensions arrangements and has a wide range of clients in the public sector including Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue Services, multi academy trusts and primary care organisations. We also regularly work with contractors in the private sector in relation to outsourcing arrangements where pension arrangements are in issue.

Recent examples of our work include:

We have recently advised a university on its ability to withdraw its funds from the management of the administering authority in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme. This was in response to concerns relating to an increasing deficit.

Advising a national charity on implications of triggering a cessation debt as a result of eligibility anomalies amongst its employees, who were members of a number of Local Government Pension Scheme funds.

Public Procurement



Stephanie Rickard

Partner - Subsidy Control and Procurement

We have a specialist team who can advise on procurement and subsidy control matters. Responsibility for compliance with procurement and subsidy control laws lies with public sector bodies and these laws are undergoing significant reform. Our team can support you on the implications of the changes, putting in place new handbooks, policies and procedures.

Our clients include the full range of contracting authorities including local authorities, government departments/agencies, universities, NHS Trusts, social enterprises and many other public sector bodies.

Recent examples of our work include:

Providing procurement support to a local authority on a high profile tender for supported living accommodation and a care home.

Advising on the structure of grant funding competitions and providing subsidy control opinions, defending procurement challenges and advising on managing risk in connection with contract variations to a project.

As part of our commitment to the public sector, we support the Local Lawyers in Government procurement group as a corporate partner.

Property, Real Estate and Construction



Steven McGuigan
Partner - Commercial
Property

Steven McGuigan, Huw Morgan and Michelle Bendall lead a highly experienced and talented group of real estate, construction and property litigation lawyers with specialist public sector experience. As well as a core team selected to work on CCS matters, the team has access to a wider department with substantial resources (over 60 lawyers). The team prides itself on its understanding of the public sector. We act nationally on real estate matters for public sector clients.

Recent examples of our work include:

Providing strategic advice to a leading University in relation to a major campus redevelopment.

Advising Dorset Council with regard to its Building Better Lives Programme.

Assisting with the management of the national property portfolio for the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency including work on their lease renewals, acquisitions and disposals, dealing with adverse possession and real estate litigation.

Energy, Natural Resources and Climate Change



David Bird
Partner - Energy & Planning

The energy 'trilemma', in particular the need for green energy, requires innovative technical, commercial and legal answers. Climate change represents one of the most challenging issues for the current generations and the public sector is front and centre of this challenge be that in terms of how it provides its services, to looking at ways it works with the community in reducing our carbon footprint. Our experienced team of energy lawyers regularly advise on contractual arrangements to ensure that solutions can be appropriately and proportionately implemented.

We have been providing legal advice and support to businesses operating in the energy and utilities sector for over 30 years and are experienced in the provision of advice on cross country and local pipelines. In that time, our energy lawyers have helped publicly funded organisations, not for profit and commercial enterprises on legal issues across the energy and utilities sector.

Recent examples of our work include:

Cross-country & local utility infrastructure. We can act on the promotion of and interface with new and existing service media. We are a main advisor on cross-country and local pipelines.

RM6240 Public Sector Legal Services

Optional Specialisms

Lot 1 - Full Service Provision



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Planning



David Bird

Partner - Energy & Planning

Planning is a constantly evolving multijurisdictional discipline that has a pervasive impact on a wide range of issues. Our planning solicitors can guide you through the complex ever-changing planning system.

Our team are planning law and infrastructure specialists with extensive experience acting for applicants, local authorities and interested parties. We regularly work with public and private sector clients both in support and opposition of developments, dealing with issues of relating to enforcement, heritage, energy & renewables, biodiversity and legal challenge.

We have also opposed a number of undesirable planning applications on behalf of public sector and private clients whilst successfully appealing a number of planning refusals and advising with regard to Judicial Review of planning decisions. Our team are always working for applicants and authorities in relation to s106 agreements and other related documents such as highways agreements and infrastructure interface contracts. We also act for promoters and affected parties in matters relating to Development Consent Orders.

Restructuring and Insolvency



Ed Husband

Partner - Commercial
Litigation & Insolvency

With teams in Bristol, London and Watford the team undertakes all aspects of insolvency work, including corporate restructuring (including administrations, liquidations, voluntary arrangements and schemes of arrangements) and personal insolvency. Our clients include financial institutions, insolvency practitioners, local authorities, energy companies, charities, and universities and directors who are either directly facing financial difficulty or who are affected by supplier or customer insolvency. This has led to significant levels of advisory work as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have become apparent.

As well as advising insolvency practitioners on all aspects of insolvency, including the buying and selling of business assets, we have a particular expertise in acting on insolvency litigation where we are regularly involved in recovering significant sums for creditors. We have recently been appointed (jointly with TLT) by the Department of Education to the Restructuring, Forensic Accounting and Investigation and Audit and Assurance (RFAIA) Legal Panel to advise on issues relating to further education.

Education Law



Yvonne Spencer
Partner - Education

We have wide ranging experience in the provision of Education Law advice to the full range of education institutions, from nurseries to universities, with a large team of dedicated and passionate education lawyers who are immersed in the sector. We understand the complexity of education law and best practice and offer you experienced education lawyers who are always on hand to give you practical legal solutions to the problems you face and the confidence to react positively to opportunities. We pride ourselves on providing a first class legal service to the education sector, with transparency on fees and competitive rates.

Recent examples of our work include:

We are recognised for the advice and work we undertake in the provision of safeguarding, safer recruitment and regulatory compliance advice and training. We advise Schools where they have failed inspections and work with them to rectify any shortcomings identified.

We recently advised an Academy on how to deal with allegations of harm made against a member of staff, including working with statutory agencies, making referrals to regulatory bodies and conducting a disciplinary process.

Health, Healthcare and Social Care



Ben Willis
Partner - Healthcare

We have a specialist team who can advise on procurement and subsidy control matters. Responsibility for compliance with procurement and subsidy control laws lies with public sector bodies and these laws are undergoing significant reform. Our team can support you on the implications of the changes, putting in place new handbooks, policies and procedures.

Our clients include the full range of contracting authorities including local authorities, government departments/agencies, universities, NHS Trusts, social enterprises and many other public sector bodies.

Recent examples of our work include:

Providing procurement support to a local authority on a high profile tender for supported living accommodation and a care home.

Advising on the structure of grant funding competitions and providing subsidy control opinions, defending procurement challenges and advising on managing risk in connection with contract variations to a project.

As part of our commitment to the public sector, we support the Local Lawyers in Government procurement group as a corporate partner.

Life Sciences



Paul Gershlick

Partner - Pharmaceutical
and Life Sciences

We provide services to pharmaceutical organisations in the United Kingdom and across the world who are involved with different parts of the pharmaceutical supply chain. From early stage drug development through to manufacturing, distribution and retail pharmacy, our experienced pharmaceuticals lawyers can provide specialist legal advice. We are passionate about providing an excellent service to our clients - both national and international - in the life sciences sector and helping them and our wider network through our thought leadership, so that they in turn can bring excellence to others' lives. We understand the importance of the relationship between the private and public sector and have experience in working with both across the work that we undertake.

Recent examples of our work include:

We acted for a university cell therapy spin-out, on a £3.57m venture capital investment, supported by a syndicate of investors including as well as new and existing angel investors. This deal also required us to negotiate complex IP contracts to ensure they were consistent with the investment terms.

Tax



Alexandra Ueno-Park

Partner - Tax

Our experience in the sector together with our team means that we have a great deal of expertise in working with our clients to help them to navigate their way through what can often be a highly complex set of facts and statutory regimes.

We work closely with our clients to provide bespoke, pragmatic legal solutions in a clear and concise manner. From our work in the public sector and the issues that apply to the public sector, we understand the tax complexities and challenges both legally and organisationally which can arise.

Outsourcing / Insourcing



Ed Rimmell

Partner - Commercial

We draw on lawyers from across a range of legal specialisms (including contracts lawyers, IT and data protection specialists, procurement, employment and real estate lawyers) as part of its integrated team advising on outsourcing arrangements.

We advise at all stages of an outsourcing process, from options appraisal, structuring your requirements, contract development and the tendering process, through to 'in-term' advice and ultimately exit. We are used to working with the Cabinet Office Model Services Contract, and advising - in the context of specific arrangements - how the contract can best be adapted to suit the requirements of the outsourcing (having regard for the likely appetite of the market in relation to those key provisions).

Recent examples of our work include:

We were recently engaged to support development of a nationally significant sustainably focused public procurement compliant framework, operated by one of the most ambitious sustainable framework providers in the education sector. The framework offers a range of outsourced IT hardware and cloud hosted software services, ICT and WAN services.

Immigration



Tom Brett Young

Partner - Immigration

The UK's ever-changing and far reaching immigration laws affect all organisations including those employing people in the public sector. We understand that with the ever-changing needs of the public sector, such as recruiting individuals to perform highly specialised, complex roles together with a need to ensure that customer facing roles can be recruited in to, our experienced immigration team are experts at helping employers comply with the laws on preventing illegal working and with the complexities of trying to employ or retain employees who need permission to live and work in the UK, including sponsorship under the sponsored worker immigration routes.

Recent examples of our work include:

Providing advice to a publicly funded non-department government organisation on the immigration options open to highly skilled foreign-national prospective employees looking to relocate to the UK.

Advising a large Multi-Academy Trust on their policies and processes for conducting "right to work" checks on employees and prospective employees to ensure full compliance with the UK's legislation on preventing illegal working.

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Lot 2 - General Service Provision



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Team Structure



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Supplier Relationship Manager
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Steven McGuigan
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Key figures/roles relevant to the provision of services under RM6240 Legal Service Panel

Property and Construction

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Education Law

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Planning and Environment

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Intellectual Property

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Litigation and Dispute Resolution

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Employment

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Elective Specialisms

Lot 2 - General Service Provision



Property and Construction



Steve McGuigan
Partner - Commercial
Property

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Providing strategic advice to a leading University in relation to a major campus redevelopment.

Advising Dorset Council with regard to its Building Better Lives Programme.

Assisting with the management of the national property portfolio for the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency including work on their lease renewals, acquisitions and disposals, dealing with adverse possession and real estate litigation.

Education Law



Yvonne Spencer
Partner - Education

We have wide ranging experience in the provision of Education Law advice to the full range of education institutions, from nurseries to universities, with a large team of dedicated and passionate education lawyers who are immersed in the sector. We understand the complexity of education law and best practice and offer you experienced education lawyers who are always on hand to give you practical legal solutions to the problems you face and the confidence to react positively to opportunities. We pride ourselves on providing a first class legal service to the education sector, with transparency on fees and competitive rates.

Recent examples of our work include:

We are recognised for the advice and work we undertake in the provision of safeguarding, safer recruitment and regulatory compliance advice and training. We advise Schools where they have failed inspections and work with them to rectify any shortcomings identified.

We recently advised an Academy on how to deal with allegations of harm made against a member of staff, including working with statutory agencies, making referrals to regulatory bodies and conducting a disciplinary process.

Planning and Environment



David Bird

Partner - Planning and Environment

Planning is a constantly evolving multijurisdictional discipline that has a pervasive impact on a wide range of issues. Our planning solicitors can guide you through the complex ever-changing planning system.

Our team are planning law and infrastructure specialists with extensive experience acting for applicants, local authorities and interested parties. We regularly work with public and private sector clients both in support and opposition of developments, dealing with issues of relating to enforcement, heritage, energy & renewables, biodiversity and legal challenge.

We have also opposed a number of undesirable planning applications on behalf of public sector and private clients whilst successfully appealing a number of planning refusals and advising with regard to Judicial Review of planning decisions. Our team are always working for applicants and authorities in relation to s106 agreements and other related documents such as highways agreements and infrastructure interface contracts. We also act for promoters and affected parties in matters relating to Development Consent Orders.

Litigation and Dispute Resolution



Ben Holt

Partner - Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Our Litigation and Dispute Resolution team specialises in helping the public sector to resolve disputes in the most efficient and cost effective way. A significant part of our work relates to advising on potential disputes and how to avoid them. Particularly where there are long standing relationships and public money at stake, litigation is rarely the best solution. The team is experienced in all forms of alternative dispute resolution, including informal negotiations, expert determination, mediation and arbitration. That said, where litigation is necessary, the team has extensive experience in litigating matters through the County and High Courts (including injunctions), as well as in specialist tribunals.

We regularly act on procurement disputes, both for authorities and disappointed bidders. This gives us a broad understanding of the strategic approach and concerns from both perspectives, increasing the prospect of us securing early settlement. Cases have involved: £100m+ contract for transport services; provision of medical goods and services (including on one claim acting for around 20 authorities); supply of food products; and a contract for major building works.

Intellectual Property



Paula Williams

Partner - Intellectual Property

Our team of specialist intellectual property lawyers has extensive experience of advising clients across all sectors (private, public and third sector) on a wide range of intellectual property issues and in particular on IP centric commercial partnerships where these sectors connect. The team is well-equipped to deploy its expertise in helping to support in the management of all forms of innovation generated across the public sector from copyright subsisting in primary/applied research and software developments to ground breaking inventions and extensive knowledge databases.

Opportunities created through the government's innovation strategy means that it is becoming increasingly important for the public sector to identify and protect its core IP so as to maximise opportunities for commercialisation.

We regularly work on consortium arrangements with organisations partnering to bid for grant funding and advise on the subsequent contractual arrangements.

We have the benefit of a dedicated trade marks team (including a chartered trade mark attorney); registered trade marks are not only an important tool in the protection of goodwill and reputation but can also raise income via licensing arrangements and the generation of valuable goodwill.

Employment



Gareth Edwards

Partner - Employment

Our large and experienced employment team provides specialist legal advice to the public sector including Local Government, Fire and Rescue Services, non-departmental public bodies and not for profit organisations operating in the sector. We understand the unique challenges facing publicly funded bodies and can provide sector specific advice in a timely and pragmatic way. We provide the full scope of employment law advice to our clients including advice in relation to industrial action, outsourcing and insourcing, TUPE, discrimination and complex whistle blowing disputes. We regularly represent our clients at Employment Tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal and where necessary, the High Court.

Recent examples of our work include:

We recently advised a Local Authority in relation to its investigation into the lawfulness of decisions relating to the pay of its Chief Executive. We fully supported the Council in dealing with the resulting report including its publication, data protection issues, governance and the resulting disciplinary and governance issues.

We have advised numerous public bodies on outsourcing arrangements and ensuring that the contractual arrangements regarding any transfer ensure that the client is adequately protected both from the point where employees transfer to a third party but also where they may be a subsequent transfer on termination.

