



Sarah Burton

Associate

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Sarah Burton practices in public and administrative law. She has a particular focus on public inquiries, investigations and inquests and has extensive experience advising public and private sector bodies and individuals in sensitive and high profile proceedings.

Sarah also has experience advising clients on other public and private law matters including data protection, human rights, freedom of information, regulatory proceedings, judicial review and statutory appeals. She has also advised on private law claims, including personal injury and medical negligence, both on behalf of claimants and defendants.

Sarah has significant experience in advising on the law in public inquiries, investigations and inquests. For example, she recently advised a core participant in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and has advised a public company on its involvement in a sensitive non-statutory inquiry. In addition, Sarah is currently part of a team of external legal advisors to the Magnox Inquiry into the award of a GBP6.2 billion decommissioning contract in the nuclear power sector.

She is committed to using her legal skills to assist the disadvantaged and those without access to justice. Sarah regularly provides pro bono advice to support causes in this area, for example she has recently provided emergency legal advice to Mencap, the national learning disability charity, in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. Sarah has also recently featured on the Radio 4 programme *File on Four* talking about the need for reform of the legal aid system to as to ensure that families have legal representation at inquests where the state is legally represented.

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Regulatory and Government Affairs

- Infrastructure, Construction and Transport
- Life Sciences
- Industrials

English

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- English

- Acting for public and private sector bodies in high profile public inquiries and inquests including the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and the Westminster Bridge Inquest.

- Advising on private and public law claims against public bodies and central government departments.
- Advising corporates and other bodies on a variety of public law matters such as judicial review litigation
- Advising public sector bodies on defensible decision-making and statutory interpretation.
- Providing pro bono advice to charitable bodies, including Asylum Matters and Mencap, on potential challenges and select committee hearings.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

Prior Experience

- Trained at London based international law firm 2012-14
- Worked as a government lawyer at the Government Legal Department, acting for the Ministry of Justice on litigious matters

Education

- College of Law, LLB, 2012
- University of Oxford, BA Hons, 2010

Memberships

- Law Society of England and Wales
- Young Public Law Lawyers' Group
- Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association

INSIGHTS

Publications

Update: Reputation management during investigations: ZXC v Bloomberg LP

22 March 2022

A recent Supreme Court judgment in ZXC v Bloomberg LP serves as a reminder that individuals under investigation will need to closely monitor all potential sources of leaks and be ready to move fast both domestically and overseas when the right to privacy has been threatened.

Judiciously Reviewed? Government outlines proposed reforms to judicial review

2 August 2021

On 21 July 2021, the UK Government laid the Judicial Review and Courts Bill 2020-21 before Parliament.

DLA Piper's Public Law Team responds to the Judicial Review Consultation

6 May 2021

Further to the report of the Independent Review of Administrative Law (IRAL), the Government opened a consultation to consider the

recommendations of the IRAL, as well as seeking views on further proposals for reform of judicial review made by the Government. DLA Piper's Public Law Team responded to this consultation on 29 April 2021.

Lockdown 3.0 – a summary of the UK government's latest measures and restrictions

11 January 2021

Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed the nation to announce the latest restrictions to be imposed upon people living in England. We summarise the restrictions in this update.

The new three-tier system: A summary of the English coronavirus restrictions in force from 2 December

2 December 2020

On 2 December 2020, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020 come into force. These govern the transition from a full lockdown to lighter restrictions until 2 February 2021.

Lockdown 2.0: a summary of the latest English Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations, published on 5 November 2020

12 November 2020

On 5 November 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.4) Regulations 2020 came into effect. These new regulations are the UK government's response to a second wave of COVID-19 cases and enforce a new national lockdown for England until 2 December 2020.

Independent Review of Administrative Law - Call for Evidence

9 November 2020

The DLA Piper Public Law Team was recently invited to contribute to the Independent Review of Administrative Law (IRAL) by providing evidence to the IRAL Panel which has been appointed to consider options for reform to judicial review.

Three tier UK coronavirus local lockdowns

14 October 2020

New lockdown regulations came into force in England on 14 October 2020, creating a three-tier system of restrictions to address local outbreaks of COVID-19.

Face coverings, self-isolation and hospitality restrictions: Further tightening of English coronavirus regime

28 September 2020

New lockdown regulations came into force in England on 23, 24 and 28 September 2020 to address rising cases of COVID-19. We discuss the new regulations and what it means for businesses.

The “rule of 6” and tightening of the English coronavirus lockdown regime

15 September 2020

New lockdown regulations came into force in England on 14 September 2020. They provide for the “rule of six” and represent a tightening of the English lockdown regime due to the apparent growing incidence and transmission of COVID-19 across England.

The latest English COVID-19 emergency regulations – new powers for local authorities

27 July 2020

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.3) (England) Regulations 2020 came into force on 18 July 2020. They give new powers to local authorities in England to respond to a public health threat caused by the incidence or spread of COVID-19.

Reputation management during investigations: ZXC v Bloomberg LP

16 July 2020

The Court of Appeal has upheld the decision of Nicklin J which found that Bloomberg had breached the privacy rights of a US businessman when it published an article containing confidential details about a UK criminal investigation which he was subject to.

Further English COVID-19 amendment regulations

15 July 2020

From 13 July 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (the Amendment Regulations) come into effect. In this post, we consider the effects of the Amendment Regulations on businesses operating in England.

The Leicester Coronavirus restrictions: COVID-19 emergency regulations

8 July 2020

On 29 June 2020, the government imposed a local lockdown in Leicester after a surge in COVID-19 cases in the area. The Leicester Restrictions Regulations are of wider importance because they set an example of how the government will give effect to local lockdowns in England as and when they become necessary.

The new English COVID-19 emergency regulations

8 July 2020

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) (England) Regulations 2020 (the “Second Restrictions Regulations”) came into force on 4 July 2020. These Second Restrictions Regulations mean, in essence, that most of England has returned to the pre-23 March 2020 position.

Events

Featured on BBC File on 4 *Families versus the state: An unfair fight?* October 2019

NEWS

The Magnox Inquiry publishes its final report

9 April 2021

On 4 March 2021, the Final Report of the Magnox Inquiry was published, bringing to an end the public inquiry started by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 27 March 2017. DLA Piper UK LLP acted as external legal advisers to the Inquiry.
