



Paul Hardy

Partner

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Paul Hardy has over 25 years' experience working as a lawyer and policy adviser, including practising as a barrister, working in the European Commission in Brussels and as a senior civil servant in the UK Houses of Parliament.

Paul joined DLA Piper from the House of Lords in April 2017, after eight years as the senior EU legal adviser to the UK Parliament. He focusses on international trade and UK government affairs.

Paul advises businesses, public sector organisations and States on the commercial implications of the UK's new free trade agreements post-Brexit, customs, and World Trade Organisation rules. His professional background makes him well placed to navigate clients through the complexities of the UK's new cross-border regulatory environment, and to understand the new opportunities and risks that will arise. DLA Piper UK LLP is a member of the UK Department for International Trade's (DIT) Trade Law Panel. Paul leads the firm's relationship with DIT under that panel and on bidding for the tender opportunities that arise.

In April 2020, Paul took over as UK Head of Government Affairs from Lord Clement-Jones CBE. The UK practice provides clients with strategic policy advice and engagement strategies for achieving outcomes in Whitehall and Westminster. It combines its political and parliamentary know-how with the legal and regulatory expertise of an all-sector law firm to help clients achieve a desired result. Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the legal basis for a policy can be a crucial ingredient in considering how to influence it. The UK government affairs team is part of an inter-connected global government affairs offering within DLA Piper, with centres in Brussels and Washington DC, working across borders in interdisciplinary teams.

Paul holds the qualification of practicing barrister, and also remains a "door tenant" at specialist EU and administrative law barristers' chambers in London, Francis Taylor Building, where he last practiced as a self-employed member of the Bar.

DLA Piper UK LLP is registered on the UK Register of Consultant Lobbyists and regulated by the Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists.

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Regulatory and Government Affairs

English French

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- English
- French

Professional Qualifications

- Barrister in England and Wales, 1992

Prior Experience

- In 2014 he was promoted to EU Legal Adviser to the House of Lords, carrying out a similar function for the seven EU Select Committees in the Lords.
- In 2009 he was appointed Counsel for European Legislation in the House of Commons, heading up the team providing EU legal advice to the House and its Select Committees.
- Over eight years in the UK Parliament Paul reviewed every piece of EU legislation and policy produced by the EU, and played a prominent role in advising Parliament on their implications. His advice on the UK's legal liability to pay into the EU budget after withdrawal was published in a high-profile Lords Select Committee report, the first time the Lords has published internal legal advice.
- From 2004 to 2008 he was a civil servant (fonctionnaire) in the European Commission, where he was a legal and policy adviser in the Directorate-General for External Relations. His role included negotiating on behalf of the Commission in Council working groups, and negotiating elements of EU trade agreements.
- From 2000 to 2003: Barrister, Chambers of Andrew Tait Q.C., Francis Taylor Building, London, specialising in administrative law and environmental law and judicial review in the High Court.
- 1992 to 1998: Barrister, Chambers of Anthony Shaw, Q.C., Red Lion Chambers, London, specialising in crime and human rights.
- Paul has also worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross, as a legal adviser on judicial reform in Bosnia, and as a trial lawyer in Rwanda.

Education

- Inns of Court School of Law (Bar Vocational Course), 1992
- University of North London, CPE (law conversion), 1991
- University of St Andrews M.A., 1989

INSIGHTS

Publications

Westminster Watch: Why you need to understand the retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill

17 October 2022

On 22 September 2022, the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament. The Bill will facilitate the amendment, replacement or repeal of retained EU law (REUL) by the end of 2023 and assimilate all remaining REUL into UK law without the special features of EU law features continuing to apply.

The 12th WTO Ministerial Conference outcomes

24 June 2022

DLA Piper Trade Truths

It has been almost five years since the eleventh Ministerial Conference due to delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Expectations were low but the stakes were high.

What's driving the new National Security and Investment Regime

12 December 2021
Understanding the UK National Security & Investment Regime Podcast

Episode 1 of our new Podcast series discusses what is driving the new National Security and Investment Regime. What is the political context for the new regime? Who and what is driving the pressure to strengthen investment screening both in the UK and internationally? Sarah Smith, Partner in DLA Piper's Competition practice is joined by Lord Gavin Barwell, Strategic Advisor and former Chief of Staff to Teresa May and Paul Hardy, Head of UK Government Affairs at DLA Piper to discuss the context of the new regime.

Solutions to the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland trade

29 October 2021
DLA Piper Trade Truths

The Northern Ireland Protocol (the Protocol) has been back in the headlines recently as politicians in the UK, Ireland, and EU try to ease the difficulties faced by many businesses as they move their goods between Great Britain (GB), made up of England, Wales, and Scotland; Northern Ireland (NI) and Ireland, which is an EU Member State.

Further postponement of post-Brexit border checks in Great Britain

16 September 2021
DLA Piper Trade Truths

On 14 September 2021, Lord David Frost, the Brexit Minister, announced an additional delay to the introduction of stage 2 and 3 of the post-Brexit Border Operating Model. This article outlines the details of that delay and what it means for businesses.

The UK Government adopts the National Security and Investment Act on 29 April 2021

10 May 2021

With the adoption of the National Security & Investment Act, the UK is embarking on a serious journey to toughen foreign investment rules in line with other major economies in a move prompted by concerns surrounding foreign investment in critical or sensitive sectors.

Establishment of new freeports in England

29 April 2021
DLA Piper Trade Truths

England announced the location of eight new freeports with the hope they will act as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK; promote regeneration and job creation as part of the Government's commitment to "levelling up"; and provide hotbeds for innovation.

Postponement of post-Brexit border checks in Great Britain

23 March 2021
DLA Piper Trade Truths

The UK Government introduced a Border Operating Model for a phased introduction of full customs and regulatory checks on imports from the EU into Great Britain. It gives supply-chain managers six months more to ensure affected EU imports are ready for the new SPS checks which will be put in place from October.

EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Rules of Origin

8 February 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

In this week's article we explore some of the challenges that the Rules of Origin in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement are presenting businesses, and the potential mitigation measures available.

What happens when trade goes wrong? Understanding trade remedies and what they mean for you

7 January 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

Trade remedies have previously been assessed and implemented by the EU on behalf of the UK under the multilateral WTO framework. From 1 January 2021, the UK has implemented an independent trade remedies framework; the aim being to defend UK business interests from potentially injurious market distortion.

UK-EU Trade Agreement: What's next for financial services?

4 January 2021

On 24 December 2020, after intensive down-to-the-wire negotiations, the European Commission and the UK Government reached an agreement on the terms of future trade and cooperation between the European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (UK).

Boardroom Brexit: The view from the UK on the trade deal

31 December 2020

Boardroom Brexit

The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) came as a much-needed, hurriedly wrapped Christmas present for the UK Prime Minister.

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for business

31 December 2020

Boardroom Brexit

Welcome to this last edition of Boardroom Brexit, marking the end of the negotiations and the agreement of a new trade deal, the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). In this edition, we summarise the impact of the deal on all aspects of business operations in one place – please use the hyperlinks below to help you navigate the report.

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for dispute resolution

31 December 2020

Boardroom Brexit

This was one of the most contentious areas in the negotiations as both sides wanted assurances that the other party would honour the commitments contained in the TCA in the future.

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for the UK and EU ratification and implementation process

31 December 2020
Boardroom Brexit
The steps before the EU/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement becomes law

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for trade in goods

31 December 2020
Boardroom Brexit
What will the Trade and Cooperation Agreement mean for tariffs and quotas, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, customs and product standards

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for trade in services

31 December 2020
Boardroom Brexit
The TCA has substantial sectoral coverage, including professional and business services (e.g. legal, auditing, architectural services), delivery and telecommunication services, computer-related and digital services, financial services, research and development services, most transport services and environmental services.

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for transport

31 December 2020
Boardroom Brexit
There will be continued market access rights for UK and EU road haulage operators, while under the TCA, UK and EU air carriers will continue to enjoy flyover rights and operating rights on routes between the UK and EU. However, UK carriers will not be able to operate cabotage routes in the EU (and vice versa)

- "Parliament, Legislation and Accountability", *Hart*, 2016

[Events](#)

[Previous](#)

Pan-European Week: Post-Brexit Impact

15 April 2021
Webinar

FDI screening rules and EU/China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment

17 March 2021
Webinar

The Brexit Deal - what does it mean for climate change and energy?

26 January 2021
Webinar

Brexit - the Final Deal

5 January 2021

IBDE: Clarity at last? Brexit, the US election, and the UK's post-Brexit trading future

9 December 2020
Webinar

- Speaker, Netherlands British Chamber of Commerce event, "Impact of Brexit on Manufacturing", Manchester, 23 November 2017
- Chairman, EU Withdrawal Bill Summit, Guildhall, 21 November 2017
- Moderator, "Investing in the UK", Horasis China Meeting, Sheffield, 5-6 November 2017
- Keynote speech on the Supreme Court's decision in Miller, Legal Research Foundation of New Zealand, Auckland, 10 July 2017
- Keynote speech on Brexit, European Business Council for Africa and Mediterranean Annual Dinner, London, 29 June 2017
- Speaker, Alliance for Intellectual Property breakfast event on Brexit, London 29 June 2017
- Panellist, Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment Brexit Debate, London, 27 June 2017
- Keynote speech on Brexit, South African Chamber of Commerce, London, 6 June 2017
- Keynote speech on Brexit, Asset Based Finance Association annual conference 2017

NEWS

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2022

28 April 2022

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 74 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1 2022 in the United States and May 1 2022 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. Promotions have been made across all of the firm's practice areas, spanning 38 offices in 21 countries.

DLA Piper continues to strengthen its global Government Affairs offering with the appointment of Lord Barwell

2 March 2021

DLA Piper continues to strengthen its global Government Affairs offering with the appointment of Lord (Gavin) Barwell as a senior strategic and political consultant.

- NZ businesses need to prepare for Brexit changes, *Radio New Zealand*, 13 July 2017
- Businesses sit on their hands as Brexit deadline approaches, *Financial Times*, 28 June 2017

- Businesses can't afford to leave UK before Brexit, says lawyer , *The Times*, 23 October 2017

OVERVIEW – BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Overview

Paul Hardy is an Employed Barrister working in Litigation & Regulatory group. He specialises in Government Affairs, Trade and Regulatory work. He leads the firm's Brexit advisory service.

Paul has over 25 years' experience as a lawyer and policy adviser including first-hand experience of working for international organisations and the UK Parliament.

He remains a member of the specialist EU and administrative law barristers' chambers, Francis Taylor Building, London.

Experience

- 1992 to 1998: Barrister, Chambers of Anthony Shaw, Q.C., Red Lion Chambers, London, specialising in crime and human rights.
- 1998 to 1999: Employed by Belgian NGO, Advocates sans Frontières, to represent defendants in domestic war crimes trials in Rwanda.
- 1999 to 2000: Rule of Law Officer, Office of the High Representative, Bosnia Herzegovina. Responsible for drafting and implementing judicial reform legislation in the Serbian entity.
- From 2000 to 2003: Barrister, Chambers of Andrew Tait Q.C., Francis Taylor Building, London, specialising in administrative law and environmental law and judicial review in the High Court.
- From 2003 to 2004: senior legal adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva. Advising common law States on the transposition of international law conventions into domestic law. Drafting implementing legislation. Manager of team of five regional advisers.
- From 2004 to 2008: civil servant (fonctionnaire) in the European Commission, where he worked in the foreign policy and human rights directorates.
- In 2009 to 2014: Counsel for European Legislation, House of Commons, heading up a team providing EU legal advice to the House and its Select Committees.
- From 2014 to 2017: EU Legal Adviser to the House of Lords, carrying out a similar function for the seven EU Select Committees in the Lords.
- From 2017 to present: Brexit Director/Legal Director, DLA Piper. Advising businesses, public sector organisations and States on the trade and regulatory implications of Brexit, and how best to manage them. Particular expertise on supply-chain mitigation.

Notable Human Rights Experience

- Currently instructed in an application before the European Court of Human Rights claiming a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights in the election of hereditary peers to the House of Lords. He is being led by Lord Pannick QC.
- As an official in the European Commission:
 - Participant in the EU negotiating team in the creation of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva
 - Representing the EU in UN human rights discussions in the UN General Assembly EU representative to the Assembly of States Parties at the International Criminal Court (management and legislative oversight)
 - Managing an EU-funded human rights investigation into extra-judicial killing in the Philippines
- At Francis Taylor Building: junior counsel in the first case under the Human Rights Act 1998 to reach the House of Lords, Alconbury.