



Robert Smith

Partner

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Robert Smith has a range of experience acting for public sector, private sector and banking clients on PPP/PFI and other projects, focusing his practice mainly on the transport and regeneration sectors.

Robert has been involved in a wide range of transport matters relating to light and heavy rail, bus, highways, bridges and air traffic and advised on accommodation projects including housing and wider regeneration, health and education sectors.

- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure
- Public Private Partnerships and PFI

KEY EXPERIENCE

- In the heavy rail industry, Robert has experience of advising ROSCOs, TOCs, and Passenger Transport Executives in respect of rolling stock and franchises as well as associated infrastructure issues, such as acting for the Olympic Delivery Authority in respect of negotiations with Network Rail relating to infrastructure works required for the 2012 Games, advising Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority and Executive on the proposal for Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive to take over the passenger rail franchising functions of the SRA in relation to the Merseyside Electrics Network and advising on station development and rolling stock matters in West Yorkshire.
- Robert has advised in respect of procurement of light rail and rapid transit schemes in the UK and overseas, such as acting for a consortium bidding for the Oakland International Airport Connector project, a pathfinder light transit PPP in California. He has been involved advising a number of local authorities on light rail schemes and other light transit schemes such as West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive's proposed New Generation Transport scheme.
- Robert is a leading public sector advisor in the bus industry having advised passenger transport authorities in respect of delivery of bus services, including advising in respect of the development of quality contract schemes, quality bus partnerships and other regulated transport schemes and tendering of non-commercial bus services. He has advised a number of authorities on concessionary travel schemes, including scheme drafting and supporting the statutory appeals process and negotiating settlement with operators.
- Robert has advised on social housing PFI projects since being involved advising funders and sponsors on some of the first deals to close. He has since acted for sponsors, funders and public authorities on both HRA and non-HRA projects, including projects involving supported living. He is currently advising both public and private sector clients in respect of remaining Round 5 PFI

Projects, and also advising in respect of future regeneration schemes.

- Robert also has experience advising on operational schemes, and advising SPVs, sub-contractors, funders and authorities on operational matters relating to their projects.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

Education

- Girton College, Law
- Cambridge University, MA
- Nottingham Law School, LPC

INSIGHTS

Publications

Driving change: The decarbonisation of European transport

17 November 2021

Transport is the bedrock of modern economies. It is also a major source of carbon dioxide emissions. The purpose of this study is to examine decarbonisation strategies in three key transportation subsectors: aviation, rail and shipping.

The 2019 rail franchising litigation - procurement: Legal privilege and a duty to give sufficient reasons

4 August 2020

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith handed down judgment in the 2019 Rail Franchising Litigation, one of the largest and most complex procurement and commercial judicial review claims litigated to date in the UK. In this, our second article, we examine the Court's findings as they relate to legal privilege and the duty to give sufficient reasons.

Procurement Law Reform - Let's Start a Discussion

29 July 2020

This is the fourth in our short series of bitesize feedback notes following on from DLA Piper's Panel Discussion Webinar held on 1 July 2020. This feedback note looks at the panel's response to the range of procurement procedures set out in the Public Contracts Act, 2015 (PCR'15).

Procurement law reform - Let's start a discussion

16 July 2020

This is the second bitesize feedback note following on from DLA Piper's Panel Discussion Webinar held on 1 July 2020. This second paper now looks at the views expressed by the Panel on the vexed question of limitation periods for challenges and their impact on the conduct of procurements pre and post evaluation.

Procurement Law Reform - Let's start a discussion

9 July 2020

DLA Piper's panel discussion webinar held on 1 July 2020 had a lively debate on the merits of potential options for reform and which changes might produce a better model for procurement regulation in the UK post Brexit. This is the first of a series of bitesize summary reports providing feedback from the debate.

Events

Previous

Procurement law reform webinar

1 July 2020

Webinar

NEWS

New research shows decarbonisation is a primary driver of transport investment and strategic decisions

17 November 2021

Decarbonisation is a primary driver of the transport industry's investment strategy according to research published today by global law firm DLA Piper. Canvassing the views of 100 senior executives who have invested in decarbonisation projects across Europe, the report – *Driving Change: The Decarbonisation of European Transport* – reveals the majority of investors (79%) consider that decarbonisation is a primary driver of their organisation's investment strategy.
