

TIMETABLE

REGIONAL BAR:

Client referees deadline:
16 February 2024
Editorial submission deadline:
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SCOTTISH BAR:

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LONDON BAR:

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Practice area definitions – London

Administrative law and human rights: This section covers key constitutional issues, and the interaction between different layers of government, as well as generalised matters of public law not covered in other areas of the UK Bar guide (including matters as diverse as social welfare and prison law). Please note our separate coverage of a range of other areas such as planning, professional discipline, police law, elections, public procurement, EU law, education, extradition, social housing, court of protection, immigration and similar, which will cover counsel familiar with judicial reviews and convention rights within those specific areas; this section is not a “Champions League” of the best barristers in these areas and work that can be primarily categorized in those sections should be submitted for those areas.

Change: Work concerning local democracy and local authority powers should now be submitted here.

Agriculture: This section primarily revolves around planning, environmental and property work relating to farming, but also includes those with specific expertise in other areas of law with a specific focus on agricultural life in England and Wales. Key issues include rights of way, probate and estates, Village Green designations, and land rights. Leading barristers in this section have a broad range of expertise across key relevant areas and are generally recognized as experts through court appointments and roles such as Village Green Inspectors. We accept there is a degree of crossover between property, planning and environmental specialists in this area, however we are looking for clearly demonstrated evidence of a commitment to work involving agriculture rather than specialists in those areas who handle farming work intermittently.

Art and cultural property: The art and cultural property section covers the range of litigation in this area, such as disputes over the sale, provenance and finance backed on artwork and antiquities/cultural property. We welcome views as to if we should broaden this section to include more recently-produced high-value collectible properties that would not fall within traditional understandings of the visual arts but are traded in a similar manner, such as highly-collectible classic cars, luxury watches, ultra-fine

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wines and similar - if your members have a practice relating to those please do contact the editor, Will Tolcher, to discuss. The section for “Crypto and blockchain assets” encompasses NFT matters, among others.

Aviation and travel: This section continues to cover the full gamut of work relating to the aviation industry, including regulatory and commercial disputes work for airlines, airports, insurers and financiers. It now also includes representation of travel sector clients such as tour operators, airlines, travel agents and operators concerning the regulation of their industry and sector-specific consumer protection legislation. Cross-border personal injury work is not included in this section and should be submitted as personal injury.

Banking and finance (including consumer credit): This section covers the full spectrum of technical banking and finance disputes, from investment banking and capital markets matters through to retail products aimed at the general public. It does not cover regulatory or criminal work (among other specialisms covered separately), and please note that insolvency work is covered elsewhere too: while we acknowledge the overlap between banking and insolvency work, particularly for those representing the banks, submissions for this area should not focus on insolvency related disputes. Consumer credit and retail banking work is relevant to this section. Submitters for this area may be interested in the “Crypto and blockchain assets” practice area too.

Business and regulatory crime (including global investigations): The Business and regulatory crime (including global investigations) rankings includes instructions relating to bribery, sanctions, interest-rate rigging, criminal cartel offences, trade union redundancy offences, and similar. It does not cover fraud cases such as land-banking scams and VAT fraud (please see the Fraud: crime section for coverage of this specialism). International crime and extradition and POCA and asset forfeiture are also covered separately. That said, many barristers are likely to have practices that do not neatly fit within these boxes and so may be ranked in more than one practice area.

Charities: This section covers work around the governance, registration, formation and regulation of charities of all sizes.

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This also includes religious charities as well as secular ones – ecclesiastical law will be considered as part of this section.

Change: ecclesiastical law is now explicitly part of this section.

Clinical negligence: In this section, we are looking for practices demonstrating ability in the most high value cases (including brain injury, birth injury, wrongful birth claims, paralysis, failure or delay in diagnosis of medical conditions, fatal claims), and those which feature novel issues which have a realistic chance of generating case law. The complexity of injuries is a factor, as is the typical value of the claims handled. This section only covers human patients; veterinary negligence matters can be covered in professional negligence.

Commercial litigation: For this we are ranking barristers for their work advising corporates, or potentially high net worth individuals, on genuine litigation stemming from commercial contracts. This could include disputes involving M&A-related litigation, outsourcing agreements, and breach of contract matters. Given that we already have distinct sections for international arbitration, competition, tax, banking litigation, professional negligence, construction, corporate crime, property litigation, intellectual property and employment, this work should not be the focus of commercial litigation submissions. The size of the section should be seen as a continued vote of confidence in the wealth of talent at the self-employed Bar, but this should not detract from the fact it is a highly competitive section, in which inclusion is highly selective even by the standards of The Legal 500. Matters where fraud is alleged are likely better to be suited to fraud:civil.

Commodities: The highest ranked counsel in this section will be handling a diverse range of work, usually encompassing GAFTA/FOSFA and other types of commodity arbitration, as well as taking significant roles in other related disputes, which might include those arising from commodity or trade finance transactions. The key is to be regularly involved in these matters and to be handling the highest-value and most complex disputes across a range of different commodity markets. For the avoidance of doubt, commodities includes “soft” and “hard” commodities. This section does not aim to be a duplication of the shipping section, however it is envisaged that commodities in this section would

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generally be transported between continents on ships - we do not consider cryptoassets, which are covered in their own section, to be commodities.

Company: This section includes contentious and non-contentious matters focusing on the most intricate points of company law and corporate governance.

Competition: Work covered here includes litigation concerning cartel investigations, merger control, abuse of dominance, follow-on damages claims and state aid matters. Criminal cartel offences are best submitted for business and regulatory crime.

Construction: This includes work for all participants in the industry, including employers, contractors and subcontractors, handling litigation, arbitration, adjudication and mediation, encompassing claims relating to breach of contract, defects, delay and design liability. This is a section where elite practitioners will have a global focus, and the highest ranked barristers will regularly appear in international arbitrations abroad on the sorts of megaprojects that on the scale of the very largest in the United Kingdom (such as major rail developments, new airports and similar). That said, we envisage that court litigation (including matters outside the core focus such as inquiries as well as TCC cases) will be disproportionately mentioned in editorial owing to the confidentiality in arbitrations. Please also note the sections for The English Bar in Asia and The English Bar in the Middle East. As outlined in the international arbitration remarks in this document, we request views as to if we should divide up the “international arbitration: counsel” section in to construction/engineering and commercial sections, and if so what amendments should be made to the scope of this section.

The “consumer” section will be sunsetted with the 2025 edition - criminal trading standards work concerning allegedly defective products can now be submitted as health and safety, and please also note product liability and group litigation - consumer finance work should still be submitted as banking and finance (including consumer credit).

Costs and litigation funding (renamed): This section covers costs disputes in the wake of the full range of litigation and ADR.

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This includes all aspects of how litigation is paid for, for examples disputes as to CFAs, and post-dispute matters between clients and their representatives over bills.

Change: The name of this section has been amended for the benefit of readers looking for specific expertise on litigation funding. This is not a substantive change to the scope of this area.

Court of Protection: health and welfare (renamed): This section includes the full spectrum of the type of issues which constitute the Court of Protection's docket concerning the welfare of people who do or may lack capacity in the health and welfare context. It also includes work concerning adult social care which cannot be categorized anywhere else ("administrative law and human rights" being of note for more macro-level work regarding funding and related policies). Issues of children's social services in family law fora should be submitted for "family: children and domestic abuse", although work concerning medical treatment of children before the Court of Protection should be continue to be submitted here. Please note the new "private client litigation" section, which covers property and affairs work.

Crime: The Crime (general crime) section covers criminal work that would typically come under the banner of violent and sexual offences, such as murder and rape at the most serious end, but also covers all manner of non-financial offending, such as modern slavery offences, the full range of terrorism offences, and organized crime matters both privately and publicly funded, and for the defense and prosecution. The size of the section should be seen as a continued vote of confidence in the wealth of talent at the self-employed Bar, noting the relative size of the criminal Bar compared to other specialisms, but this should not detract from the fact it is a highly competitive section, in which inclusion is highly selective even by the standards of The Legal 500. It does not cover criminal fraud or corruption and sanctions-type offences: please see the Crime: fraud and Business and regulatory crime sections for coverage of those specialisms. International crime and extradition and POCA and asset forfeiture are also covered separately. That said, many barristers are likely to have practices that do not neatly fit within these boxes and so may be ranked in more than one practice area.

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Crypto and blockchain assets: This section covers the full range of civil disputes concerning assets using distributed ledger technology and related Web3 technologies. This would include commercial disputes, regulatory, asset tracing, and civil fraud matters involving all cryptocurrencies, non-fungible tokens (NFTs), central bank digital currencies and related assets. Cases regarding smart contracts and decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) are likely to be relevant to this section. As this is a section still in its infancy, we are taking a deliberately inclusive definition at this stage and are likely to use this year's research to refine it further in future. The only work we would specifically wish to rule out including here is criminal jury trials, and family litigation where there are not specific issues as to the nature or handling of the crypto assets.

Change: Added clarity about purely criminal cases and family matters not being covered.

Data protection: This section includes fully contentious and specialist advisory work, primarily focusing on compliance and investigations within this field, as well as litigation on the subject of data breaches, including cases brought by claimants under group litigation orders. Privacy claims in a media or journalistic context, or concerning individual statements on social media, will not be considered in this section: please submit it for "defamation and privacy" (on the other hand, for instance, a claim against a social media platform for a breach of user data would be a prime example of work in this section).

Defamation and privacy: This section includes defamation work in the traditional sense, however also includes data protection and misuse of private information claims within a journalistic, social media or similar context; data protection work concerning data breaches and similar are better suited to the "data protection" section. Please do not include defamation work in submissions for "media and entertainment"; this year continued focus will be placed on maintaining a clear delineation between the two sections although barristers active in both areas are welcome to submit for both.

Education: This section includes advice to parents, students, academics and institutions at both school and university level.

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This will include disputes touching on themes such as - non-exhaustively - academic freedom, expulsions, selection policies, litigation over results and grading, mergers of institutions, discrimination, special educational needs and similar.

Elections: This section covers elections to national, devolved and local government offices, including challenges to their result and litigation concerning the regulation of campaigns. Trade union and other organizational elections are not germane to this section. Given the highly cyclical nature of this section, the time period for work highlights is more flexibly enforced in years where the time window (for the 2025 guide, 2023) did not include a general election or significant numbers of local elections. This flexibility only applies to this section.

Change: Line added to confirm policy regarding work in non-election years.

Employment: This section includes the full range of employment work for employers, trade unions and individual employees. The top barristers will be involved in heavyweight appeals, alongside Employment Tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal work, with typical cases concern unfair dismissal, sexual harassment, workplace discrimination, injunctions related to individual and team moves, whistle-blowing matters, and the enforcement of restrictive covenants, internal investigation and worker status, with the application of data protection law to the workplace a notable emerging area and disputes over pay, bonuses, and the National Minimum Wage also germane. Health and safety and pensions are covered separately. Work as an independent investigator on workplace issues is considered germane.

Change: added clarity about the relevance of appointments as an independent investigator.

Energy: This section includes disputes over energy-related disputes and regulatory matters. Much work will concern power projects, and another prime example of relevant work would be Energy Charter Treaty arbitrations.

The “environment” section will be sunsetted with the 2025 edition owing to overlap with other sections – the planning,

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public international law, administrative law and human rights, and business and regulatory crime sections are likely to be of interest.”

European Union relations (renamed): While in the past we would have typically expected counsel in this section to be active in cases before the Luxembourg court system as well as EU/retained law matters in London, owing to the runoff of British ECJ cases and the loss of rights of audience, realistically this section will be more focussed on London work concerning the interpretation of retained EU law in the British courts. However, it does continue to include work done by London counsel in the EU institutions, including when done on an Irish (or other EU) practicing certificate.

Change: More focus is now placed on “retained law” rather than pure Luxembourg work, given the decreasing volume of that on factual matrices concerning the UK, and that any other work in that forum is now, de jure, done on Irish practicing certificates in the main.

Extradition (renamed and scope changed): This section the full range of extradition work, for both requested persons and states, as well as similar matters concerning international arrest warrants, mutual legal assistance, INTERPOL Red Notices and other tools of cross-border law enforcement. Please note the new “international crime and human rights” section.

Change: International criminal law work - including ICJ cases turning on allegations of breaches of international criminal law - is covered in the new “international human rights and criminal law” section.

Family: children and domestic abuse: This section covers the full range of private and public law child work before the family courts. More complex matters, such as ones with international elements (such as international child abduction) and multiple parties, will be of particular interest. Surrogacy and related matters are germane in this practice area as well. In addition, this section explicitly includes the full spectrum of domestic abuse, including coercive control order-related litigation, whether children feature in the family or not.

Note: The name is the same as the launched edition of the

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2024 edition; the 2024 guidelines initially referred to the section as “family: children and domestic violence”, however this was amended to during the research process to reflect current terminology used by the Bar and judiciary.

Family: divorce and financial remedy: This section focusses on financial provision after divorce/dissolution of civil partnerships. Tax counsel who handle tax points in HNW family cases are encouraged in the strongest possible terms to submit it for “tax: personal”, but it will not be considered here. Domestic violence work should be submitted in “Family: children and domestic abuse”, as that section is now called.

Family: private FDR judges and arbitrators: This section covers activity sitting as family arbitrators, and as judges in private FDRs, either full-time or part-time. It does not include mediation work, nor does it include work as counsel. Retired judges are welcome to participate in this area.

Financial services and fintech regulation (*renamed*): This ranking covers investigations by the FCA and PRA into fintech companies, banks, building societies, credit unions, insurers and major investment firms. We would expect submissions to include internal investigations, as well as external investigations, into allegations of market misconduct and corruption such as money-laundering, as well as advice on regulation before disputes arise. This section is roughly analogous to the financial services: contentious ranking in our solicitors coverage; the division between this and licensing for higher risk CFD/spread betting products is that this section covers those regulated by the FCA; anything covered by gambling regulators is probably better considered in licensing. This section does include regulatory fintech work, if it is possible to provide a coherent definition of “fintech”, but please also note the “crypto and blockchain assets” section.

Change: This section has been renamed for the benefit of readers looking for barristers for fintech work. This is not a substantive change to the definition of the practice area.

Fraud: civil: This covers the full gamut of commercial disputes, generally of the sort that would fit in to “commercial litigation”

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otherwise, in which fraud is alleged.

Fraud: crime: Work taken into account in this Fraud: crime section concerns criminal prosecutions of Ponzi schemes, land-banking scams, VAT frauds, confidence frauds, and boiler rooms, among others. It does **not** cover regulatory investigations or business crime, such as interest rate manipulation, bribery, and trade union law offences; please see Business and regulatory crime for coverage of those specialisms. POCA and asset forfeiture expertise is also ranked separately, as is violent crime, which is covered in the Crime: general section. That said, many barristers have practices that do not neatly fit within these boxes and so may be ranked in more than one practice area. Civil fraud is also covered separately.

Group litigation: This section covers group litigation order cases and representative actions; in other words work that would be referred to as “class actions” in a number of foreign jurisdictions. As this is a relatively new section we are not being highly prescriptive at this stage, but work that is primarily about the mechanics of bringing cases on a collective basis, including relevant jurisdictional issues, is particularly prized.

Health and safety: This section covers criminal health and safety prosecutions in the criminal courts, whether prosecuted by the HSE, local authorities or the CPS. Inquests and inquiries are covered separately, as are various the potential civil claims arising from the underlying facts of a criminal health and safety prosecution. Please bear in mind that this is not just focused on the Health and Safety at Work Act, but also includes criminal matters concerning safety of food products and other consumer goods.

Change: Some degree of clarification of scope, given the sunset of the consumer section.

Immigration (renamed): This section includes the full range of interaction with the British borders and citizenship system, for the Home Office and claimants from all walks of life (from refugees and asylum seekers whose representation is funded by legal aid through to HNWIs paying independently). Not only does it include assessing refugee claims and applications for visas and

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British nationality, but matters concerning immigration detention (including conditions in it and bail from it) and migrants' access to the British welfare state and public services. It also includes the full range of business immigration work, including sponsor licensing regulation.

Change: The words "including business immigration" have been removed for brevity, but this does not change the scope of the section in any way.

Inquests and inquiries: This section includes work concerning statutory and similar inquiries and the representation of parties at inquests, as well as judicial reviews of inquests and inquiries. What it does not include, however, is other matters such as clinical negligence claims which run in parallel to inquests but are not themselves germane to this section.

Insolvency: This section covers the full spectrum of personal and business insolvency work.

Insurance and reinsurance: This section covers litigation which concerns insurance policies as insurance policies - coverage disputes, for instance - as well as disputes concerning re-insurance. What is not relevant in this section is other areas of work - professional negligence or personal injury for instance - where the insurance is not the substantive issue in dispute, but the activity of a party or part of a party's funding arrangements.

Intellectual property: All work of the Bar concerning copyright, trade marks, and patents (including standard essential patents), as well as the full gamut of more exotic forms of IP including plant breeding rights and similar are covered here. Cases concerning purely editorial content can also be relevant to "media and entertainment"; barristers who submit for both are encouraged to send in distinctive submissions for each if possible.

Change: Added clarity about the crossover between media and entertainment, and clarification that standard essential patent litigation is relevant to this section, not the newly renamed "IT and telecoms: projects and services"

International arbitration: arbitrators: Full-time arbitrators and

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those who also practice as counsel are listed in separate tables. There are fine arbitrators in both groups, however issues of availability and potential conflicts of interest could, however, be of greater relevance for those who also act as counsel. In this section only, those not qualified as English barristers but are connected to chambers are welcome to participate.

International arbitration: counsel: This section covers counsel in international arbitrations, across the full spectrum of the arena. It includes work that would also be covered as shipping and similar, but is not a duplicate of these rankings and counsel seeking to be ranked here should demonstrate their identity as arbitration practitioners. Sports governance and regulatory arbitration, however, is not included.

Looking for “International crime and extradition”? Please see “extradition” and “international human rights and international criminal law”.

International human rights and criminal law (new): The criminal prong of this section includes work before international criminal tribunals and the application of these expertise in universal jurisdiction cases, as well as English crown court cases concerning International Criminal Court Act offences. Not included are more general criminal cases before the English courts, even if they involved cross-border investigations, or criminal appeals from other jurisdictions to the Privy Council within the ambit of the general crime section. The international human rights prong includes all manners of international and supranational court cases touching on human rights issues, although cases against the United Kingdom in the European Court of Human Rights should be submitted as “administrative law and human rights”, which is also a natural home for JCPC cases from the Caribbean touching on human rights issues alongside “The English Bar Offshore”. The two elements of this area are straddled by cases in which international bodies are being asked to find violations of international criminal law through the enforcement of other treaties (e.g. the Gambia v Myanmar and Ukraine v Russia cases).

Change: This is a new section, drawing from the previous “international crime and extradition”, “public international law” and “administrative law and human rights” tables.

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IT and telecoms: projects and services (renamed): This section covers disputes primarily concerning IT outsourcing and projects of a type in which there will be a heavy degree of cross-over with construction and outsourcing-related work. Telecoms regulation is covered separately, noting that Telecoms Code work concerning land law and physical telecoms infrastructure is considered regulatory. Work which concerns standard essential patents should be submitted for “intellectual property”.

Change: This section has been renamed for clarity.

Licensing: This section includes the full range of licensing activity, mostly governed by local authorities. Most of this will concern the hospitality trade, including alcohol sales, late-night refreshment, sexual entertainment venues, casinos and similar, but it also includes taxi licensing.

Change: The definition has been rewritten to focus more on the work that is included, but we do not envisage any actual shift in content in this section.

Looking for “Local government (including rating law)”? See “Valuation and rating”.

Media and entertainment (excluding defamation): This section covers disputes in the media and cultural sphere, including disputes over authorship, finance, copyright and broadcast regulatory matters (such as compliance with the Ofcom broadcasting code). Defamation work is outside this section, and should be submitted for “defamation and privacy”. This section includes the full range of cultural matters, except for the art market, which is now in a fully separate “art and cultural property” section. Intellectual property matters sitting squarely within the arts and culture space are within the scope of this section, however this section will not duplicate the intellectual property rankings by including more general trade mark and copyright work that does not concern substantive creative issues.

Change: Specific clarification added regarding the overlap between intellectual property and this area.

Looking for the mediators section? While open to both solicitors and barristers, the mediators section comes under the solicitors

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taxonomy and runs to that deadline. Full details are available on the solicitors page.

Partnership: This section covers both contentious and non-contentious matters. This ranking will be focused on partnership practitioners advising on the mechanics of partnerships, as opposed to employment-focused lawyers who also handle some partnership work. Key areas of focus include work relating to partner investigations and allegations of wrongdoing, partner and team moves and work around restrictive covenants, and advice to clients reviewing their partnership constitutions, including disputes resolved via arbitration.

Pensions: The Pensions section covers all manner of pension-related disputes typical for the practice area; typical work in this section includes Environmental, Social, and Government (ESG), Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation, and Master Trusts issues. Court work is a focus of this section, but it will also include some advisory matters as well. It does not include matters of fraud, or criminal matters brought forward in light of the new Pensions Schemes Act 2021; these are instead included within the Fraud and Business and Regulatory crime sections of the guide.

Personal injury (renamed): This section covers the gamut of personal injury work, including industrial disease, international cases (including those who focus on those areas of work, some of who may not necessarily describe themselves as personal injury barristers) and matters where fraud is alleged. Like several other areas covered, this section is a broad area and the editorial and testimonials will endeavour to reflect this.

Change: The scope of this section has not changed from last year, but the lengthy name has been simplified.

Planning: The planning section includes work for all stakeholders in this space. It includes work concerning both infrastructure projects (airports for instance) and large residential developments, as well as smaller disputes of the variety that can often be of particular importance to individual private clients.

Police law: claimant: This section covers the full gamut of civil litigation against law enforcement bodies for victims of crime,

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suspects, offenders and the broader public. Work for constables against forces should still be submitted in “police law (forces and constables)”. Law enforcement bodies as mentioned earlier generally means the police, but would also include, among others, the National Crime Agency and HMRC.

Police law: forces and constables: This section focusses on work for law enforcement bodies and officers in areas including the defence of civil claims and disciplinary matters - in the latter, it includes representation of forces and officers of all ranks. Some weight will also be given to representation of forces and officers in personal injury and employment tribunal claims in the policing context.

Private wealth and probate (*renamed, with changes to scope*):

In a change for this edition of the guide, in order to reduce duplication this section focusses on work in the English courts rather than trusts work carried out Offshore - please submit this for The English Bar Offshore later in the year, which will have its submission information posted in the submission guidelines for The Legal 500 Caribbean and will feature more granular practice areas. This section will now focus on UK courts work concerning trusts, as well as contentious probate, and Court of Protection matters concerning financial affairs.

Change: This section has been refocused to primarily concentrate on work in the English courts. Work Offshore continues to be of great interest to The Legal 500, and will be featured in expanded coverage of The English Bar Offshore, which is researched alongside the Caribbean guide later in the year.

Proceeds of crime (POCA) and asset forfeiture: This section has a particular focus on individual lawyers who specialise in post-conviction litigation. In addition, it includes other asset forfeiture proceedings, unexplained wealth orders, and other criminal finances issues. That said, many barristers are likely to have practices that do not neatly fit within these boxes and so may be ranked in more than one practice area.

Product liability: This section covers work concerning liability for defective products, spanning from medication and medical devices through to consumer goods.

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Professional disciplinary and regulatory law: This section covers all types of professional disciplinary work, including in the medical, veterinary, audit, teaching and the full range of professions supervised by an independent regulator. Work for both regulators and the regulated is covered. Advice to solicitors on fee arrangements is best covered in costs. Please do not submit financial services regulation or police law cases in this section, they should be considered for financial services regulation or police law: forces and constables.

Professional negligence: This section covers all types of professional negligence work, including in the construction, legal, financial, pensions, veterinary and tax contexts. The rankings include both claimant and defendant work. Clinical negligence and professional disciplinary work are covered separately.

Property litigation: This section covers the full range of property-related disputes, **excluding social housing**, ranging from landlord-tenant (1954 Act) disputes, to real property work, including easements, restrictive covenants, transactional disputes, rights to light, right of way, and development issues. Other notable legislation includes Land Registration Act 2002, 1989 Laws of Property Act, Trusts of Land Act 1996. Ranked barristers in this section are regularly trusted in major precedent-setting or high value cases and display a clear specialism in several areas of property law. Social housing - a section for work concerning the social rented sector - is covered separately, but for the avoidance of doubt the full range of work in the private rented sector should be considered here, including rent repayment orders. The size of the section should be seen as a continued vote of confidence in the wealth of talent at the self-employed Bar, but this should not detract from the fact it is a highly competitive section, in which inclusion is highly selective even by the standards of The Legal 500.

Public international law: Public international law covers a wide variety of disciplines, but for the purpose of this section, the rankings are primarily identifying those barristers with a strong focus on investment treaty arbitration, state immunity issues and state versus state disputes not focused on human rights issues. That said, those active in state-versus-state disputes in which states are alleging human rights abuses should submit for

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“international crime and human rights”, as should those handling supranational human rights court work.

Change: Some degree of change has been made to the scope of this section as international human rights law specialists are encouraged to submit for the “International crime and human rights” section. It is envisaged that this section will continue to have a firm focus on investor-state work.

Public procurement: Public procurement work includes the full range of matters concerning the procurement of goods and services by local, devolved and national governments.

Rating and valuation (*renamed*): This section covers disputes around business rates and compulsory purchase valuations.

Change: This section has been renamed from “Local government (including rating law)” and its scope narrowed. Work concerning local democracy should now be submitted in “administrative law and human rights”.

Sanctions (*new*): This section covers behind-the-scenes advice on compliance with sanctions, challenges to designations on the sanctions list, and commercial disputes turning on sanctions issues. Criminal jury trials concerning sanctions offences should be submitted as “business and regulatory crime”.

Change: This is a new section.

Shipping: Work covered by this section includes claims concerning collisions, damage, loss and cargo, charterparty and bills of lading disputes, as well as shipbuilding, and ship sale and purchase. Shipping finance disputes are covered owing to the specialist nature of the shipping industry. Work will include matters related to casualties, ship arrests, sanctions and insurance claims, with lay clients including shipping companies and P&I clubs.

Social housing: Work in this section includes possession claims, anti-social behaviour matters, housing allocation and disrepair claims and similar, specifically within the social housing sector. Work elsewhere in the housing market - including rent repayment orders, and the full range of landlord and tenant matters in the

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private rented sector - is a part of the property litigation section.

Sport: This section covers a broad range of work concerning sport at the professional/elite level, including regulatory, disciplinary, anti-doping, governance and safeguarding matters, as well as commercial disputes firmly embedded in the context of elite sport. Personal injury matters involving recreational sport are not covered in this section, but cases involving professional athletes will be considered to the extent that there are specific issues of liability and quantum in that context. Without committing ourselves to follow their decisions exactly, most sports would be likely to fall under the established systems of governance and doping control, and note that we include sports involving animals such as horse and greyhound racing, and elite level e-sports (as distinct from video games as entertainment products, or most streamers on platforms like Twitch). Matters concerning hunting and field sports (as distinct from, for instance, British Shooting's events) are better considered as agriculture and estates, and injuries inflicted by race horses are better suited to personal injury (unless the victim is a professional jockey).

Change: Some degree of clarification added regarding injuries caused by race horses.

Tax: corporate: This section concerns the full range of contentious tax matters outside the private client and VAT/excise context for both taxpayers and HMRC. Corporation tax matters will constitute a large proportion of work in this space. This section will involve a degree of public law expertise, including relevant judicial reviews, but submissions should not be based on public law cases with secondary connections to tax.

Tax: personal: This section covers advice to individuals and families on the UK's system of personal taxation. It is anticipated that a lot of this work will be advisory rather than contentious matters that reach trial, although work that involves fully-formed litigation against HMRC is most welcome. Tax advice and representation in the context of family litigation should be submitted in this section.

Tax: VAT and excise: This section covers the representation of HMRC and taxpayers in disputes concerning the VAT, excise duties

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and customs duties. Tax tribunal cases in which HMRC alleges MTIC fraud may be submitted here, but in other fora this work is considered to be criminal or civil fraud and should be submitted in the relevant area.

Change: This definition has been modified to explicitly include customs duty work, but this change does not affect its operation for VAT practitioners.

Telecoms regulation: This section primarily concerns the regulation of telecommunications services, which includes telecommunications code matters concerning the physical siting of infrastructure governed by the Telecommunications Code

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Practice area list and definitions – Regional (England and Wales circuits)

If you have further questions on these practice area guidelines, please contact Will Tolcher.

Please note that, in the case of the Welsh circuit, an additional degree of flexibility on the geography of work highlights will be given to practitioners based outside Wales who can demonstrate advocacy work in the Welsh language.

Administrative law and human rights: This section covers the same work as in London in this area, and other public law specialisms not specifically covered, including European Union law.

Agriculture: Same definition as in London.

Business and regulatory crime (including health and safety): This section takes a broader definition of “business and regulatory crime” than the London coverage, and also includes work that would be categorised in London as “health and safety”.

Chancery, probate, and tax: This section covers all tax work, as well as work that would be considered in London as “private client: trusts and probate”.

Clinical negligence: This includes all work that would be considered in this section in London, plus product liability work that concerns medical products.

Commercial litigation: A broader definition on this work is taken on circuit, including anything that could more broadly be defined as a commercial dispute that does not fit in to one of the specific other circuit-by-circuit practice areas, such as civil fraud, banking litigation, competition law and international arbitration.

Company and insolvency: This includes matters considered as “company” or “insolvency” in the London definitions.

Costs and litigation funding (renamed): Same definition as in London.

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Change: This section has been renamed.

Court of Protection and community care: This section includes all work concerning community care and the court of protection, including both health and welfare and property and affairs work.

Crime (general and fraud): This section includes work that fits the London taxonomy as “crime: general”, “fraud: crime”, “extradition”, “Proceeds of crime (POCA)” and other criminal areas in London.

Education: Same definition as in London.

Employment: Same definition as in London.

Family: children and domestic abuse (renamed): Same definition as in London, with the addition of work as arbitrator concerning children.

Change: practice area name changed from “family: children and domestic violence” to match London and current terminology.

Family: divorce and financial remedy: Same definition as in London, with the addition of work as arbitrator, mediator or private FDR judge concerning financial remedies.

The Legal 500 Green Guide includes the Bar, including chambers outside London - submission guidelines for this will be released in parallel with the main Green Guide guidelines.

Immigration: Same definition as in London.

Inquests and inquiries: Same definition as in London.

Intellectual property: Same definition as in London.

IT, telecoms and data protection: This includes all work considered in London as “IT and Telecoms” or “data protection”.

Licensing: Same definition as in London.

Media, entertainment and defamation: This includes all work considered in London as “media and entertainment” or

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“defamation and privacy”.

Personal injury: Same definition as in London.

Planning (*renamed*): This covers work that in London would be characterized as “planning”.

Change: “environment” has been removed from the name, mirroring London practice area changes.

Professional disciplinary law: Same definition as in London, with the addition of police discipline law.

Professional negligence: Same definition as in London.

Property and construction: This covers work that in London would be characterized as “property litigation” or “construction”.

Social housing: Same definition as in London.

Sport: Same definition as in London.

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Scottish Bar

We are aware of the fact that Scottish Advocates come to the Bar after training with solicitors' practices, and in most cases after practice as a solicitor. The standard definition of Rising Stars in The Legal 500's Bar coverage applies in Scotland, that is to say treating the first year of admission in any jurisdiction and of any type as year of call in determining who is under eight years of call. Therefore, while there are likely to be fewer Rising Stars in our coverage of Scottish Advocates, we are keen to see submissions from advocates as soon as they finish devilling.

Commercial disputes: This section includes commercial disputes in the broadest sense of the term. This would include all manner of commercial litigation, including intellectual property, technology, shipping, media law and other matters, commercial Chancery work, professional negligence, international arbitration, competition law and much more.

Crime, regulatory and inquiries (renamed): This section includes the full range of criminal and quasi-criminal work. This includes everything from both violent and white-collar criminal law work, health and safety offenses and criminal fraud, as well as professional regulation and contentious financial services regulation. It also includes work concerning inquiries, such as fatal accident inquiries.

Change: inquiries work is now explicitly part of this section

Employment: This section includes the full range of employment work for employers, trade unions and individual employees. The top advocates will be involved in heavyweight appeals, alongside Employment Tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal work, with typical cases concern unfair dismissal, sexual harassment, workplace discrimination, injunctions related to individual and team moves, whistle-blowing matters, and the enforcement of restrictive covenants, internal investigation and worker status, with the application of data protection law to the workplace a notable emerging area and disputes over pay, bonuses, and the National Minimum Wage also germane.

Family and private client: This includes the full range of family law, both financial remedy and child law, matters concerning

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the Public Guardian (the sort of work that in England would be considered Court of Protection), trusts matters, confirmation disputes (work along the lines of what would be referred to as “contentious probate” in England and Wales) and similar.

Medical negligence and personal injury: In this section, we are looking for practices demonstrating ability in the most high-value cases (including brain injury, birth injury, wrongful birth claims, paralysis, failure or delay in diagnosis of medical conditions, fatal claims). Unlike in England and Wales, product liability cases concerning drugs and medical devices, or any other product which is alleged to have caused physical injuries to its users, is best categorized in this area. Counsel practicing in both areas may wish to include more than the typical five highlights; de-merging medical negligence from personal injury work is something we may consider in future.

Property, construction and planning: This section covers all manner of work concerning the use of land, from the planning process through building to the full spectrum of disputes around the use of buildings. Work concerning agricultural land should be included here.

Public law: This section includes a very broad range of work involving the relationship between individuals and elements of the state. A deliberately broader scope in this area is taken than in England and Wales - notably, those in tax, immigration, social housing, public international law, EU law, professional regulation and civil actions against the police to name but a few would be included here, on top of the full range of work for local, devolved and Westminster government. Planning, however, is covered in “property, construction and planning”.