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Commercial
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Supplier

RM6240 Public Sector Legal Services

Lot 1a and Lot 2a

Brabners LLP

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Brabners
we make the difference

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The use of information provided throughout is not commercially sensitive, and where it is not a matter of public record then appropriate permission has been sought for inclusion.



Introduction

Brabners is an independent law firm which helps private, public and third sector organisations achieve their goals.

We are dedicated to making the difference for our clients. As a full-service law firm, we deliver a seamless legal service across our teams. Whether supporting routine legal needs or complex, business critical projects – we are here for our clients when it matters most.

With almost 400 colleagues, including over 230 legal specialists, we advise clients throughout England and Wales from our offices in Liverpool, Manchester, Lancashire and Leeds.

Practicing law since 1815, we have developed a unique culture that has made us commercially successful and has helped us adapt to change and move with the times to meet client needs.

We are experts at what we do, and with our expertise and experience we help people and businesses at every stage of their journey.





What you can expect from us

Our aim is to always provide advice which aligns with our clients' strategy, vision, and values.

As a business, and particularly through these uncertain times, we have a determination to stand true to our core values of being ambitious, showing we care, doing what's right and standing together.

What makes us different

Our mission to make the difference guides everything we do, pushing us to go the extra mile for our clients and empowering our people to do what they do best. We believe business should bring about positive change.

 <p>Be Ambitious</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We listen and pay attention.• We find a way, always.• We question and challenge.• We lead with confidence.	 <p>Show you Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We take care of our people and our environment.• We reward quality and intelligent effort.• We respect, encourage and empower others.• We protect what matters most.
 <p>Do what's Right</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are experts who deliver outstanding work.• We keep our promises and communicate to earn trust.• We move at pace and actively engage.• We are about the long term.	 <p>Stand Together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We value difference. It is a strength.• We collaborate to deliver, to innovate.• We celebrate successes and learn from failures.• We have one purpose and speak with one voice.

People: We consider that having the right people is the key to a high quality service. Our Partner-led approach enables us to provide a more cost effective service than our competitors because senior experienced specialists get to the heart of the matter quicker and find solutions faster.

Experience: In providing the right people, this covers not only their previous experience and technical ability, but also the type of people that will buy into building relationships with your team. Our CCS team has a wealth of relevant experience, and the culture of our firm means that relationships are valued above all else.

Working in partnership: We will in the first instance always work with your team to identify areas of work that can be done in-house and up-skill your team accordingly.

Loyalty and Continuity: We consider it important that the same people provide our legal service to you over a period of time. This will ensure that knowledge will be built-up following repeated instructions which will benefit you both in the relationships that will develop over time but also from the potential efficiencies in working practices resulting from the same people carrying out similar work.

Team Structure



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Social Value

Our mission is to make the difference to our people, clients and the community. We take all obligations towards Social Value seriously - recording, measuring and accounting for our actions (even though The Public Services Act only applies to public bodies).

We are committed to supporting and growing the communities within which we operate, our people's lives and beyond. The Social Value we deliver to our clients' communities and organisations goes further than our appointment as a Law Firm. We care about our communities and Social Value is embedded into our business.

Achieving Social Value Through Enhanced Social Mobility - From 2018-2021, 27 trainees have been recruited. 46% of the offered trainee candidates were first generation to go to university and 70% of offered candidates attended a UK state school.

We also support around 50 work experience placements per year and operate successful Apprenticeship Schemes with Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, The Apprentice Academy, Manchester College and a registered social mobility charity called "Leadership Through Sport & Business", specifically targeting apprentices from under privileged backgrounds. Students from an 'underrepresented background' are supported through our mentoring via the Sutton Trust's Pathways to Law scheme.

Taking Care of the Environment - On Earth Day 2021, we were proud to join the climate change awareness raising organisation 'Business Declares a Climate Emergency' and the United Nations Race to Zero campaign.

Community Work - Volunteering is encouraged and we provide two paid days per year for all colleagues. Recent examples of the Social Value we have delivered, benefiting the people and communities in which we operate, include:

- Providing volunteers to support neighbourhood improvement activities. For example, we supported Emmaus Merseyside in the charity's Participation Garden.
- Holding joint seminars with a client's charity partnership CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably), to help promote their services and raise their profile.
- Supporting Housing clients at their tenant forums and presenting on legal topics at tenant conferences and consultation meetings.

Brabners Foundation



In 2019 we established the Brabners Foundation, an independent grant-making charity. It enables us to channel the energy of our public-spirited people and clients towards improving our communities.

Over the past 10 years we have raised over a quarter of a million pounds for charities including Macmillan Cancer Support, Help for Heroes, Crisis and Mind. The Brabners Foundation provides grants to causes that are important to our people and clients.

Tackling Inequality and Improving Diversity - As a firm, we believe that when it comes to equality, diversity and inclusion the legal profession has progressed more slowly in this area than other professions. To address this issue, in 2018 we created the Together Action Group (TAG) to promote EDI internally within our firm, externally within the profession, and generally to help make our society a more equal place. Our TAG groups, which include BAME, Gender Diversity, LGBT+, Physical & Mental Health and Social Mobility, plan activities to tackle inequality and improve diversity of under-represented groups.

Some of the actions and initiatives we have taken include raising awareness; adapting our working conditions to promote an inclusive environment; paying a 'Real Living Wage'; supporting people with physical, mental and hidden disabilities; promotion of flexible working, work life balance and allocation of paid wellbeing time. We have also delivered training on unconscious bias and mental health destigmatisation and training staff to become Mental Health First Aiders.

As a firm, we have an ongoing commitment to the firm's gender diversity goals which are 50:50 and are working towards a diversity target of 20% BAME employees by 2025 with an emphasis on supporting young black males.

We recognise urgent action is needed to address the global climate emergency and our Sustainability Environmental Green Group implement initiatives that make our firm more sustainable in order to protect our planet for the benefit of future generations. We have entered a partnership with Kingsdale Head, a 600 hectare farm, and Yorkshire Peat Partnership.

Through this, we aim to restore over 400 hectares of peatland at Kingsdale Head, which is expected to prevent the loss of at least 450 tonnes of carbon to the atmosphere every year. Initially, we invested £50,000, unlocking £550,000 in grant funding for the restoration work.



Lot 1 – Mandatory Specialisms

Administrative and Public Law

Our procurement team includes several experts who were formerly in-house at large contracting authorities and who have experience of providing advice on the application of local government law and related regulation to the relevant authority.

Our Litigation and Regulatory Team advises on all manner of conflicts, including inquiries, judicial review and professional disciplinary proceedings. We use our expertise to help clients resolve costly disputes as quickly and efficiently as possible. We advise at any stage in a dispute, and often get involved early on to formulate the way in which the claim/response is asserted and to advise on evidence gathering and investigation. We advise on all forms of dispute resolution including the 'out of Court' options such as mediation, arbitration and joint settlement discussions.

We assist clients at every stage of the Public Inquiry process, including advising on preservation of evidence likely to be required at a future Inquiry, contributing to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, securing Core Participant status, legal expenses funding, preparation of witness statements, giving evidence in person or making written submissions, responding to enquiries raised by the Inquiry Panel, managing reputational issues and, finally, implementing any necessary recommendations.

Our Public Inquiry lawyers have represented organisations and individuals throughout the most significant Public Inquiries of recent decades.

Case Studies

- Advised a large contracting authority on their power to trade in respect of a proposed revenue raising activity.
- We acted as Solicitor to the Anthony Grainger Inquiry following the fatal shooting of Anthony Grainger by an armed Greater Manchester Police officer in Culcheth, Cheshire, in March 2012.
- We have also been instructed in the Paterson Inquiry, the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related deaths, the Penrose Inquiry, the Francis Inquiry, the Redfern Inquiry and the Shipman Inquiry.
- We represent the College of Paramedics in the COVID-19 Inquiry for Scotland, we are also acting for Harley Facades Ltd, the cladding contractor involved in the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower.

Non-Complex Finance and Investment

Our specialist banking solicitors handle a wide range of banking and finance matters, including acquisition finance, development finance, real estate finance, bridging and mezzanine finance as well as general secured lending. We have extensive experience of acting for both lenders and borrowers in drafting and negotiating facility, security and other funding documents in multi-million pound transactions. We specialise in facility agreements, security documentation, title reports, and intercreditor and priority deeds.

We act for debt and equity investment institutions as well as for companies and associations seeking funding and are on the panels of most of the national clearing banks and a wide variety of other banks and building societies.

We typically advise borrowers on the terms of lending and security documents and negotiate amendments to such documents. In addition, our in-house deal advisory team (comprising chartered accountants specialising in corporate finance and lead advisory work) are able to assist borrowers in negotiating the outline financial terms offered by lenders.

As a firm, we are experienced in handling transactions involving funding from regional development agencies, and we act for clients which are funded by regional development agencies.

The aim of our banking team is to work closely with our clients in order to develop a real understanding of their priorities and concerns and to provide focussed and commercial advice.

Case Studies

- Currently advising a national clearing bank on the provision of multi-million pound facilities to a borrower for the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of two target companies.
- Advising a borrower client on the refinance of its investment portfolio of more than 200 properties to a new national clearing bank.
- Advising a borrower client on the entry into a joint venture for the acquisition and development of a mixed use residential development project in Leeds, including the financing for such joint venture.
- Advising multiple bridging lenders on provision of short term asset backed loan facilities to borrowers.
- Advised a large contracting authority on their power to trade in respect of a proposed revenue raising activity.

Contracts

We ensure contracts are tailored to meet commercial objectives and protect interests. Getting commercial agreements right is key to clarifying what rights and responsibilities are in a relationship with third parties, whether suppliers or partners in a project or venture. Contracts should help achieve objectives, and in particular offer protection from costly and distracting disputes.

We provide support in reviewing, drafting and negotiating the following: including supply and purchase contracts, supply of services agreements NDAs/confidentiality agreements, service level agreements, collaboration and joint venture/shared service agreements, grant agreements, outsourcing and similar agreements, concession contracts, agency arrangements, distribution contracts, IT agreements (software development and licensing, maintenance and support, software as a service contracts, hardware provision, hosting, ERP agreements), licensing agreements, manufacturing and logistics agreements, framework agreements and call-off contracts website terms, privacy policies, cookies policies data processing agreements, data sharing agreements and other project specific terms.

We are familiar with multiple types of T&Cs issued by central and local government, including the Cabinet Office Model Services Contract.

We can advise from Heads of Terms/Memorandum of Understanding stage, through to the drafting and agreement of the agreement in question, as well as advising and drafting on variations, extensions and any related change control documents. We can also help to provide context, with our knowledge of the legislative framework sitting behind the agreements.

Case Studies

- Drafting the framework and multiple call-off contracts for use by a contracting authority for a large project.
- Advising a contracting authority on the variation and extension of their IT services contract, which included the provision of commercial, contractual and public procurement law advice at the same time as preparing the contractual documents.
- Advising a large council contracting authority on, and adapting drafting and expanding on the various PFI related standard form documents involved in the academy conversion of a BSF PFI school.
- Advising a large scale property client on their risks and obligations under a bulk heat purchase and supply agreement – which involved a suite of documentation provided by the supplier.

Competition Law

Competition law is complex with the onus very much upon businesses to self-assess business practices and agreements comply with competition law. Our clients often need our help to guide them through the intricate economic and legal considerations and we help our clients to identify the potential risks, advising our clients how best to minimise and avoid them within the relevant regulatory framework.

Our litigation team have handled dawn raids and investigations by the European Commission as well as proceedings before the Court of First Instance and European Court of Justice. We advise on complaints to and investigations by the OFT, OFGEN, and ORR as well as providing competition compliance programmes.

Increasingly, we are also helping our client's challenge alleged anti-competitive practices and decisions of their suppliers, customers and competitors to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.

Case Studies

- Selective Distribution Agreements and Criteria for Clogau Gold (Welsh gold producer, jeweller and retailer) and Aesthetic Technology (beauty sector, technology devices).
- Advising international business on their UK practice and compliance including competition law guidance.
- We advised on competition and procurement issues for Commonwealth Games Federation.
- Advising on competition aspects of exclusivity arrangements, restrictive covenants, active and passive sales, price fixing and other abuses, information and price sharing, cartel concerns, refusal to supply, tying and bundling issues and restraint of trade.
- Advising on whether agreements qualify for and comply with horizontal and vertical block exemption regulations.
- Experience in CMA investigations.

Corporate Law

Our corporate team advise on mergers and acquisitions, private equity, senior and mezzanine debt, additional forms of funding, governance, group reorganisations, complex corporate, commercial or funding structures and joint venture and shareholder arrangements. Our specialist banking team handles a wide range of banking and finance matters, working with a range of businesses including banks, alternative and secondary lenders, debt funds and private equity investors.

We provide company secretarial services to a number of clients on a fixed fee basis. In addition to our lawyers, we have a team of deal advisory experts who advise on the corporate finance aspects of any transaction, giving insight into market trends and providing a holistic approach.

We are experts at what we do, completing some 70 transactions a year. We provide corporate expertise with the benefits of a regional cost base – delivering true value.

Our corporate team consists of 41 fee earners, including 17 partners, we provide the specialist resource you needed. Our reputation as an acquisitive corporate team has supported our continued investment in our team, growing circa 10% year on year, and will continue to bring in talented corporate lawyers.

Case Studies

- English Law joint venture involving various private company groups, investors and a publicly owned entity

for an overseas regional railway system (concerning ticketing, stewarding, rolling stock maintenance etc).

- We acted for Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in relation to its investment into the Resonance Homelessness Property Fund 2 LP. The project involved advising the authority on its investment into a feeder unit trust, which was inrun funnelled into an investment in a limited partnership fund vehicle. Our work included advising the authority on the constitutional aspects of both the unit trust and limited partnership.
- We acted for Cityrise Interchange Homes LLP in relation to the establishment of a limited liability partnership joint venture entered into with Stockport Brough Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The joint venture was established to carry out the Stockport Interchange mix-use development. We incorporated the LLP joint venture vehicle and prepared and negotiated the terms of the LLP agreement. We also advised the LLP itself on various funding streams to complete the development, including equity funding provided under the LLP agreement, debt funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and grant funding from both Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Stockport Brough Council.

Data Protection and Information Law

We advise on all aspects of data protection and information law including GDPR, privacy, security, crisis management, compliance, data sharing/processing agreements, international data transfers, confidentiality, online privacy and cookie policies. Our advice is commercial, pragmatic and innovative and is delivered in a way that is practical for the relevant sector and business.

We can draft appropriate internal and external policies, notices and procedures which consider how and why client's collect and use personal data and ensure the appropriate legal bases are adopted.

We offer data audits, to identify relevant legal issues and give recommendations for how to refine data handling techniques alongside providing advice and support on handling complaints and investigations relating to data protection, cyber security, data subject rights, subject access requests (DSARs) and handling and dealing with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

We assist clients to collect personal data correctly and transparently, and to tailor appropriate clauses within commercial agreements relating to the processing and sharing of personal data.

Case Studies

- Advising one of our clients in relation to a large Data Protection issue resulting from a security attack involving a US service provider and the NHS.
- Advising on the impact of Brexit on data transfers to and from the UK, as well as the impact of the recent CJEU decision (Schrems II) which invalidated the EU-US Privacy Shield and which has implications for the use of standard contractual clauses for international data transfers.
- Advising businesses on international data transfers and the contracts and safeguards required to lawfully transfer data outside the EEA, including national businesses trading overseas and multi-national organisations managing intra-group transfers.
- Advising a not for profit organisation on its data protection and data security policies, including advising on minimum requirements and best practice – taking into consideration the International Standard for Information Security 27001 – preparing minimum requirement and best practice Data Protection and Data Security policies and preparing contractual provisions in agreements with third parties involving data processing (including where processing takes place outside EEA).

Employment

With vast experience, genuine strength and depth of resource, our employment team works collaboratively with HR teams and senior decision makers to deliver effective, tailored solutions to employee related issues.

We deal with the people aspects of projects, including outsourcing, reorganisations, TUPE and collective recognition issues. We support effective employee management reducing the likelihood of disruptive employment disputes through advising and supporting managers through difficult conversations, internal procedures and drafting effective contractual documentation. When disputes are unavoidable, we work with our clients to identify their objectives and tailor our approach to achieve the identified best outcome.

Case Studies

- Supporting a contracting authority with collective negotiations in respect of flexible and remote working arrangements, including working with the senior leadership team to design arrangements that would ensure uninterrupted service delivery and which formed the basis of consultation and then negotiation with regards to organisational change and amended terms and conditions of employment.

- Assisting and advising a contracting authority in relation to the second generation outsourcing arrangements including advising on the first generation outsourcing arrangement, secondment arrangements and the potential TUPE transfer of circa 170 employees who were not engaged directly at the point of transfer. Providing strategic advice to minimise the potential risk of a dispute with the recognised union on awarding the second generation contract. Included working with our pensions colleagues to deal with an immediate unreduced pension strain payment from LGPS avoiding significant financial liability and reputational damage.
- Representing a contracting authority in respect of a whistleblowing claim, including successfully defending an interim relief application.
- Providing support on complex employment and immigration issues to a contracting authority's HR team and senior decision makers including whistleblowing, safeguarding, equality, discrimination issues and senior exits.

Information Technology

Information and communications technology continue to develop at a remarkable pace and increasingly lie at the heart of successful and innovative businesses. We help clients keep up with developments in this fast-paced market, ensuring technology suppliers have robust documentation in place and assisting other businesses, investing in technology, to ensure that the technology achieves the desired outcome and that appropriate recourse is available if it does not.

Our IT team are experts in what they do and is made up of experienced commercial lawyers who have a successful track record in getting the job done.

We provide support on an array of IT matters including software licensing, development, maintenance and hosting agreements, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Software as a Service (SaaS) arrangements and our contentious team regularly provide support when disputes arise. Distributed ledger technologies, smart contracts and digital assets have much to offer but must be explored with caution given the current regulatory environment and our team can advise in relation to such arrangements.

We act for a broad range of clients including those licensing the technology and those taking licenses, ranging from start-ups to globally recognised brands including various entrepreneurial businesses. We are also experienced in acting for organisations in the computer software, financial services, second screen and digital creative design industries.

The types of agreement we have experience in include development, supply, licensing, distribution, support, maintenance and outsourcing arrangements relating to software and hardware, services and network arrangements, service level agreements, and also e-commerce/m-commerce and website related matters (including website development, hosting and operation, as well as terms of use and policies).

Case Studies

- Procurement of and contractual arrangements for IT hardware and software for a charitable international sporting federation; Ascentis; North West Air Ambulance.
- Procurement of and contractual arrangements for IT hosting and related telecommunication services for a charitable international sporting federation; Gas Safety Trust; GISG; sporting foundations.
- Advising sellers, buyers and targets in relation to IT aspects of acquisitions and disposals and sales of IT rich companies, including general acquisition, contractual advice and due diligence. In particular advising Decision Technologies Limited on its acquisition of two IT and telecoms related businesses including Sellmymobile.com.
- Advising a group operating a smart-contract enabled alternative asset secondary trading platform.

Infrastructure

With one of the largest teams in the North West, our Real Estate experts have extensive experience acting on large infrastructure and development projects in the region and nationally.

We advise on a range of developments and regeneration projects which include airports, office, accommodation, hotel, logistics, leisure and transport infrastructure. Our Planning and Environmental experts advise on all aspects of planning including complex planning and infrastructure agreements and environmental impact assessments.

Our high-calibre experts act on high-value, significant schemes, particularly those with complex structures and infrastructure projects. These provide us with a true insight into the challenges faced in development projects and a keen understanding of the needs of stakeholders in the market, ensuring that we are best placed to successfully deliver any project.

Case Studies

- Acting for Oldham Council on the private sector partner appointment and procurement for the regeneration and

redevelopment of the Tommyfield market and wider Oldham Town centre sites.

- Advising the successful bidder through the competitive dialogue, award and live contract for a public/private partnership for the redevelopment of Wigan town centre.
- City Regeneration - Chatham Docks, Kent: The initial phases of this scheme should be delivered within the next 10 years, with a larger second phase being considered to commence around 2026. To date we have advised on the development of an Asda superstore forward-funded by L&G; a University Technical College funded by Central Government; a build-to-rent scheme forward-funded by a major residential investment fund; a residential apartment block for private sale; and roads and infrastructure.
- Acting for multiple developers in relation to the interface with Homes England funding for housing. This includes the review and advice in respect of various Homes England grant agreements and strategic framework agreements and developing the contractual framework for the bringing in of development partners.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property (trade marks, patents, copyright, designs, database rights, domain names, confidential information or know how) is vital to any business. We help to ensure our client's intellectual property meets their business needs and they maximise the value of their intellectual property.

We provide a full contentious and non-contentious IP service including:

- Identification and protection
- Development and exploitation
- Contractual advice on:
*licences • franchises • sales • assignments
joint ventures • sponsorship • partnering agreements.*
- IP audits
- Enforcement of your rights
- Defence against third parties
- IP portfolio strategy and management
- Branding
- Trade mark and design right prosecution:
*application • examination • oppositions • registration
cancellations – invalidation and revocation • appeals •
recordals*
- Registered IP renewals
- Potential new rights

We register and monitor IP rights globally and, where infringements are detected, advise on the necessary action.

General advice is provided in relation to patents and we provide specific advice on the ability to file patents, filing strategy, clearance, enforcement and exploitation. When it comes to filing patent applications we have an understanding of, and can manage, this process and can recommend local, national and international patent attorneys. We are also experienced in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mediation, arbitration and settlement.

Case Studies

- Advising clients on intellectual property matters (such as strategy, trade mark registrations, IP agreements and brand licences, contentious and enforcement matters). Clients include Community Forest Trust, The Mersey Forest, Red Rose Forest, City of Trees, Shaw Trust, PSS, Ascentis, Merchant Taylors, Housing Associations, ADS (Addiction Dependency Solutions), Autism Initiatives, Gas Safety Trust and CORGI.
- Advising Peel Group, Grosvenor Estates and Bolesworth Estate on intellectual property matters.
- Advising a charitable international sporting federation (Commonwealth Games Federation) on its intellectual property and licensing arrangements.
- Advising National Governing Bodies (such as British Canoeing and British Fencing), on trade mark portfolios, brand strategies and IP agreements such as licensing and franchising.

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Our Litigation group has a track record in resolving disputes and delivering strong personal and commercial outcomes.

Our 40 strong litigation team is made up of expert litigators and in-house costs specialists. The team have a solely commercial, rather than insured, client base. The team is not an 'add on' or 'spin off' from an insured-litigation practice.

We have seen ever increasing media coverage due to our highly 'prized' client base and high-profile instructions including Coleen and Wayne Rooney and international cricketer Ben Stokes. We also work on high value and complex litigation for household names such as TJ Morris Limited (t/a Home Bargain) and Peel Ports.

We provide support across a range of issues, including personal, commercial and regulatory disputes, contract disputes and professional negligence cases, shareholder and partnership disputes, debt recovery matters, property damage matters, medical negligence claims, network

claims, health and safety matters, judicial reviews, property litigation and defamation, privacy and data protection cases.

Case Studies

- Acting for Halton Borough Council in relation to 1954 Act possession proceedings to clear a building of a secure tenant prior to redevelopment.
- Wirral Borough Council: Acting in relation to the removal of around 90 secure tenants and other occupiers from Birkenhead market prior to redevelopment, using primarily ground 30(1)(f) s,25 Notices – this is an ongoing instruction.
- Representing Ben Stokes, England international cricketer, and his mother, Deborah Stokes in their invasion of privacy claim against News Group Newspapers Limited.

Partnerships

We have considerable experience in advising on partnership matters, both non-contentious and contentious.

In delivering partnership models, often as part of wider property transactions, we support and advise clients on traditional partnership models under the 1890 Act, Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Partnerships (as well as working on overseas Limited Partnerships such as in the Isle of Man).

We take a commercial approach to the drafting of the 'partnership' agreement to ensure all parties' interests are adequately protected whilst respecting the integrity of the 'deal', and are also experienced in the acquisition of partnerships.

Should a partnership break down, we work with clients to seek remedy through the courts including pursuing damages and account of unlawful profits. We seek urgent injunctive relief to safeguard the partnership's future interests against further breaches.

Case Studies

- Using an Isle of Man limited partnership structure to form a joint venture between a financial institution and a social housing provider to free up the funding required to build the homes that were needed.
- Using an LLP SPV for the acquisition and operation of a business park.

- We acted for Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in relation to its investment into the Resonance Homelessness Property Fund 2 LP. The project involved advising the authority on its investment into a feeder unit trust, which was in turn funnelled into an investment in a limited partnership fund vehicle. Our work including advising the authority on the constitutional aspects of both the unit trust and limited partnership.
- We acted for Cityrise Interchange Homes LLP in relation to the establishment of a limited liability partnership joint venture entered into with Stockport Borough Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. We incorporated the LLP joint venture vehicle and prepared and negotiated the terms of the LLP agreement. We also advised the LLP itself on various funding streams to complete the development, including equity funding provided under the LLP agreement, debt funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and grant funding from both Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Stockport Borough Council.
- We acted for Igloo Regeneration and Igloo Investment Management in relation to the Lancashire Urban Development Fund, where we advised on the Limited Partnership Agreement and the Investment Management Agreement for Igloo Investment Management to manage the Lancashire Urban Development Fund.

Pensions

We advise a mix of pension trustees, private and public sector clients, sponsoring employers and pension providers on the full spectrum of contentious and non-contentious issues such as public and private sector pension schemes, valuation negotiations, corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, benefit change exercises, regulatory compliance, outsourcing, investment issues, buyouts and professional negligence claims.

We act on the pension schemes of a wide range of organisations, including global corporates, such as the Very Group, Panasonic and Toyota, and high profile charities, such as Shaw Trust and the Terrence Higgins Trust. However, we have a particular focus on public sector schemes, advising over 30 housing associations and education organisations and acting for the trustees of a number of trade union pensions schemes, which we can bring to bear when advising Public Sector bodies in order to achieve amicable solutions as quickly as possible.

Case Studies

- Advising on the exercise of discretions relating to the LGPS Regulations 2013. In particular, we have advised

on flexible retirement, the rule of 85 and the early payment of pensions.

- We have assisted Scheme Employers with the preparation of a discretions policy in accordance with legislation.
- Advising the West Sussex County Council Pension Fund on the admission of the Royal Town Planning Institute.
- We also have experience of 'sitting on the other side of the table' by virtue of our appointments to a large number of admitted bodies in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), including advising a number of housing associations on exits from the LGPS.
- We have also advised LGPS investment teams on the regulatory investment framework to local authority investment decisions; the impact of general trust law and fiduciary duties on investment approaches and strategies; reviewing and negotiating investment management agreements; and advising on investment pooling.

Public Procurement

Our procurement lawyers have a wealth of experience providing specialist advice to contracting authorities on all aspects of public procurement law and providing end-to-end support on procurement exercises, including pre-tender advice and support, shaping of the procurement, use of award criteria, preparation of tender documentation and associated contractual documentation. We also advise on issues that arise during the life of the contract such as limits on changes.

We provide contracting authorities with advice as to how best to avoid or deal with procurement challenges, providing responsive and proactive commercial advice. As our team often advise the private sector on challenges, we can offer our clients a unique and fully rounded perspective on matters, gained from the experience of having provided advice on all sides.

We have vast experience in working with local authorities, housing associations and other public sector entities. Many of our team have spent time in-house and know what authorities require.

Case Studies

- Advising a Greater Manchester metropolitan borough council on its town centre redevelopment procurement, being brought on to help shape it from inception.
- Advising and supported a large, contracting authority on its retender of its repairs and maintenance framework, estimated at a value of £1billion.
- Undertaking an analysis of three large upcoming projects for a contracting authority and providing options on how to proceed with the projects while complying with procurement law.
- Advising a contracting authority on their options for procuring a proposed housing development in compliance with procurement law and advising on and drafting appropriate contract provisions to mitigate risk to the registered provider of any alleged breach of the law.
- Undertaking a comprehensive review of a contracting authority's procurement documentation and providing updated documents as well as providing training and guidance notes on how best to use them to get the most out of the process.

Property, Real Estate and Construction

With over 100 experts within our Real Estate Group, our 'full-service' department provides a holistic real estate legal service offering.

Through taking a clear and pragmatic approach, we provide advice on: asset management, property construction (non-contentious and contentious), development, finance, investment and property management, litigation, and tax. We have a clear understanding of public sector governance, our experience covers a range of sectors and industries, from agriculture, banking, construction, housing and regeneration to real estate, retail, automotive, manufacturing and supply chain, healthcare, sport and charities.

Working with funders, Joint Ventures, developers, Local Authorities, public/private partnerships and charities in connection with development finance work. Our understanding of the different attitudes and requirements means that we are used to finding practical and commercial solutions to issues that might otherwise stall a financing transaction.

Case Studies

- Advising an array of Registered Providers (Torus62, Regenda Limited, Cobalt Housing etc.) on their syndicated loan facilities to fund their planned development activity.

- Wirral Borough Council: Acting in relation to the removal of around 90 secure tenants and other occupiers from Birkenhead market prior to redevelopment, using primarily ground 30(1)(f) s.25 Notices – this is an ongoing instruction.
- Lancaster City Council: Advising on the proposed £85m Eden Project North in Morecambe, having been brought in to better structure their deal and ensure a prompt delivery of the project after previous advisers did not meet the client's needs.
- Manchester City Council: Advising on heavily negotiated NEC3 contracts for major leisure and sporting facilities. This included drafting the construction documentation for the new c£12m Belle View Sports Village consisting of the new National Speedway track, two new 3g Sports pitches, a National Basketball Centre and refurbishment of an existing Leisure Centre. Also advising the council in relation to the c£18m Manchester Institute of Health and Performance ("MIHP") partly funded by Manchester City Football Club.
- Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF): Acting for the company across its £400m property investment portfolio in England and Wales and in all sectors, which has included the management of both shopping centres and "out of town" retail parks.

Energy, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Our team works with clients across the UK. The team specialises, and has legal experts, in various fields such as agricultural, development, mining and minerals, renewables and complex title issues.

We support our clients with:

- Renewables such as solar, wind and biomass energy
- Negotiation with third parties, e.g., energy suppliers
- Tax and financial issues
- Environmental issues including habitats, conservation and social and governance credentials (ESG)
- Waste management and environmental permits
- Statutory Powers
- Mines, minerals and natural resources
- Development including site acquisitions, contract negotiations, assembly and funding
- Planning and environmental
- Disposals

Case Studies

- We have acted on wind farm and renewability schemes (both for operators and the landowner) and advised on renewability issues since the early days of the industry.
- Following the recent popularity for solar schemes we have acted for a number of landowners on the grant of an option for a lease of an area for a solar park and/or battery storage.
- We act for many landowners on the grant of options and leases for the extraction of minerals and tipping licences.
- We have acted as external legal counsel to a supplier of biomass boilers. Support included providing and updating their terms and conditions for various service lines and advising and negotiating the agreements for projects for the siting of biomass boilers for industrial clients.
- Providing advice and support in a long term litigation matter relating to a particular site.

A photograph of three business professionals in a meeting. On the left, a man with a beard and a blue shirt is looking towards the center. In the middle, a man in a grey blazer and black turtleneck is looking towards the right. On the right, a woman with blonde hair and glasses is smiling and looking towards the man in the middle. They are all holding folders or documents. The background is a brick wall with some greenery.

Lot 1a - Optional Specialisms

Planning

Our planning team are experienced in advising on all aspects of planning, highways, public rights of way and compulsory purchase law (including TWAOs and DCOs).

We have experience of working in-house at a senior level within local authorities and is well used to providing advice on multi-disciplinary projects. The team can provide advice with a full understanding of the pressures and political landscape that local government officers operate in and can truly be an extension to the in-house team. The team works collaboratively with the property, corporate, construction, litigation and procurement teams to complete transactions efficiently, collaboratively and successfully within the deadlines set whilst working seamlessly with the in-house legal and client teams.

Case Studies

- Acting for a developer making a section 257 footpath diversion application to facilitate new industrial development. We liaised with the Council, as order making body, as well as local interest groups, statutory consultees and statutory undertakers to ensure that an order could be made in a timely manner and without recourse to inquiry.
- Acting for a broad range of residential and commercial developer clients, providing strategic advice on planning applications, preparing and prosecuting appeals and drafting and negotiating suites of “section agreements”, including s.106 planning obligations, highways works

and adoption agreements (ss.38 and 278) and sewer agreements (s.104).

- Sole advisers to Peel Land & Property on property and development matters for its strategic redevelopment of derelict dockland at Liverpool Waters. A significant scheme, it comprises two million square metres of floorspace to be delivered over 20-25 years and will be a key driver in the economic future of Liverpool and its wider city region. The estimated development value is £5 billion. Particular recent highlights include advising on individual projects within the wider scheme:
 - Four new residential-led mixed-use buildings (a mixture of private sale and build-to-rent), of which two were forward-funded.
 - A new ferry terminal to serve the Isle of Man.
 - A new hotel and cruise liner terminal on the River Mersey.
 - A district heating network to serve the wider development.
 - New highways and other infrastructure to open up the wider site.
- Advising Glenbrook on their 232 apartment, £50m PRS conversion of a former office building and surrounding land between 2015 and 2018. This development was forward-funded by Moorfield Group.
- Advising the Peel Ports Group on a number of planning and environmental matters across its national port portfolio.

Projects

We have a cross-department team of specialists who can provide end to end support on larger projects for our clients, whether they are public sector or private sector clients.

Complex projects, whether real estate led, PFI (private finance initiative) or more service-based PPP arrangements require a multi-disciplinary legal support team who can provide advice on procurement, construction, employment and TUPE, pensions, intellectual property, contracts, corporate structures, finance documents, among others. Our experts have a wealth of delivering projects large and small across a range of disciplines. Led by a core project team, our team can bring in the sector specialist advice from across our various teams in order to support the needs of such projects as and when required.

Case Studies

- Advising a Greater Manchester metropolitan borough council on its town centre redevelopment procurement, to help shape it from inception by providing public procurement law, commercial and property law expertise. We also advised on the use of the competitive dialogue procedure. Heads of terms and suite of legal documentation were created and we advised on the production of procurement tender documents, and assisting with the land assembly.

- Advising Lancaster City Council in respect of the Eden Project North project.
- Advising several developers in respect of their bids for regeneration projects issued by contracting authorities. Assisting with the bidder’s dialogue meetings and preparing the legal submission of the tender. Advising and assisting on the documentation, public procurement queries and property title matters, along with suite of documentation with subcontractors and consortium partners. Providing legal advice and support during the contract term.
- Advising and assisting a council with the academy conversion of a Building Schools for the Future PFI School.
- Advising and supported a large, contracting authority on a repairs and maintenance framework, estimated at a value of £1billion. We provided initial advice, working with the project team to shape the procurement process, providing information on conflicts of interest. We also advised on the suite of procurement documentation and contractual documents. Provided expertise TUPE and pensions advice aspect in respect of likely transfer of a significant number of staff from the incumbent provider and from the contracting authority.

Restructuring and Insolvency

Our trusted team of experienced insolvency lawyers provide a full spectrum of advice on all commercial and personal insolvency and restructuring issues. Our insolvency specialists have a wealth of experience in all types of insolvency matters, both contentious and non-contentious. We have a successful track record of:

- Business Turnaround - Where possible assisting companies in formulating strategies to avoid a formal insolvency process.
- Working with distressed companies - where necessary guiding companies through a Restructuring/Insolvency process from beginning to end.
- Distressed asset acquisition and disposal - Advising on the purchase or sale of assets of businesses in financial difficulty.
- Assisting creditors in recovering money from companies in financial difficulty - Advising creditors of the insolvency options that can be utilised to recover the monies owed to them.
- Guiding creditors through an Insolvency Process - Advising creditors of the implications and options available to them when a debtor company or individual proposes or enters into an insolvency process, such as Administration, Company Voluntary Arrangement, Liquidation, Bankruptcy, Individual Voluntary Arrangement.

- Property Litigation in Insolvency - As a key asset for most businesses, insolvency related property disputes can be very damaging. We advise all stakeholders on swiftly resolving property disputes, as well as any related insolvency.

Case Studies

- Advising Football Ventures on the purchase of Bolton Wanderers Football Club from its administrators.
- Acting for the administrators of Warmer Energy Services Limited on the sale of the business and assets of the company.
- Providing ongoing trading on advice to the directors of a £40m plus turnover chemical manufacturer.
- Advising lenders in complex security enforcement actions.
- Advising various Local Authority Landlords on Company Voluntary Arrangements entered into by their Tenants. Including advising Sefton Council on the CVA entered into by TJ Hughes.
- Advising Landlords on the implications of a Tenant entering into Administration and liaising with the Administrators on behalf of the Landlords.

Food, Rural and Environmental Affairs

We have a dedicated agricultural and landed estates team whose members deal with food, rural and environmental affairs. The team provides long-term solutions to current and future generations and who share their understanding and commitment.

We excel at developing lasting relationships and have the expertise needed to tackle complex issues. The agricultural and landed estates team working on food, rural and environmental matters across the firm consists of two leading partners and 18 solicitors work with clients across the UK and cater for all client requirements in this area including. Our expertise includes:

- Sale and acquisition of farms and agricultural land
- Agricultural tenancies and grazing licences
- Agricultural litigation and dispute resolution
- Planning and development
- Conditional contracts option and promotion agreements
- Rights of way and boundary disputes
- Share farming
- Equine matters
- Farming partnerships
- Fell rights
- Landlord and tenant matters
- Sporting and fishing rights
- Leisure and tourism
- Environmental issues including habitats
- Waste management and environmental permits

- Conservation and social and governance credentials (ESG)
- Tipping of waste
- Byelaws
- Statutory Powers
- Forestry work and transactions
- Diversification matters
- RE-wilding

Case Studies

- Acted on the purchase of a c.5000 acre agricultural estate for £38,000,000. The estate was made up of almost c.5000 acres of tenanted farmland with a rent roll of almost £660,000 per annum across Agricultural Holdings Act (AHA) tenancies, Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) agreements, residential tenancies and other occupational rights (such as shooting rights).
- Acted on the sale of 1,000 acres of farm land to third party involving complicated reservations, a wind farm, occupational tenancies, pre-emption rights, overage for specific industrial development and rights reserved for the client to enable them to continue to exercise rights as a statutory authority.
- Acted on the sale of an equestrian unit and land which was owned partly by an individual and partly by the individual's limited company which involved the easements to be granted in respect of services.

Franchise Law

There are numerous forms of franchises and different elements that may be encapsulated in each franchise model, the most common form of which is business format franchising. The franchise will include licensing and control over branding, business systems, know how, support services and intellectual property. Some franchises will include controls over property and merchandise, although these aspects may not be necessary for all franchises.

Brabners assist on all aspects and of both sides of the franchise relationship, including:

- Advising from inception, on strategy and model options (including other licensing, distribution and agency models) and their pros and cons, providing checklists, and considerations necessary for franchises.
- Auditing, identifying and protecting the relevant intellectual property, with branding strategy and trade mark advice.
- Identifying the nature of the franchise and the agreement required whether it is a Master Franchise, International Franchise, Individual Franchise, or Regional and Local Franchises.
- Enforcement of franchise agreements and infringement of your intellectual property rights.
- Dealing with disposals, exits and terminations of franchise agreements.

We can deal with commercial contracts, general commercial, business and regulatory advice, IT and Technology aspects and data protection. Our deal advisory team can also advise on business plans and any franchise prospectus.

Case Studies

- Advising on automotive trade franchises and dealership franchises involving FIAT, Alfa Romeo, Nissan and Mercedes Benz.
- Advising on property elements of Network Rail standard station convenience store franchise letting conditions.
- Advising on care sector franchise arrangements, including both standard and master franchise agreements.
- Advising on educational franchise arrangements, including for national and international school franchises and for businesses which improve literacy skills through the operation and delivery of a specific programme at a suitable learning centre, institution or venue.
- Advising on hotel, restaurant, retail franchises, including Hilton, Accor, Grosvenor, Waldorf Astoria, Subway, Papa Johns, Bargain Booze and Spar.

Health, Healthcare and Social Care

The healthcare sector is going through seismic change which is transforming how primary care is being delivered. Healthcare providers need legal advisers who understand these issues, a partner with the skills to face the expected and the unexpected. We have led the way in the healthcare sector for over 10 years and we get the job done for our clients when it matters most.

As a full-service law firm, we bring together the right experts across our business to support you. Our advice comprises healthcare specific regulatory, fitness to practise, corporate transactional, professional negligence, litigation, employment and property. We have particular expertise in managing large numbers of pharmacy and dental practice sales and acquisitions.

We have a particularly strong client base of pharmacy and dental clients, ranging from standalone sites to groups with up to 750 locations, as well as early adopters of online healthcare solutions and GP practices. Our healthcare clients also include practising healthcare professionals such as pharmacists, dentists, doctors and paramedics.

Case Studies

- We are retained by a large, multi-site provider of healthcare services across the UK, whose aim is to provide the highest quality of care through joint venture partnerships and an innovative collaborative joint venture model, whereby the provider enters into joint ventures with likeminded healthcare professionals.
- We act for an umbrella care home provider, who started out as a consultancy service, advising care homes on regulatory requirements and the like, but developed into an acquisitive enterprise looking to invest in care homes and create joint ventures with existing care facilities. We undertake many different aspects of legal work for the organisation, including debt recovery, employment and commercial/GDPR advice.
- Advising various clients in relation to the purchase and/or sale of dental, optician, pharmacy, care and other healthcare businesses.
- Providing advice and assistance relating to NHS contract tenders or NHS contract relocations.

Life Sciences

Our team is led by Richard Hough, who has 30 years' industry experience as a pharmacist and has also practised as a lawyer for 15 years. Richard acts for numerous telehealth and med-tech businesses, pharmaceutical wholesalers and distributors, medical device manufacturers, biomed companies, nutraceutical manufacturers, and suppliers of CBD products and CBPMs. With this substantial experience of working within the pharmaceutical and associated life sciences industries, clients receive specialist legal advice tailored specifically to their operations.

We can also advise on an array of contentious issues relating to health and safety, licensing, professional fitness to practise, trading standards, business crime and investigations, public and administrative law as well as fraud, bribery and corruption.

Case Studies

- Supporting and guiding clients with claims involving a number of different types of medicinal products and claims brought under the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI).
- Acting for many people who have been injured or adversely affected after receiving defected/ill-fitting medical products including pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements, bio mechanical devices, implants and artificial limbs.
- Supporting and guiding clients in bringing private prosecutions, allowing businesses to use such a prosecution as a means to address fraud, embezzlement, regulatory breaches or intellectual property rights infringement.

Charities Law

We have acted for the Charity sector for over 100 years and have a dedicated team specialising exclusively in charity law who have a deep understanding of the complex issues the sector faces. We advise on all aspects of charity law, including governance and regulatory issues, establishment and registration, mergers, reorganisations and partnership working, charitable status, dealings with the Charity Commission and other regulators and trustees' duties and responsibilities. We also regularly provide training to charity trustees on matter relating to charity governance, including trustees' duties and company secretarial matters.

Case Studies

- Complex advice concerning the appointment of a corporate trustee of an unincorporated charitable Registered Provider of Social Housing including liaising with regulators and lenders so as to ensure that the terms of existing borrowing were retained.

- Advising upon the proposed conversion of a non-charitable company to a charity (made complex as a result of the company being limited by shares) including the preparation of revised Articles of Association, advice in relation to the impact of the change in status on existing borrowing and advice upon the process generally.
- Advising a large national charity on a reorganisation of its legal structure and governance.
- Advising a range of charities, including Chester Zoo, the Campaign to Protect Rural England and North West Cancer Research on governance matters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Assisting in the provision of advice to a large national charity in relation to a high profile and complex Charity Commission statutory inquiry.



Health and Safety

Our specialist team operate cross-sector advising clients in relation to core health and safety issues and manslaughter (corporate and otherwise) but including advising in areas such as food safety, product safety, transport law or any transport related (O-licence / RTA) requirements, fire and building safety, coronial law, and construction design and management, as examples.

Our specialist team will seek to minimise your risk exposure, and defend your professional and corporate reputations in connection with health and safety when it matters most. We offer a fully preventative, proactive approach to all health and safety matters to help you achieve and maintain legal compliance; avoid future regulatory scrutiny, investigations or potential enforcement action (including Crown Censure (where applicable) or legal proceedings such as potential civil claims, and/or Corporate Manslaughter, at worst) by providing commercial, strategic, yet practical 'hands-on' advice and assistance to help you reach a successful outcome.

Our expert team of lawyers and health and safety consultants are highly skilled and equipped to deliver non-contentious, and contentious legal advice, support, and services in relation to any compliance or regulatory issues. We offer our clients 24/7/365 assistance with regard to major incidents or significant regulatory visits.

Case Studies

- Acting as the "Go-to" standing health and safety legal advisors for Peel Ports Group – this includes attending monthly / annual health and safety meetings and forums, to provide legal input and/or updates, as or when required, or strategic guidance to the Board and Operational Teams. We also successfully defended criminal proceedings brought by the Health and Safety Executive's Hazardous Installations Inspectorate,

in relation to alleged contraventions concerning the berthing of ships where it was alleged, they exceeded the permitted quantity of explosive cargo.

- Actively advising and representing of one of the most important Core Participants (corporate body and its directors) involved in the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry and Corporate Manslaughter investigation.
- Actively advising across multiple educational institutions / settings – which, for example, include: representation of care home manager in criminal proceedings relating to alleged falsification of Regulation 44 Ofsted reports, and retained "Go-to" standing health and safety legal advisor for vocational college / charity: delivering health and safety training to Board/Senior Management Team, preparing health and safety policies and procedures, gap analysis, audit functioning and 24/7/365 support with any regulatory issues or crisis response.
- Actively representing various 'Interested Persons' (IPs) in Article 2 / Complex (jury and coroner led) inquests and coronial proceedings – which include: acting for providers of custody / detention centres or the medical staff whose actions may have caused or contributed to the death ('Death in Custody' proceedings); and representing interests of 4 x security guards involved in the restraint of a patient within a hospital setting.
- Actively representing various housing associations, registered providers, and sheltered / supported, and extra care settings (including care homes) – in relation to various criminal investigations and proceedings that are brought by the fire authority, local authority, Health and Safety Executive, and Care Quality Commission. Most recently, these include: food labelling advice; providing advice and assistance within the context of the recent changes under the new Fire Safety Act 2021 and Building Safety Act 2022; and advising or defending organisations and individuals in the aftermath of service users and/or residents deaths.

Tax

Tax is a complex area which covers all aspects of commercial activity. It can present huge opportunities but getting things wrong can be extremely costly.

We advise on all aspects of corporate transactions, employment arrangements and property tax matters to ensure clients are able to meet their obligations and structure their affairs in the most efficient way possible.

Led by a dual-qualified tax lawyer, we support on a range of tax issues including Stamp Duty Land Tax, VAT, enterprise investment schemes, venture capital trusts and employee share schemes and incentives.

In addition, we provide tax litigation services in relation to disputes with HMRC, as well as claims under tax warranties and tax covenants in share sale agreements.

Case Studies

- Advising Ion Property Developments on the SDLT and VAT aspects of a prominent £40m mixed use scheme on Lime Street in Liverpool.
- Advising Galleries25 on tax aspects of its £130m transformation of The Galleries shopping centre.
- Advising on the forward funding and development of a 100+ bed student residential project.
- Advising on employment taxes and benefits including in relation to the "off-payroll" rules relating to IR35 contractors.

Outsourcing / Insourcing

Brabners LLP has experience in providing end to end support for all outsourcing needs and can provide a suitable project team to help you achieve your requirements. The need for legal support is not just limited to first generation outsourcing as second and subsequent generations can require just as much, if not more advice as needs and the commercial and legal landscape evolve.

Working in line with the Sourcing Playbook and related UK Government guidance, we can assist with all stages of the transaction. We can assist with the initial development of the scope, and feed into the necessary gateway reviews required to move the project forward. We can then assist in building the opportunity – providing the necessary advice, e.g. commercial, public procurement, TUPE, property, data protection, intellectual property, etc. Each of these specialisms can then input on the contract and the relevant procurement documents as well as the technical schedules that underpin the opportunity, e.g. service level documentation and payment mechanisms. In second generation outsourcing, we would also be able to assist with the exit from the current arrangement and related negotiation with the incumbent in order to help with the smooth transfer of services.

In preparing the documents, we will focus on understanding your requirements and objectives so that your contracts are tailored to your requirements, well thought out and fit for purpose now and into the future. This will help you to realise those objectives, secure supply, reduce risks and liabilities and ensure compliance with the latest legislation.

Case Studies

- Advising and assisting on the variation and extension of a contracting authority's outsourcing of their gas servicing and maintenance function across their extensive estate.
- Providing end to end support on the second generation outsourcing of a contracting authority's repair and maintenance function.
- Advising the provider on the outsourcing of logistics management software services to a Ministry of Justice entity.
- Advising a large metals and commodities warehousing provider on the outsourcing of their operations to a local operator in a south-east Asian country. This was complex due to the need to ensure the client's reputation and accreditation was firmly upheld.

Media Law

Having acted on media law issues for over 25 years, we have experts with the knowledge and experience to deal with the full range of media law issues, from defamation, malicious falsehood and privacy laws, through to harassment, data protection and contempt of court proceedings. We regularly act for claimants and defendants in contested High Court defamation litigation.

We can also assist with media law issues arising from official meetings, reporting of decisions, reporting of elections, and requests to access records including under Freedom of Information and/or Data Subject Access requests. We can advise on the drafting of commercial agreements, and advertising marketing and sponsorship agreements.

We provide non-contentious media law services, including advising on, drafting and negotiating broadcasting agreements and other TV, film and publishing agreements, including option agreements, contributor releases, production agreements, filming agreements, content creator agreements and talent and crew agreements. We have dealt with both small scale matters all the way up to large international events.

Case Studies

- Acting for Coleen Rooney in defending the high-profile defamation claim pursued by Rebecca Vardy.
- Running training sessions in media law for clients such as the Wine Society, Citypress and several insurer clients.

- Pursuing breach of privacy claims relating to the phone-hacking of several high-profile clients.
- Advising FINA, Fédération Internationale De Natation, (the world governing body for the aquatics sports) on its host broadcast arrangements and international broadcast licensing arrangements (including new media) for several of its World Championships including negotiations with the broadcasters for eight different territories
- Advising Commonwealth Games Federation in relation to CGF's Commercial, Media and Marketing Rights relating to the 2018, 2022, 2026 and 2030 Commonwealth Games, this involved numerous complex commercial arrangements and agreements dealing with media, merchandising, marketing and commercial rights, broadcasting rights, agency and consultancy services.
- Advising a client in relation to a dispute with third party competitor and ASA complaints including advice on making website and marketing communications ASA compliant, ultimately ending with settlement of third party dispute and withdrawal of ASA complaint.
- Advising on advertising standards and CAP Code compliance for Groupon.

Immigration

Providing immigration advice in the UK is a regulated activity. Our team consists entirely of qualified employment and immigration solicitors. Our overlapping knowledge of immigration and employment law requirements allows us to provide a holistic service that can be tailored to meet business objectives, providing a holistic approach to immigration solutions, with the bigger picture in mind.

We advise on all aspects of economic migration including, applications for sponsor licences, the requirements of the Skilled Worker and Global Business Mobility visa routes and the visitor rules for business travellers to the UK. We also advise on immigration compliance including where this overlaps with employment law requirements such as the prevention of illegal working, Home Office inspections, sponsor duties and dealing with licence revocations and appeals. For our corporate clients, we also advise on the immigration law implications of mergers and acquisitions.

Case Studies

- Advising a large multinational manufacturer, with offices all across Europe on the visa options when recruiting for specific technical, specialist or senior roles, providing support to both the organisation and the individual to ensure a timely and smooth recruitment process successful visa applications and stress-free onboarding.
- Advising a provider supporting adults with learning disabilities on their sponsor licence application, sponsor duties and compliance.
- Advising a large hospitality business on their right to work compliance, policies and procedures.
- Advising a large rental equipment provider with a complicated illegal working issue, managing the employment and immigration law consequences.

Public Inquests and Inquiries

Our team comprises highly specialist cross-sector regulatory lawyers qualified in every jurisdiction of the UK and Ireland, with decades of experience representing clients appearing before the most sensitive and high-profile Inquests and Public Inquiries.

We have been selected to act as Solicitor to the Inquiry on a number of occasions and so are experienced in the day to day running of an inquiry including management of core participants, document management, and the assessments of core participant costs claims and control and management of the Inquiry's own costs. We have extensive experience of using all of the mainstream document management, e-disclosure platforms and data rooms.

As part of our role as Solicitor to the Inquiry we have instructed Counsel to the Inquiry and supported Inquiry Chairs on all legal aspects relating to the inquiry.

We assist clients at every stage of the Public Inquiry process, including advising on preservation of evidence likely to be required at a future Inquiry, contributing to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, securing Core Participant status, securing funding, responding to rule 9 requests and preparation of witness statements, supporting witnesses called to give evidence in person and/or making written submissions, responding to and advising on warning letters, managing reputational issues and, finally, implementing any necessary recommendations.

Case Studies

- Our Public Inquiry lawyers have represented organisations and individuals throughout the most significant Public Inquiries of recent decades, for example, we represent the College of Paramedics in the COVID-19 Inquiry for Scotland, we are also acting for Harley Facades Ltd, the cladding contractor involved in the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower. We act for the Chief Executives (spanning various periods of time) of the Catholic Church's safeguarding body in the Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse.
- Historically members of the team have acted for a number of military witnesses in the Baha Mousa Inquiry and have acted as agent to the then Treasury Solicitor in representing some 190 military witnesses in the Al-Sweady Inquiry – the former inquiry concerning the death, in 2003, of Baha Mousa at the hands of members of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment and the latter concerning allegations of unlawful killing and ill treatment of Iraqi nationals captured by British troops following fighting close to check point 'Danny-Boy' in Iraq in 2004.
- We recently acted for the Anthony Grainger Inquiry following the fatal shooting of Anthony Grainger by an armed Greater Manchester Police officer in Culcheth, Cheshire, in March 2012.
- We have also been instructed in the Paterson Inquiry, the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related deaths, the Penrose Inquiry, the Francis Inquiry, the Redfern Inquiry and the Shipman Inquiry.

A close-up photograph of two men in business attire. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt and a striped tie. He is looking down at a document held by the man on the right. The man on the right is also in a suit and is holding a pen, pointing it towards the document. The background is a soft, out-of-focus office setting.

Lot 2a - General Service Provision

Team Structure



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Property and Construction

With over 100 experts within our Real Estate Group, our 'full-service' department provides a holistic real estate legal service.

Through taking a clear and pragmatic approach, we provide advice on: asset management, property construction (contentious and non-contentious), development, finance, investment and property management, litigation, and tax.

We have a clear understanding of public sector governance and our experience covers a range of sectors and industries, from agriculture, banking, construction, housing and regeneration to real estate, retail, automotive, manufacturing and supply chain, healthcare, sport and charities.

Working with funders, Joint Ventures, developers, Local Authorities, public/private partnerships and charities in connection with development finance work, our understanding of the different attitudes and requirements means that we are used to finding practical and commercial solutions to issues that might otherwise stall a financing transaction.

Case Studies

- Advising an array of Registered Providers (Torus62, Regenda Limited, Cobalt Housing etc.) on their syndicated loan facilities to fund their planned development activity.
- Wirral Borough Council: Acting in relation to the

removal of around 90 secure tenants and other occupiers from Birkenhead market prior to redevelopment, using primarily ground 30(1)(f) s.25 Notices – this is an ongoing instruction.

- Lancaster City Council: Advising on the proposed £85m Eden Project North in Morecambe, having been brought in to better structure their deal and ensure a prompt delivery of the project after previous advisers did not meet the client's needs.
- Manchester City Council: Advising on heavily negotiated NEC3 contracts for major leisure and sporting facilities. This included drafting the construction documentation for the new c£12m Belle View Sports Village consisting of the new National Speedway track, two new 3g Sports pitches, a National Basketball Centre and refurbishment of an existing Leisure Centre. Also advising the council in relation to the c£18m Manchester Institute of Health and Performance ("MIHP") partly funded by Manchester City Football Club.
- Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF): Acting for the company across its £400m property investment portfolio in England and Wales and in all sectors, which has included the management of both shopping centres and "out of town" retail parks.

Social Housing

As one of the UK's foremost Social Housing teams, with over 100 years in the market, we offer an unrivalled breadth of service, providing all of the legal services required in Social Housing.

We help our clients deliver new corporate structures, increased loan facilities and the major development projects necessary to meet the Government's ambitious targets for new homes, we also fight the disrepair claims that are eroding their limited resources and we provide them with the comprehensive legal services they need to achieve their goals.

Our specialist housing development, construction and finance teams support our social housing clients through the entire lifecycle of large, complex development and regeneration projects including land acquisition and development agreements, planning and infrastructure agreements, funding and grant agreements, building contracts and associated documentation and the subsequent disposal of properties.

Our Housing Management and Dispute Resolution team deal with everything from tenancy management advice through to supported and sheltered schemes. We aim to keep our clients out of court, however, if a dispute cannot be avoided, we provide robust and effective representation and have experience of alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation.

Case Studies

- Acting for Lancaster CC on Carnforth S106 agreements: 200 affordable housing units, public open space, wetlands, attenuation, pumping station, landscaping, highways and education contributions.
- Acquisition/disposal of tenanted stock (including swaps): Acted on numerous stock transfers between registered providers (RPs), including the transfer from Regenda to Onward of 91 units in Blackburn, Bury, Bolton and Runcorn, acting for the transfer of Your Housing Group to Torus62 of 294 units.
- Assisting a large RP in re-writing internal procedures/standard documents to streamline its repairs service and improve record-keeping to reduce claims. This included tailored training for call-centre, property maintenance staff, housing officers and contractors.
- Involved in high-profile cases such as Kensington Riot Squad and Mercer family (Rhys Jones murder) and Riverside v Thomas (High Court starter tenancies/human rights).
- Acting for RPs including Arcon Housing, Railway Housing, Torus62 (re-financing of 10,000 units) and Prima on cost effective securitisation advice and support to put large property portfolios into charge with various funders, including Barclays, RBS, Clydesdale and THFC/bLEND.

Debt Recovery

Brabners has a specialist Debt Recovery team with a combined experience of more than 40 years in debt recovery across a wide variety of industry sectors. We act for a wide range of clients including finance companies and other lenders, acting against both businesses to recovering contractually owed debts and against individuals under the terms of personal guarantees.

We also act for secured charge holders, advising them and representing their interests in the recovery of the debt and potentially enforcing the security, whether by way of possession proceedings and an order for sale or by appointing receivers.

Fully versed in the relevant protocols, regulatory frameworks and standards, we apply them appropriately whether it be the recovery of commercial or personal debt on behalf of our clients.

The team has specialist knowledge of:

- Restitution Claims
- Debt Recovery
- Charging Orders
- Enforcing Security
- Winding Up and Bankruptcy
- Enforcement Proceedings
- Statutory Demands
- Insolvency Proceedings

Case Studies

- We acted for a major government body in the recovery of overpayments and payments by mistake of injury benefits, pensions and contractual payments to individual practitioners and corporate entities.
- Acting for private schools to obtain unpaid fees from parents including obtaining Charging Orders against the parents' property with a view to securing the debt and obtaining Attachments of Earnings.
- Acting for a range of our commercial clients on a recurring basis, to recover commercial debt from customers and acting for a number of insolvency practitioner clients in the recovery of commercial ledger debt during a liquidation.
- Acting for Registered Providers and leasehold management companies in seeking money judgments for rent arrears, former tenant arrears and service charge arrears.
- Taking forfeiture action to terminate leases following money judgments being obtained in the County Court.

Planning and Environment

Our planning team are experienced in advising on all aspects of planning, highways, public rights of way and compulsory purchase law (including TWAOs and DCOs).

We have experience of working in-house at a senior level within local authorities and is well used to providing advice on multi-disciplinary projects. The team can provide advice with a full understanding of the pressures and political landscape that local government officers operate in and can truly be an extension to the in-house team. The team works collaboratively with the property, corporate, construction, litigation and procurement teams to complete transactions efficiently, collaboratively and successfully within the deadlines set whilst working seamlessly with the in-house legal and client teams.

Case Studies

- Acting for a developer making a section 257 footpath diversion application to facilitate new industrial development. We liaised with the Council, as order making body, as well as local interest groups, statutory consultees and statutory undertakers to ensure that an order could be made in a timely manner and without recourse to inquiry.
- Acting for a broad range of residential and commercial developer clients, providing strategic advice on planning applications, preparing and prosecuting appeals and drafting and negotiating suites of "section agreements", including s.106 planning obligations, highways works and adoption agreements (ss.38 and 278) and sewer agreements (s.104).
- Sole advisers to Peel Land & Property on property and development matters for its strategic redevelopment of derelict dockland at Liverpool Waters. A significant scheme, it comprises two million square metres of floorspace to be delivered over 20-25 years and will be a key driver in the economic future of Liverpool and its wider city region. The estimated development value is £5 billion. Particular recent highlights include advising on individual projects within the wider scheme:
 - Four new residential-led mixed-use buildings (a mixture of private sale and build-to-rent), of which two were forward-funded.
 - A new ferry terminal to serve the Isle of Man.
 - A new hotel and cruise liner terminal on the River Mersey.
 - A district heating network to serve the wider development.
 - New highways and other infrastructure to open up the wider site.
- Advising Glenbrook on their 232 apartment, £50m PRS conversion of a former office building and surrounding land between 2015 and 2018. This development was forward-funded by Moorfield Group.
- Advising the Peel Ports Group on a number of planning and environmental matters across its national port portfolio.

Pensions

We advise a mix of pension trustees, private and public sector clients, sponsoring employers and pension providers on the full spectrum of contentious and non-contentious issues such as public and private sector pension schemes, valuation negotiations, corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, benefit change exercises, regulatory compliance, outsourcing, investment issues, buyouts and professional negligence claims.

We act on the pension schemes of a wide range of organisations, including global corporates, such as the Very Group, Panasonic and Toyota, and high profile charities, such as Shaw Trust and the Terrence Higgins Trust. However, we have a particular focus on public sector schemes, advising over 30 housing associations and education organisations and acting for the trustees of a number of trade union pensions schemes, which we can bring to bear when advising Public Sector bodies in order to achieve amicable solutions as quickly as possible.

Case Studies

- Advising on the exercise of discretions relating to the LGPS Regulations 2013. In particular, we have advised on flexible retirement, the rule of 85 and the early payment of pensions.
- We have assisted Scheme Employers with the preparation of a discretions policy in accordance with legislation.
- Advising the West Sussex County Council Pension Fund on the admission of the Royal Town Planning Institute.
- We also have experience of 'sitting on the other side of the table' by virtue of our appointments to a large number of admitted bodies in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), including advising a number of housing associations on exits from the LGPS.
- We have also advised LGPS investment teams on the regulatory investment framework to local authority investment decisions; the impact of general trust law and fiduciary duties on investment approaches and strategies; reviewing and negotiating investment management agreements; and advising on investment pooling.

Litigation / Dispute Resolution

Our Litigation team has a track record in resolving disputes and delivering strong personal and commercial outcomes.

Our 40 strong litigation group is made up of expert litigators and in-house costs specialists. The team is not an 'add on' or 'spin off' from an insured-litigation practice.

We provide support across a range of issues, including personal, commercial and regulatory disputes, contract disputes and professional negligence cases, shareholder and partnership disputes, debt recovery matters, property damage matters, medical negligence claims, network claims, health and safety matters, judicial reviews, property litigation and defamation, privacy and data protection cases.

Case Studies

- Pursuing a professional negligence claim against a national firm of accountants and securing a settlement of £950,000.
- Representing Coleen Rooney, television personality and wife of former England international footballer Wayne Rooney, in connection with libel proceedings that have been issued against her by Rebekah Vardy, wife of former England international footballer Jamie Vardy.
- Having extensive involvement in Public Inquiries where our lawyers have acted in the role of Solicitor to prominent Public Inquiries and have acted for Core Participants in a range of other Inquiries, including Baha Mousa, Al-Sweady and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.



Intellectual Property

Intellectual property (trade marks, patents, copyright, designs, database rights, domain names, confidential information or know how) is vital to any business. We help to ensure our client's intellectual property meets their business needs and they maximise the value of your intellectual property.

We provide a full contentious and non-contentious IP service including:

- Identification and protection
- Development and exploitation
- Contractual advice on:
*licences • franchises • sales • assignments
joint ventures • sponsorship • partnering agreements.*
- IP audits
- Enforcement of your rights
- Defence against third parties
- IP portfolio strategy and management
- Branding
- Trade mark and design right prosecution:
*application • examination • oppositions • registration
cancellations – invalidation and revocation • appeals •
records*
- Registered IP renewals
- Potential new rights

We register and monitor IP rights globally and, where infringements are detected, advise on the necessary action.

General advice is provided in relation to patents and we provide specific advice on the ability to file patents, filing strategy, clearance, enforcement and exploitation. When it comes to filing patent applications we have an understanding of, and can manage, this process and can recommend local, national and international patent attorneys. We are also experienced in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mediation, arbitration and settlement.

Case Studies

- Advising clients on intellectual property matters (such as strategy, trade mark registrations, IP agreements and brand licences, contentious and enforcement matters). Clients include Community Forest Trust, The Mersey Forest, Red Rose Forest, City of Trees, Shaw Trust, PSS, Ascentis, Merchant Taylors, Housing Associations, ADS (Addiction Dependency Solutions), Autism Initiatives, Gas Safety Trust and CORGI.
- Advising Peel Group, Grosvenor Estates and Bolesworth Estate on intellectual property matters.
- Advising a charitable international sporting federation (Commonwealth Games Federation) on its intellectual property and licensing arrangements.
- Advising National Governing Bodies (such as British Canoeing and British Fencing), on trade mark portfolios, brand strategies and IP agreements such as licensing and franchising.

Employment

With vast experience, genuine strength and depth of resource, our employment team works collaboratively with HR teams and senior decision makers to deliver effective, tailored solutions to employee related issues.

We deal with the people aspects of projects, including outsourcing, reorganisations, TUPE and collective recognition issues. We support effective employee management reducing the likelihood of disruptive employment disputes through advising and supporting managers through difficult conversations, internal procedures and drafting effective contractual documentation. When disputes are unavoidable, we work with our clients to identify their objectives and tailor our approach to achieve the identified best outcome.

Case Studies

- Providing support on complex employment and immigration issues to a contracting authority's HR team and senior decision makers including whistleblowing, safeguarding, equality, discrimination issues and senior exits.

- Assisting and advising a contracting authority in relation to the second generation outsourcing arrangements including advising on the first generation outsourcing arrangement, secondment arrangements and the potential TUPE transfer of circa 170 employees who were not engaged directly at the point of transfer. Providing strategic advice to minimise the potential risk of a dispute with the recognised union on awarding the second generation contract. Included working with our pensions colleagues to deal with an immediate unreduced pension strain payment from LGPS avoiding significant financial liability and reputational damage.
- Representing a contracting authority in respect of a whistleblowing claim, including successfully defending an interim relief application.
- Supporting a contracting authority with collective negotiations in respect of flexible and remote working arrangements, including working with the senior leadership team to design arrangements that would ensure uninterrupted service delivery and which formed the basis of consultation and then negotiation with regards to organisational change and amended terms and conditions of employment.

Healthcare

The healthcare sector is going through seismic change which is transforming how primary care is being delivered.

Healthcare providers need legal advisers who understand these issues, a partner with the skills to face the expected and the unexpected. We have led the way in the healthcare sector for over 10 years and we get the job done for our clients when it matters most.

As a full-service law firm, we bring together the right experts across our business to support you. Our advice comprises healthcare specific regulatory, fitness to practise, corporate transactional, professional negligence, litigation, employment and property. We have particular expertise in managing large numbers of pharmacy and dental practice sales and acquisitions.

We have a particularly strong client base of pharmacy and dental clients, ranging from standalone sites to groups with up to 750 locations, as well as early adopters of online healthcare solutions and GP practices. Our healthcare clients also include practising healthcare professionals such as pharmacists, dentists, doctors and paramedics.

Case Studies

- Significant experience of advising and defending organisations and individuals in the most serious investigations, including corporate manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter where the death of a service user is involved and blame is alleged.
- Representation at Coronial Inquests where the organisation or members of staff are designated as an Interested Person.
- We are retained by a large, multi-site provider of healthcare services across the UK, whose aim is to provide the highest quality of care through joint venture partnerships and an innovative collaborative joint venture model, whereby the provider enters into joint ventures with likeminded healthcare professionals.
- Advising groups corporate owners of healthcare businesses on a variety with a full commercial legal services including advice on corporate structure, governance, regulatory requirements, acquisitions and disposals, funding, debt recovery, employment and commercial/GDPR advice.



Brabners
we make the difference