**YOUR MONTHLY E-BULLETIN**

**Issue 55; July 2017**

Latest Consortium News

**Annual Training Survey – They think its all over…it is now!**

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our Annual Training Survey. The results and feedback it provides will be considered by the Consortium Management Board and Steering Group and will inform the build of the new Training Programme for 2017/18 which will then be published to the website for you to see what’s coming up.

Consortium Annual Training Event – Hold the Date

We are pleased to announce that this year’s Annual Training Event will take place on Tuesday October 3rd at the St Helens Rugby Stadium in St Helens.

We have our main morning speaker booked already and are busy finalising the rest of the event programme with our partner firm support coming this year from Hill Dickinson.

The draft event programme will be published to the website in July BUT you can make your bookings now through the Consortium website.

Why wait?

You can read all about our main morning speaker, Rene Barrett on the courses page   
of the website.

The event is FREE to delegates from Consortium member organisations. We look forward to seeing you there.

An opportunity to help each other?

As you may have read in earlier E-Bulletins your Management Board are looking to introduce   
a tool through the website to support member organisations in assisting each other when they either don’t have the current capacity or specialist skills to undertake a piece of or a particular area of work.

All Consortium organisation leads have recently been contacted about this development with a view to them indicating whether or not, and if yes, to what extent they would be prepared to offer their legal services to other member organisations.

We’ll be updating you on this new initiative in the coming weeks and months.

As an example of how working together can have benefits for the provider and the commissioner read about South Lakeland and Pendle’s experience below:

**Last month we published an article about South Lakeland’s offer-**

Nicola Hartley, Solicitor with South Lakeland Council obtained her Higher Rights of Audience in Criminal Advocacy in July 2012 which entitles her to exercise rights of audience in all criminal proceedings in the higher courts.

South Lakeland District Council would like to offer her services as a Crown Court solicitor advocate to any Council that wishes to save money on counsel’s fees.

Nicola is a very experienced advocate having dealt with a range of criminal prosecutions at both magistrates and crown court level, including health and safety, environmental, food hygiene, benefits fraud and a great many taxi licensing appeals at both magistrates and crown court as well as licensing act matters.

**And now we can hear from Pendle-**

Howard Culshaw, Head of Legal Services at Pendle Council has taken up the South Lakeland offer and has the following to say about the service provided:

‘’Nicola provides a first class service at an extremely competitive fee. I instruct her whenever I possibly can in the Crown Court and even on occasion in respect of the more difficult regulatory matters before magistrates. Above all she empathises with the practical difficulties her instructing solicitors face in the context of local government litigation – this means that she is always “on my wavelength” so to speak.

I can say that Nicola’s advice and advocacy in a recent complex Health & Safety at Work Act prosecution helped the council to secure the most serious sentence imposed on a defendant in my 19 years working in local government for this council.’’

**Interested?** Please contact Anthea Lowe Solicitor to the Council on [anthea.lowe@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:anthea.lowe@southlakeland.gov.uk) on 01539 793305 if you wish to make further enquiries.

Reminder

Course Materials

If you or your colleagues have missed out on one or more of our Consortium training   
sessions you might find it helpful to see the slides/presentation from the session.

These are all available in the documents area of the website at [www.nwlegalconsortium.com](http://www.nwlegalconsortium.com)

**Just added** …slides from the recent training sessions in June

Website Authorised Users - Are all your colleagues signed up to use the Consortium website?

There is no limit on the number of users that each member organisation can register.

Some organisations have registered all their legal staff, others have been selective.

If on reflection and so that all staff can appreciate the benefits of using the Consortium website you want to add new users we will need the approval of the Head of Service but from there we will sort it out for you!

Please either complete the form on the home page of the website or contact Beryl Heath on [bh\_nwlconsortium@btinternet.com](mailto:bh_nwlconsortium@btinternet.com) to add more authorised users for your organisation

Website Log In If you are an authorised user and you do not think you have received your new website log in details then do get in touch with either Brian Gibson on [briangibson2@msn.com](mailto:briangibson2@msn.com)   
or Beryl Heath at [bh\_nwlconsortium@btinternet.com](mailto:bh_nwlconsortium@btinternet.com) and we’ll do all we can to assist you.

FREE Consortium Training

The Consortium Annual Training Programme is nowcompleted for this current year.

A new programme which will start in September will be published in the coming weeks.

It will be available and loaded to the website – courses page.

Don’t forget that all this training is **free**, and is open to legal staff at member organisations as well as to client department staff.

You can book yourselves colleagues or clients on to the courses available through the website.

New Roles up for grabs?

We publish a range of vacancies on the website jobs page at <http://www.nwlegalconsortium.com/jobs/>

Trafford need 3 temp legal assistants and Cumbria County Council are currently looking for a Legal Officer in the Children’s Services Legal Team

Interested? Find out more on the website.

Does your authority want to advertise your vacancies on the website for free?

If so contact Beryl Heath on [bh\_nwlconsortium@btinternet.com](mailto:bh_nwlconsortium@btinternet.com)

you can now follow us on twitter

 **@NWLConsortium**







­

North West Air Ambulance Charity NWLC newsletter July 2017

**Join Team NWAA as a volunteer and make a difference today!**

Without people like you donating your time and skills we would not be able to deliver your local air ambulance service. By giving your time you are enabling others to have the gift of time!

**Help us today as you may need us tomorrow!**

Volunteers are integral to ensuring the residents and visitors to the North West have access to a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Without people like you donating your time and skills we would not be able to deliver an air ambulance service.

By giving your time you are enabling others to have the gift of time!

Volunteers provide much needed additional support to your North West Air Ambulance Charity by being our presence on the ground, raising our profile, increasing awareness, developing new initiatives and attending fundraising events and by providing valuable skills and experience.

There are many ways to get involved dependent upon the amount of time you have to give and skills you wish to share;

**Current Vacancies**

**Fundraising Event Volunteer** – Events come in all different shapes and sizes, our volunteers might be cheering on supporters taking part in a challenge event one week, raising awareness and collecting money another and taking part in one of our exciting roadshows the next. These events can take place on any day of the week with a vast number taking place in the evening and at the weekend. We’re looking for volunteers across the North West, for more information please see, [Fundraising Event Volunteer Role Description](http://nwaa.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Fundraising-event-volunteer-for-website.docx)

**Retail Volunteer** – We have 9 retail stores across the North West and we are looking for enthusiastic and passionate volunteers to help make these a success. For more information please see [Retail Volunteer – Role Description](http://nwaa.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Retail-volunteer-For-website.docx)

**Volunteer Speaker** – Help us spread the word about the great work North West Air Ambulance Charity does. Becoming a volunteer speaker is very rewarding as you get to meet lots of new people that can support NWAA. This could be a short presentation for a community event, accepting a cheque on our behalf or having a chat with people at a networking event. For more details please see [Volunteer Speaker – Role Description](http://nwaa.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Volunteer-Speaker-general.docx)

To find our more or to apply for any of these opportunities please complete our [Expression of Interest form](http://nwaa.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Expression-of-interest-form-EoI1.pdf) and return to volunteer@nwaa.net

Alternatively you can contact Rebecca Haynes our Volunteer Development Manager, email – rebecca.haynes@nwaa.net phone – 0800 587 4570 If you have skills you would like to share with us that aren’t listed above please get in touch as well!

Walk this way!

Following the success of our inaugural Mission Walk in 2016, the event will be returning this year! Join us on Sunday 17th September to get a glimpse of how our paramedics, doctors and pilots help to make a life changing difference to patients across the region.  
  
Enjoy our fun warm up, learn some simple but effective first aid tips and meet the crew whilst taking in the beautiful scenery of Wyresdale Park. Whether you challenge yourself to the 10k walk or take on the 8.5k family route, your fundraising will help to future-proof our vital work for the eight million residents of the North West.  
  
Ready to accept your mission? [Register now](http://nwaa.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6f771a3c021ebaebd22406df6&id=fa0005d621&e=08e9f4a011)   
  
  
[](http://nwaa.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6f771a3c021ebaebd22406df6&id=b4f9d07bae&e=08e9f4a011)

**The difference your support makes – Lisa’s story**

In April 2013, Lisa, aged 15, was involved in a road traffic collision whilst on her bike delivering the morning paper round. Lisa was placed into a coma for five days resulting in short term memory loss. Lisa and her family are hugely grateful for the rapid airlift that made such a major contribution to saving her life and now regularly fundraises for the charity.

Her father Steve shares her story: “On 25th April 2013 Lisa was hit by a car on a blind bend whilst crossing the road. Lisa was unconscious when the North West Air Ambulance Charity arrived and was taken to North Staffordshire Hospital immediately where she remained in a coma for five days and spent almost three weeks in hospital. Although for a while Lisa suffered with short term memory loss, thankfully she has no memory of the accident. Lisa has now fully recovered and has been so inspired by the care she received during this time that she is now hoping to become a medic. We believe that Lisa wouldn’t be here today without the assistance of the North West Air Ambulance Charity.”





­

**POWERED BY THOMSON REUTERS**

01/07/17

This is a selection of legal updates for NWLC powered by Westlaw UK and Practical Law.

To read more on these topics, go to [westlaw.co.uk](http://legalresearch.westlaw.co.uk) or [uk.practicallaw.com](http://uk.practicallaw.com)



**NWLC MONTHLY LEGAL UPDATER**

CASE REPORTS

**HOUSING. *Local government; Administration of justice*.**

**Appeals; Flats; Health hazards; Houses in multiple occupation; Improvement notices; Irrationality; Local housing authorities' powers and duties; Necessity; Remedial works.**

Wood v Kingston upon Hull City Council. *[2017] EWCA Civ 364.* Court of Appeal (Civil Division) (CA (Civ Div)). Patten LJ; Lewison LJ; Underhill LJ. May 19, 2017

The Upper Tribunal had not erred when quashing an improvement notice served by a local housing authority under the Housing Act 2004 s.12 in concluding that, as a matter of practicality, it was preferable to serve a notice specifying a single course of remedial work to be carried out by a single owner.

Appeal dismissed

**HOUSING. *Local government; Human rights*.**

**Discrimination; Housing allocation; Justification; Local housing authorities'   
powers and duties; Proportionality; Public sector equality duty; Social housing.**

R. (on the application of C) v Islington LBC. *[2017] EWHC 1288 (Admin).* Queen's Bench Division (Administrative Court) (QBD (Admin)). Jeremy Baker J. May 31, 2017

A local lettings policy within a local authority's housing allocation scheme unlawfully discriminated against victims of domestic violence and therefore women, contrary to ECHR art.14 in conjunction with ECHR art.8. However, the discrimination was justified on the ground of proportionality because it struck a fair balance between the severity of the consequences for a social housing applicant and the importance of the legitimate aim pursued by the policy.

Application granted in part

**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT. *Contracts; Construction law*.  Contracting authorities; Public contracts; Specific disclosure; Suspension; Tenderers; Tenders.**

**Alstom Transport UK Ltd v London Underground Ltd. *[2017] EWHC 1406 (TCC).* Queen's Bench Division (Technology & Construction Court) (QBD (TCC)). Coulson J. June 15, 2017**

**The court set out a number of factors to be considered when determining the order in which competing applications concerning the outcome of a tender process should be heard. An application to lift the suspension of the proposed contract would not always be heard in advance of an application by an unsuccessful tenderer for specific disclosure.**

**Directions given**

**LEGISLATION**

**SOCIAL SECURITY.  Commencement; Consequential amendments; Housing benefit; Income support; Income-based employment and support allowance; Income-based jobseeker's allowance; Restrictions; Tax credits; Universal credit.**

**The Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No.29 and Commencement No.17, 19, 22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2017. SI 2017/664 (C.56)**

**This Order modifies a series of prior Orders bringing into force provisions of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 relating to universal credit and the abolition of income-related employment and support allowance and income-based jobseeker's allowance. It also modifies the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 23 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015 art.7 such that, save in specified cases, a person may not make a claim for housing benefit, income support or a tax credit on any date where, if that person made a claim for universal credit on that date, the universal credit provisions would come into force by virtue of any of the sub-paragraphs of art.3(2) of the aforementioned prior commencement Orders.**

**Website:** [**http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/664/pdfs/uksi\_20170664\_en.pdf [Accessed 26 May 2017]**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.legislation.gov.uk_uksi_2017_664_pdfs_uksi-5F20170664-5Fen.pdf&d=DwMF-g&c=4ZIZThykDLcoWk-GVjSLmy8-1Cr1I4FWIvbLFebwKgY&r=29eyVT83igpHIZXBmLToyb5JCXgDeKS606DYk86JElk&m=Jb3Lpy2ZIQ-pqlvrAA7sKFpTNt3P1eEfz9vQSSn-1M8&s=VM2YLs_2R23UcOvVjA5KwCYhS7D0ziBgA4VPwxBU3rc&e=)

**In Force: Bringing into operation various provisions of the 2012 Act on 19 June 2017.**

**Made under Welfare Reform Act 2012 s.150(3)(4)(a)(b)(i)(c)**

**Legislation amended: Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 17 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2014 (SI 2014/1583) (modified); Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 19 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Amendment)) Order 2014 (SI 2014/2321) (modified); Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 22 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015 (SI 2015/101) (modified); Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 23 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015 (SI 2015/634) (modified); Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Amendment)) Order 2015 (SI 2015/1537) modified**

**GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS**

**HEALTH. *Consumer law; Social welfare*.  Care homes; Consumer law; Contract terms; Elderly persons; Residential care.  CMA outlines emerging concerns in care homes market. By Competition and Markets Authority. 14 June 2017**

**The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has published the initial findings of its December 2016 market study on whether the residential care homes sector is working well for elderly people and their families. Key aspects include: that people are struggling to make decisions about care; that complaints procedures are not functioning well; and that there are concerns that some might not be treating residents fairly and that certain practices and contract terms might break consumer law.**

**Website:** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cma-outlines-emerging-concerns-in-care-homes-market [Accessed 14 June 2017]**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.gov.uk_government_news_cma-2Doutlines-2Demerging-2Dconcerns-2Din-2Dcare-2Dhomes-2Dmarket&d=DwMF-g&c=4ZIZThykDLcoWk-GVjSLmy8-1Cr1I4FWIvbLFebwKgY&r=29eyVT83igpHIZXBmLToyb5JCXgDeKS606DYk86JElk&m=Jb3Lpy2ZIQ-pqlvrAA7sKFpTNt3P1eEfz9vQSSn-1M8&s=8a8yWsEEoAT1jVs-u-ZfN5rxTVoI7bJpmhQV7vssPMk&e=)

**REAL PROPERTY. *Housing*.  Caravan sites; Commission; Fees; Sale of property.  The Park Homes Commission Rate - consultation document. Issued by Welsh Government. WG31760 25 May 2017**

**A Welsh Government consultation seeks views on the reduction or abolition of commission fees on the sale of park homes. In particular, comments are sought on: whether commission fees should be changed; how any changes might affect park business; and how any changes might affect residents. Comments by 17 August 2017.**

**Website:** [**https://consultations.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultation\_doc\_files/170525\_consultation\_parkhomescommissionrate\_en.pdf [Accessed 6 June 2017]**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__consultations.gov.wales_sites_default_files_consultation-5Fdoc-5Ffiles_170525-5Fconsultation-5Fparkhomescommissionrate-5Fen.pdf&d=DwMF-g&c=4ZIZThykDLcoWk-GVjSLmy8-1Cr1I4FWIvbLFebwKgY&r=29eyVT83igpHIZXBmLToyb5JCXgDeKS606DYk86JElk&m=Jb3Lpy2ZIQ-pqlvrAA7sKFpTNt3P1eEfz9vQSSn-1M8&s=gLUkSNH6BPT-sJVJmSAwZJEUz8s0BvaXpvMyb2zGNqo&e=)

**NEWS ARTICLES**

**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE. *Mental health; Social welfare*.  Care homes; Directors' powers and duties; Learning disabilities; Prosecutions; Vulnerable adults.**

**Directors prosecuted for the first time for care homes that ran punishment regime. *Times, 8 June 2017, 9.* By Simon de Bruxelles. Also Reported in Guardian, 8 June 2017, 12; Daily Telegraph, 8 June 2017, 11**

**In what is thought to be the first time that care home directors have been prosecuted alongside staff, 13 directors and staff at two Atlas care homes in Bideford and Gatooma in Devon have been convicted of the organised and systematic abuse of vulnerable adults with learning disabilities, where residents were routinely locked in cold, damp rooms without access to food or water as punishment for "misbehaving".**

**FAMILY LAW. *Human rights*.  Appeals; Belief discrimination; Marriage ceremony; Northern Ireland; Religion or belief.**

**Couple win fight for recognition of humanist wedding. *Guardian, 9 June 2017 (Online edition).* By Harriet Sherwood. Also Reported in Belfast Telegraph, 10 June 2017 (Online edition)**

**Laura Lacole and Eunan O'Kane have won their High Court fight to have their humanist wedding recognised as legal in a judgment that effectively changes the law in Northern Ireland. The couple wanted a ceremony that reflected their beliefs, but the only legal options were a religious or civil service. The Court permitted them a legally valid humanist wedding ceremony. It is understood the decision is to be appealed by Northern Ireland's Attorney General.**

**Website:** [**https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/09/model-and-leeds-united-footballer-win-fight-for-humanist-wedding [Accessed 12 June 2017]; http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/footballer-and-models-humanist-wedding-ruling-to-be-appealed-35810560.html [Accessed 12 June 2017]**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk_news_northern-2Direland_footballer-2Dand-2Dmodels-2Dhumanist-2Dwedding-2Druling-2Dto-2Dbe-2Dappealed-2D35810560.html&d=DwMF-g&c=4ZIZThykDLcoWk-GVjSLmy8-1Cr1I4FWIvbLFebwKgY&r=29eyVT83igpHIZXBmLToyb5JCXgDeKS606DYk86JElk&m=Jb3Lpy2ZIQ-pqlvrAA7sKFpTNt3P1eEfz9vQSSn-1M8&s=guw1TjvuWf2JJart_Sl96peP_dOU4VZe48YP1aTVZj8&e=)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT. *Environment*.  Air pollution; Air quality; Local authorities' powers and duties; Reporting requirements.**

**Local authorities breaking the law in hiding pollution level. *Times, 20 May 2017, 32.* By Nadeem Badshah.**

**The DeSmog UK website has claimed that a survey of 77 local authorities has revealed that 59 of them were failing to report levels of air pollution to the public despite being required to do so under the Environment Act 1995, and 34 of the authorities were found to have gaps in their reporting between 2011 and 2016. Mat Hope, of DeSmog UK, has claimed that local authorities are struggling with the extra obligations under the new air quality plan.**

**Legislation referred: Environment Act 1995**



PUBLIC PROCUREMENT. *Contracts; Construction law.*

**Contracting authorities; Public contracts; Specific disclosure; Suspension;   
Tenderers; Tenders.**

Alstom Transport UK Ltd v London Underground Ltd. *[2017] EWHC 1406 (TCC).* Queen's Bench Division (Technology & Construction Court) (QBD (TCC)). Coulson J. June 15, 2017

The court set out a number of factors to be considered when determining the order in which competing applications concerning the outcome of a tender process should be heard. An application to lift the suspension of the proposed contract would not always be heard in advance of an application by an unsuccessful tenderer for specific disclosure.

Directions given

LEGISLATIOn

SOCIAL SECURITY.    
Commencement; Consequential amendments; Housing benefit; Income support; Income-based employment and support allowance; Income-based jobseeker's allowance; Restrictions; Tax credits; Universal credit.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No.29 and Commencement No.17, 19,   
22, 23 and 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Modification)) Order 2017. SI 2017/664 (C.56)

This Order modifies a series of prior Orders bringing into force provisions of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 relating to universal credit and the abolition of income-related employment and support allowance and income-based jobseeker's allowance. It also modifies the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 23 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015 art.7 such that, save in specified cases, a person may not make a claim for housing benefit, income support or a tax credit on any date where, if that person made a claim for universal credit on that date, the universal credit provisions would come into force by virtue of any of the sub-paragraphs of art.3(2) of the aforementioned prior commencement Orders.

Website: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/664/pdfs/uksi\_20170664\_en.pdf   
[Accessed 26 May 2017]](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/664/pdfs/uksi_20170664_en.pdf%20%5bAccessed%2026%20May%202017%5d)

In Force: Bringing into operation various provisions of the 2012 Act on 19 June 2017.

Made under Welfare Reform Act 2012 s.150(3)(4)(a)(b)(i)(c)

Legislation amended: Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 17 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2014 (SI 2014/1583) (modified); Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 19 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Amendment)) Order 2014 (SI 2014/2321) (modified); Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 22 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015 (SI 2015/101) (modified); Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 23 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2015 (SI 2015/634) (modified); Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Commencement No. 24 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions (Amendment)) Order 2015 (SI 2015/1537) modified.



**GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS**

**HEALTH. *Consumer law; Social welfare*.**

**Care homes; Consumer law; Contract terms; Elderly persons; Residential care.   
CMA outlines emerging concerns in care homes market. By Competition and Markets Authority. 14 June 2017**

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has published the initial findings of its December 2016 market study on whether the residential care homes sector is working well for elderly people and their families. Key aspects include: that people are struggling to make decisions about care; that complaints procedures are not functioning well; and that there are concerns that some might not be treating residents fairly and that certain practices and contract terms might break consumer law.

Website: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cma-outlines-emerging-concerns-in-care-homes-market [Accessed 14 June 2017]](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.gov.uk_government_news_cma-2Doutlines-2Demerging-2Dconcerns-2Din-2Dcare-2Dhomes-2Dmarket&d=DwMF-g&c=4ZIZThykDLcoWk-GVjSLmy8-1Cr1I4FWIvbLFebwKgY&r=29eyVT83igpHIZXBmLToyb5JCXgDeKS606DYk86JElk&m=Jb3Lpy2ZIQ-pqlvrAA7sKFpTNt3P1eEfz9vQSSn-1M8&s=8a8yWsEEoAT1jVs-u-ZfN5rxTVoI7bJpmhQV7vssPMk&e=)

**REAL PROPERTY. *Housing*.    
Caravan sites; Commission; Fees; Sale of property.  The Park Homes Commission Rate - consultation document. Issued by Welsh Government. WG31760 25 May 2017**

A Welsh Government consultation seeks views on the reduction or abolition of commission fees on the sale of park homes. In particular, comments are sought on: whether commission fees should be changed; how any changes might affect park business; and how any changes might affect residents. Comments by 17 August 2017.

Website:[https://consultations.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultation\_doc\_files/170525\_consultation\_parkhomescommissionrate\_en.pdf [Accessed 6 June 2017]](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__consultations.gov.wales_sites_default_files_consultation-5Fdoc-5Ffiles_170525-5Fconsultation-5Fparkhomescommissionrate-5Fen.pdf&d=DwMF-g&c=4ZIZThykDLcoWk-GVjSLmy8-1Cr1I4FWIvbLFebwKgY&r=29eyVT83igpHIZXBmLToyb5JCXgDeKS606DYk86JElk&m=Jb3Lpy2ZIQ-pqlvrAA7sKFpTNt3P1eEfz9vQSSn-1M8&s=gLUkSNH6BPT-sJVJmSAwZJEUz8s0BvaXpvMyb2zGNqo&e=)

NEWS ARTICLES

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE. *Mental health; Social welfare.*    
Care homes; Directors' powers and duties; Learning disabilities; Prosecutions; Vulnerable adults.

Directors prosecuted for the first time for care homes that ran punishment regime. *Times,   
8 June 2017, 9.* By Simon de Bruxelles. Also Reported in Guardian, 8 June 2017, 12; Daily Telegraph, 8 June 2017, 11

In what is thought to be the first time that care home directors have been prosecuted alongside staff, 13 directors and staff at two Atlas care homes in Bideford and Gatooma in Devon have been convicted of the organised and systematic abuse of vulnerable adults with learning disabilities, where residents were routinely locked in cold, damp rooms without access to food or water as punishment for "misbehaving".



FAMILY LAW. *Human rights*.    
Appeals; Belief discrimination; Marriage ceremony; Northern Ireland;   
Religion or belief.

Couple win fight for recognition of humanist wedding. *Guardian, 9 June 2017 (Online edition).* By Harriet Sherwood. Also Reported in Belfast Telegraph, 10 June 2017 (Online edition)

Laura Lacole and Eunan O'Kane have won their High Court fight to have their humanist wedding recognised as legal in a judgment that effectively changes the law in Northern Ireland. The couple wanted a ceremony that reflected their beliefs, but the only legal options were a religious or civil service. The Court permitted them a legally valid humanist wedding ceremony. It is understood the decision is to be appealed by Northern Ireland's Attorney General.

Website: [https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/09/model-and-leeds-united-footballer-win-fight-for-humanist-wedding [Accessed 12 June 2017]; http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/footballer-and-models-humanist-wedding-ruling-to-be-appealed-35810560.html [Accessed 12 June 2017]](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk_news_northern-2Direland_footballer-2Dand-2Dmodels-2Dhumanist-2Dwedding-2Druling-2Dto-2Dbe-2Dappealed-2D35810560.html&d=DwMF-g&c=4ZIZThykDLcoWk-GVjSLmy8-1Cr1I4FWIvbLFebwKgY&r=29eyVT83igpHIZXBmLToyb5JCXgDeKS606DYk86JElk&m=Jb3Lpy2ZIQ-pqlvrAA7sKFpTNt3P1eEfz9vQSSn-1M8&s=guw1TjvuWf2JJart_Sl96peP_dOU4VZe48YP1aTVZj8&e=)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. *Environment*.    
Air pollution; Air quality; Local authorities' powers and duties;   
Reporting requirements.

Local authorities breaking the law in hiding pollution level. *Times, 20 May 2017, 32.*   
By Nadeem Badshah.

The DeSmog UK website has claimed that a survey of 77 local authorities has revealed that 59 of them were failing to report levels of air pollution to the public despite being required to do so under the Environment Act 1995, and 34 of the authorities were found to have gaps in their reporting between 2011 and 2016. Mat Hope, of DeSmog UK, has claimed that local authorities are struggling with the extra obligations under the new air quality plan.

Legislation referred: Environment Act 1995