



YOUR MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

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LATEST CONSORTIUM NEWS

Coronavirus - FREE Consortium Training Programme 2019/20

As you already know as a result of the current Coronavirus pandemic all Consortium training courses to the end of the current Annual Training Programme (end June 2020) have now been CANCELLED.

We are now working with our Partner Firms to offer you a range of webinars instead – watch out for more information and joining instructions coming soon

The new NWLC Solicitors Framework 2020-2024 – Now Live!

The new Framework Contracts are now in place with 14 firms of Solicitors, across 5 Lots.

All the firms' details and tendered rates are available to staff from Consortium member organisations in the secure area of the Consortium website and you can commission work from the new Framework straight away.

The Lots and firms appointed to them are as follows:

Lot 1 - Civil Litigation, Prosecutions and Regulatory

To include construction litigation, negligence proceedings, possession proceedings, licensing appeals and employment advice and litigation.

Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP

Bevan Brittan LLP

Geldards LLP

Plexus Law

TLT Solicitors

Weightmans LLP

Lot 2 - Property, Planning and Environment

To include all conveyancing, regeneration and highways advice.

Bevan Brittan LLP

Brabners LLP

DAC Beachcroft LLP

DLA Piper

Freeths LLP

Geldards LLP

TLT Solicitors





Lot 3 - Corporate Governance, Ethical Standards and Information Law

To include organisational governance issues, data protection advice including advice on use of social media by councillors or third parties involving the Council/council officers.

Bevan Brittan LLP
DAC Beachcroft LLP
DWF LLP
Geldards LLP
TLT Solicitors
Weightmans LLP

Lot 4 - Projects, Procurement and Commercial

To include all commercial contracts and company law. Transport regulation including light rail/tram, heavy rail and bus, ticketing, concessionary fares, state aid, competition law, telecommunications, information technology, digital infrastructure and communications, smart technology, construction contracts (NEC and JCT) and construction adjudication/arbitration.

Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP
Bevan Brittan LLP
DAC Beachcroft LLP
DLA Piper
Freeths LLP
Geldards LLP
Sharpe Pritchard LLP
TLT Solicitors
Weightmans LLP

Lot 5 - Social Care and Education

To include Adult and Children Social Care and Education.

Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP
Bevan Brittan LLP
Browne Jacobson LLP
DAC Beachcroft LLP
Weightmans LLP

When tendering their rates for each Lot, Firms were asked to state the average discount that they had applied as against rates that they charge other clients in the same sector.

Based upon the discount levels provided by the successful firms across all Lots the **average level of discount with this Framework is 19%**.

4 Partner Firms have also been appointed as follows:

Bevan Brittan LLP
DAC Beachcroft LLP
Geldards LLP
Weightmans LLP



Looking After Ourselves

Lawcare are there to help at www.lawcare.org.uk.

Lawcare have added new resources to their covid support page on their website which includes webinars , managing furlough, practical steps to stay well when working from home and tips for leaders www.lawcare.org.uk/covid-19

In particular there is a recording of their free webinar ‘Working well, staying well in the home office’.

They are also marking **Mental Health Awareness Week, May 18 -22**

This year’s Mental Health Awareness Week is focused on kindness.

You are invited to feel free to use **their resources** during the week, including an article, social media images and new top tips for sleep.

They are also encouraging people to share moments in their legal career when someone showed them kindness on social media during the week using #momentofkindness and tagging them in.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We have confirmed our booking at Aintree for the next Consortium Annual Training Event. It will take place on **Tuesday 6th October 2020**

Lets keep our fingers crossed that we can still hold our event without restriction!

Please save the date and hopefully you and your colleagues can join us there.

REMINDERS

How might the NWLC and information held on the website (www.nwlegalconsortium.com) help you during the current Coronavirus restrictions?

Here’s just a few ways:

A problem shared	Need to get a second opinion, share a problem, get a new perspective?	Through the website, contact colleagues in other member organisations by logging in and going to the Directory page. Even better if users have registered their specialisms – you can search for colleagues using the search tool based upon the subject of your query.
Registering your specialism	Why not update your user profile to identify your specialisms/skills	To do this log into the secure area and click on User Profile in the left hand menu. Assign your skills and then just click OK at bottom right of screen.
Keeping up to date	The Thomson Reuters Updater accompanies each E-Bulletin	Access recent Updaters by going to the website Home Page and clicking on the E-Bulletins going back in time.



Refreshing your knowledge	Resources are available	Presentations and handouts from Consortium training sessions or the sessions at the Annual Training Event are all available to you once you are logged into the secure area in the Documents area of the website.
Assistance with workloads	Perhaps one of the other member organisations can help you out?	Contact details for organisation leads are published in the secure area in the Organisation Directory.
Keeping in touch	While you are all working remotely just keeping in touch with colleagues can be very important – for whatever reason	Log in to the website and access the People Directory to contact a colleague.

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 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 to add more authorised users for your organisation

Also, if you have staff leaving you please let us know and we will keep your user list up to date.

Why not take the time to tidy up your registered users list?

You can see the users currently registered for your organisation by logging in and going to the Directory page.

Click on People Directory and in search criteria add in the name of your organisation.

A list of your users will appear on screen for you.

Just let us know about deletions and additions by emailing Beryl at bh_nwlconsortium@btinternet.com

New Roles up for grabs

We usually publish a range of vacancies on the website jobs page at nwlegalconsortium.com/jobs

Currently, Sefton Council are looking for a Senior Legal Assistant – Childcare Team to cover maternity leave.

If your organisation wants to advertise any vacancies on the website for **free** contact Beryl Heath on bh_nwlconsortium@btinternet.com



NWLC NOMINATED CHARITY OF THE YEAR



Please support the North West Air Ambulance Charity
For the Charity's latest events go to: nwaa.net

Update on the North West Air Ambulance Charity service

The North West Air Ambulance Charity (NWAA) has partnered with the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) to launch a new inter-hospital patient transfer service, in response to the COVID-19 crisis facing the region. The partnership sees the two organisations further join forces to save lives during the region's time of need, with the charity providing vital ground support to those responding to the pandemic on the frontline.

Whilst COVID-19 remains a significant threat, capacity issues and the need to maximise ICU beds are posing a challenge to hospitals across the region. This new dedicated collaborative project will provide an inter-hospital transfer for critically ill COVID-19 patients, so that they can be quickly and safely transferred to hospitals with greater available ICU resource at that time.

NWAA HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Services) Paramedics, from the air ambulance charity, will use a dedicated land ambulance provided by NWAS to transfer these critically ill patients, along with a specifically trained doctor from the originating hospital and a number of other support staff provided by NWAS.

The partnership will enable timely movement of COVID-19 patients and help prevent any one hospital becoming overwhelmed, allowing NWAS to continue to take patients to their nearest appropriate hospital. The use of a dedicated vehicle means that other frontline ambulances remain available for responding to patients, including those dialling 999.

Consultant-level doctors and paramedics from the air ambulance charity will continue to provide enhanced pre-hospital care to non-COVID-19 related critically ill and injured patients via helicopter and rapid response vehicle, improving survival outcomes across the North West. The service remains 100% charity funded, and currently does not receive Government funding. It instead must fundraise £9.5million each year to stay operational.

Heather Arrowsmith, CEO of the North West Air Ambulance Charity, said: "This new service is a credit to the incredible collaborative effort of NWAS and NWAA, and will enable each service to make a truly positive difference during these extraordinary times. The scheme was organised and launched within a matter of days, with no time wasted in the endeavor to protect patients and our personnel in the face of COVID-19.

"We've worked closely alongside the land ambulance service for many years, and our crew's experience in working with doctor-led teams and specialist equipment meant we were well placed to provide this service within the North West during these unprecedented times. We hold the NWAS team in the highest esteem – particularly now, as they face the most challenging time the NHS has ever experienced.

"As ever, our charity remains incredibly grateful for the support shown by the public, especially at this time. Their support has enabled us to adapt our service quickly and efficiently, to ensure our crews can care for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients across the region. Though our country remains under lockdown, our specialist air ambulance crews are still being called to critically ill and injured patients – and we're grateful to our supporters for enabling us to respond to these incidents. At this time though, we of course urge people to please stay at home to help protect the NHS and our crews, and allow them to save lives."

It's our 21st Birthday in May!

On May 19th we turn 21, and we want to celebrate together – after all, we wouldn't have reached this milestone without the generosity of people like you!

So please join us to celebrate our 21st birthday by joining one of our events from the comfort and safety of your own home! We wouldn't be here without you, and in these uncertain times we need your support more than ever before!



Friday Fun Family Quiz!

Friday night 1st May is family quiz night! Get the family together, and join Paramedic Pup for our first ever Fun Family Quiz live on Facebook at 4pm

Victory will require the help of children aged 5 to 12 (unless of course you also have in depth knowledge of subjects such as Peppa Pig and Hogwarts!) . All you need to play is access to the [North West Air Ambulance Charity Facebook page](#), and don't forget to bring your best pen to write the answers down!

If you enjoy the quiz there'll be an opportunity to make a small donation to our charity if you want to, but it isn't necessary! Just come along and join in the fun!

Thats Fridays, 4pm, Facebook! See you there!

Go21! Challenge

Go21 is the perfect way for you to support our charity by staying active while you stay home and save lives! You could use your daily exercise to walk 21,000 steps in a month, or cycle 21 miles in a week. You could run 21 miles in your own back garden, or climb your stairs for 21 minutes each day. Challenge your friends to a 21 minute plank off, or host a 21 hour danceathon on zoom. Simply choose your activity, set yourself a target, and get going! And don't forget to [tell us about it](#) so we can cheer you on from our sofas!

Find out more by visiting our [website](#)

Thank you for all your support!



NWLC MONTHLY LEGAL UPDATER

POWERED BY THOMSON REUTERS AND PRACTICAL LAW

01/05/20

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](https://www.westlaw.co.uk) or [uk.practicallaw.com](https://www.uk.practicallaw.com)

CASES

HOUSING. Administration of justice; Local government; Administrative law.

Appeals; Contracting out; County courts; Homelessness; Jurisdiction; Reviews.

James v Hertsmere BC. [2020] EWCA Civ 489. Court of Appeal (Civil Division) (CA (Civ Div)). McCombe LJ; Peter Jackson LJ; Haddon-Cave LJ. April 02, 2020

The county court's jurisdiction when hearing a homelessness appeal on a point of law under the Housing Act 1996 s.204 was not limited to determining points of law that might broadly but imprecisely be described as points of housing law, but extended to the full range of issues that would otherwise be the subject of a High Court application for judicial review. The county court therefore had jurisdiction, when hearing homelessness appeals, to consider challenges to local authorities' contracting-out processes.

Appeal dismissed

HOUSING. Local government; Social welfare; Human rights.

Homelessness; Housing allocation; Local authorities' powers and duties; Physical disabilities; Priority needs; Right to respect for private and family life; Social services.

R. (on the application of Idolo) v Bromley LBC. [2020] EWHC 860 (Admin). Queen's Bench Division (Administrative Court) (QBD (Admin)). Rowena Collins Rice. April 08, 2020

A local authority had not failed in its duties under the Care Act 2014 because of a delay in rehousing a disabled resident into suitable accommodation. Rehousing needs, even if identified through the Care Act route, could not shortcut the detailed system of balanced priorities under the Housing Act 1996. The court stated that due to the cost implications of bringing such claims, it was incumbent on counsel at the permission stage to explain why it would not be more appropriate to pursue internal complaint procedures the ombudsman route, or other systems designed to deal economically and expeditiously with compensation for maladministration.

Application refused

MENTAL HEALTH. Human rights; Health.

Best interests; Capacity; Care homes; Coronavirus; Dementia; Derogation in times of emergency; Disabled persons; Discharge; Litigation friends; Right to liberty and security; Right to respect for private and family life.

BP v Surrey CC. [2020] EWCOP 17. Court of Protection (CP). Hayden J. March 25, 2020

The court determined the best interests of an 83-year-old man who was deaf and suffering from Alzheimer's where his care home had suspended all family visits in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Pursuant to ECHR art.15, in a situation of public emergency which threatened the life of the nation, it was appropriate to derogate from art.5 and art.8. The ultimate plan provided for him to communicate with family members using Skype with a communication board and the exploration of concurrent instant messaging.

Judgment accordingly



LEGISLATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. *Electoral process.*

Electoral registration officers; Local elections; Local government finance; Wales.

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill 2019.

A Bill for an Act of the National Assembly for Wales to make provision about local government; local government finance; local government elections; electoral registration and electoral administration; and for connected purposes.

Website: www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=26688 [Accessed at 21 November 2019]

Introduced: 18/11/2019; Welsh Stage 1, Consideration: Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee consideration 21/11/2019, 27/11/2019, 11/12/2019, 9/1/2020, 15/1/2020, 20/1/2020, 23/1/2020. Legislation, Justice Constitution Committee 3/2/2020. Report 13/3/2020; Stage 1, Debate: 8/4/2020; Stage 2: 9/4/2020

HEALTH. *Environmental health; Government administration.*

Burials and cremation; Certification; Commencement; Contingency planning; Coronavirus; Death registration; Regulation; Stillbirth.

Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2020. SI 2020/361 (C. 18)

These Regulations bring into force, immediately after these Regulations are made, the Coronavirus Act 2020 ss.18, 19 and 21 and Sch.13 to ease the requirements around certification and registration of deaths and still-births in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and to modify the requirements for cremations in England and Wales and Northern Ireland.

In Force: Bringing into operation ss.18, 19, 21 and Sch.13 of the 2020 Act on 26 March 2020.

Made under Coronavirus Act 2020 s.87(2)(g)(h)(i)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. *Police.*

Access; Contingency planning; Coronavirus; Local authorities; Meetings; Police and crime panels; Procedure.

Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. SI 2020/392

These Regulations make provision for the conduct of local authority meetings held before 7 May 2021, and for public and press access to these meetings.

In Force: 4 April 2020





GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. *Local government.*

Coronavirus; Local authorities' powers and duties; Powers of intervention; Public meetings; Teleconferences; Video conferences.

Councils given new powers to hold public meetings remotely. By Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. 3 April 2020

From 4 April 2020 local authorities in England will be handed new powers to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology. The legal requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person has been temporarily removed by the Government in light of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Website: www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-given-new-powers-to-hold-public-meetings-remotely#history [Accessed at 3 April 2020]

EDUCATION. *Food; Social welfare.*

Children's welfare; Coronavirus; Free school meals; Vouchers.

Voucher scheme launches for schools providing free school meals. By Department for Education. 31 March 2020

Children eligible for free school meals will benefit from a national voucher scheme allowing them to continue to access meals whilst they stay at home due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Under the scheme, schools can now provide every eligible child with a weekly shopping voucher worth £15 to spend at supermarkets. This delivers on the Government's commitment to provide ongoing support for the 1.3 million children that would receive benefits-related free school meals at their school. Guidance for schools and local authorities on free school meals arrangements during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is provided.

Website: www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals [Accessed at 31 March 2020]; www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance [Accessed 31 March 2020]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. *Health.*

Coronavirus; Government grants; Local government finance; Non-domestic rates; Social care.

Councils given greater financial relief against cash flow pressures. By Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. 16 April 2020

Councils will be allowed to defer £2.6 billion in business rates payments to central government, and £850 million in social care grants will be paid up front in April 2020 in a move to give councils greater financial relief during the coronavirus outbreak.

Website: www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-given-greater-financial-relief-against-cash-flow-pressures [Accessed at 16 April 2020]





SOCIAL SECURITY. *Health.*

Coronavirus; Overpayment of benefits; Recovery of benefits; Recovery of overpayments.

Recovery of benefit overpayment suspended. By Department for Work and Pensions. 3 April 2020

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Department for Work and Pensions has temporarily paused the recovery of benefit overpayments, for a period of three months. The change means many claimants will see an increase in the amount of money they receive in benefits during the outbreak.

Website: www.gov.uk/government/news/recovery-of-benefit-overpayment-suspended
[Accessed at 6 April 2020]

NEWS RELEASES

EDUCATION. *Information technology; Local government.*

Access; Coronavirus; Distance learning; Local authorities' powers and duties; Mobile devices; Pupils; Schools.

Local authorities could face action over access to education during lockdown. *Guardian*, 6 April 2020 (Online edition). By Richard Adams.

The Good Law Project, a group of legal activists, has warned it will bring action against local authorities to try to push the Government into acting so that pupils from poor backgrounds have access to computers and internet connections during the coronavirus outbreak. The group believes the widespread reliance on online learning during the lockdown is illegally disadvantaging state school pupils and that local authorities in England have a clear obligation to ensure that all children can access teaching.

Website: www.theguardian.com/education/2020/apr/06/uk-councils-face-lawsuits-over-access-to-education-in-lockdown [Accessed at 6 April 2020]

FAMILY LAW. *Health.*

Birth registration; Foster care; Local authorities' powers and duties; Parental rights; Vaccination.

Court of Appeal rules that council was right to vaccinate child against parents wishes. *Times*, 3 April 2020, 16. Also Reported in *Guardian*, 2 April 2020 (Online edition); *Daily Telegraph*, 3 April 2020, 14

The Court of Appeal has ruled that Tower Hamlets Council was right to vaccinate a foster child against his parents' wishes. The parents did not register the boy's birth but after losing their case at the High Court, the council took the child into care and vaccinated him, which was also challenged. The judge decided vaccination was in the boy's best interests.

Website: www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/02/couple-who-opposed-council-vaccinating-their-child-lose-appeal [Accessed at 3 April 2020]