PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Could you be involved in one and need support?





ABOUT PUBLIC INQUIRIES

- Public inquiries are convened by the Government to investigate events which have or could cause public concern. They often take place where people have suffered or lost lives.
- The inquiry will look at what happened; why; who may be to blame; and what can be done to prevent this happening again.
- The chairperson of the public inquiry may designate a person, a group, or an organisation who has a direct and significant involvement or interest in the subject of the inquiry as a core participant. The core participant will have rights to see evidence, attend hearings, make opening and closing submissions, and may be permitted to question witnesses.
- The output of a public inquiry will include lessons learnt and recommendations, a select committee may follow up to make sure the government acts on recommendations.
- Public inquiries are almost always high profile and heavily scrutinised by the media, they often create public debate or even make headline news in the press.

SUPPORT WE CAN PROVIDE

It can be a daunting prospect to find that you or your business are involved in a public inquiry. We understand this and can guide you through the stages of a public inquiry. We can advise or assist people and organisations about their involvement in a public inquiry. That includes public bodies, businesses and individuals, whether as a core participant or a witness.

We provide support on the broad issues arising from a public inquiry including upon:

- reputation management;
- funding to support participation;
- insurance;
- governance, establishment documentation, process, sequencing and stakeholder communications;
- documentation capturing and reviewing large quantities of documentation on bespoke IT platforms;
- witnesses meeting and preparing witness evidence whilst sensitively handling highly emotive issues;
- factual analysis and report drafting;
- support ahead of public hearings, parliamentary committee appearances and the provision of oral evidence; and
- litigation, regulatory enforcement and criminal investigations arising from an inquiry.

Our work and advice may attract legal professional privilege depending on our role.

We will work with you to understand your concerns and wider objectives and adopt an approach that focuses on these whilst seeking to protect your reputation. Our support may include pushing the inquiry to answer your questions or investigate particular issues.

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I CANNOT SPEAK HIGHLY ENOUGH OF ERIN SHOESMITH. I HAVE WORKED WITH HER MANY TIMES ON HIGH PROFILE CASES, INCLUDING THE GRENFELL INQUIRY. SHE RUNS HER TEAM BRILLIANTLY. THEY LOVE TO WORK FOR AND WITH HER AND SHE SETS THE STANDARD. BROAD COVERAGE, GOOD INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE INCLUDING EMPLOYING EX-HSE PERSONNEL, GOOD CONTACTS IN THE INDUSTRY, USE TECHNOLOGY WELL, WELL-CONSIDERED PRACTICAL ADVICE.

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WHO WE ARE

Our public inquiries team, led by Erin Shoesmith, encompasses not only experience in providing representation at inquiries, but also expertise that extends across the full range of the firm's practice areas.

The team includes members with in depth knowledge of health and safety, corporate crime, dispute resolution, reputation management and contentious insurance disputes. It amounts to a large resource pool situated across the UK, which can be quickly mobilised, and has the breadth of expertise to manage the demands of a public inquiry.

Our experience in public inquiries:

- We currently act on behalf of a core participant at the Grenfell Tower inquiry;
- We currently represent three bereaved families at the Manchester Arena Bombing inquiry;
- The firm is advising a client in connection with the Hospitals Inquiry in Scotland;
- The firm recently assisted a leading care institution in Scotland to provide written evidence to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry;
- We regularly advise clients in connection with requests for production of documents and witness evidence;
- Members of our team have also:
 - o worked on the Jersey Care Inquiry in relation to historical abuse of children in care;
 - acted as special advisor to a Parliamentary Inquiry into misconduct in the private investigations industry in the wake of the phone hacking scandal;
 - advised an organisation which gave evidence to the independent investigation into the maternity and neonatal services of the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust;
 - advised Sir Christopher Kelly on his independent public review of the causes of the capital shortfall at Co-operative Bank plc; and
 - o prepared senior bank executive for appearances before the Treasury Select Committee.



ASSOCIATE, JAMES CURRIE, IS UNFLAPPABLE AND CONSISTENTLY VERY EFFECTIVE.

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THE TEAM SHE HAS BUILT.

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THE KEY TO ADDLESHAW GODDARD'S SUCCESS IS THE EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP

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Aberdeen, Doha, Dubai, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hamburg, Hong Kong, Leeds, London, Manchester, Muscat, Singapore and Tokyo*

*a formal alliance with Hashidate Law Office

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