

Judicial Review Specialist Consultant

We have an exciting opportunity for a judicial review specialist to join the independent body responsible for England and Wales student complaint scheme as an external consultant.

Position: Judicial Review Specialist Consultant

Location: Reading – remote working

Hours: Hours of contracted out work will be variable and not guaranteed, depending on the number of Judicial Review claims received (in 2020 this was about 60 hours).

Closing date: Midday on Wednesday 10 March 2021, we reserve the right to close early if we receive a significant number of suitable applications.

About the organisation:

As Judicial Review specialist consultant you will be working for the ombuds service for students in Higher Education (HE). Students who are unhappy about almost any aspect of their HE experience can complain. They do not act for the student, or for universities and colleges. They make independent, impartial decisions about what has happened, and can make recommendations about how to put things right. Cases are interesting and often challenging and complex.

About the role:

There have been over 100 judicial reviews since the organisation opened in 2005, less than 10% of which are granted permission. There is a very strong record of defending those claims. As Judicial Review Specialist Consultant you will:

- Carry out any accepted work remotely.
- Consider pre-action protocol correspondence and draft response.
- Consider new claims received and (where appropriate) draft the summary of grounds for resisting the claim.
- Oversee the preparation of briefs to counsel.
- Liaise with external solicitors and counsel.
- Attend permission and substantive hearings with external counsel as necessary.
- Liaise with and attend occasional meetings with a small internal judicial review team made up of case handlers and administrative staff.
- Brief the Independent Adjudicator regularly on judicial review matters and advise on strategy and merits as appropriate.

About you:

You will provide the services of a barrister or solicitor who is able to practise in England and Wales and have the following skills and experience:

Experience in judicial review work

- Excellent oral and written communication
- Excellent analytical skills
- Ability to be decisive
- Highly efficient
- Persuasive and prepared to stand your ground when you believe a mistake has been made
- Able to digest large volumes of information quickly to assess the merits of a case

Ideally you may also have experience of:

- The ombuds sector
- The higher education sector

How to apply:

Once you apply you will be redirected through to the OIAHE website where you will be asked to complete a short application form. Please include information about your judicial review experience, proposed fees and upload a covering letter explaining how you meet the person criteria.

You may also have experience in roles such as: Solicitor, Barrister, Judicial Review, Ombuds, Qualified Lawyer, Litigation lawyer, Judicial Office, Judicial Law, Judicial Review Lawyer, Consultant Solicitor, Legal Consultant, etc.

The organisation values diverse backgrounds, life experiences and perspectives, and have a supportive and inclusive organisational culture. They would like the organisation to be representative of the community and the people who use the service. They welcome applications from all who share their values of equality, diversity and inclusion.