



Duncan Lewis
Solicitors



we give people a voice

Public Law

Our Services

Judicial Review

Unlawful Detention and False Imprisonment

Abuse and Conditions in Detention

Disputed Minors

Asylum Support

Challenging Non-Appealable Decisions

Policies/Practices of the Immigration and Asylum Chambers

Fees and Funding



Duncan Lewis Solicitors serves corporate entities and private individuals in over 25 practice areas from offices throughout London and across England and Wales. Established in 1998, the firm has over 550 lawyers delivering legal services in over 60 languages. We have been recognised by independent legal directories, The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, as a top tier firm and described as a “diligent and professional team that is prepared to go the extra mile for its clients”.

Our head office is based in London, on Fenchurch Street, and we are the largest provider of publicly funded (legal aid) legal services in the country.

Our Services

Our public law teams challenge the policies and practices of government departments and ministers, by way of judicial review. This includes the Secretary of State for the Home Department, local authorities, the police, the Legal Aid Agency and other public bodies.

We advise on the following matters:

- Judicial review
- Unlawful detention and false imprisonment
- Abuse and conditions in detention
- Disputed minors
- Asylum Support
- Challenging non-appealable decisions
- Policies/practices of the Immigration and Asylum Chambers
- Removal cases and third country returns

Judicial Review

An application for judicial review can be sought if it is arguable that the authorities have acted irrationally, unlawfully or unreasonably. Our public law solicitors have extensive experience in judicial review applications and have been involved in numerous reported and test cases.

Unlawful Detention and False Imprisonment

We have expertise in assisting those unlawfully detained in immigration removal centres. We assist detainees in seeking their release and potential damages (compensation) for their unlawful detention. If previously unlawfully detained in the UK we also assist in claims for compensation by way of a civil claim of false imprisonment.

Abuse and Conditions in Detention

We advise and assist those who have been abused by detention staff or by the escorts in charge of removing them. In many immigration removal centres, detainees are forced to live in appalling conditions and are often required to work to maintain the centres on meagre wages.

Our lawyers can assist in challenging the conditions in detention centres where detainees are held for indefinite periods and seek transfers to alternative detention centres.

Disputed Minors

Minors (those under 18) are generally not detained by the Home Office, and are only detained with family members. There are instances however, when the Home Office will make an assessment to ascertain age and wrongly decide that a child is an adult, and subsequently detain them. Our team specialise in challenging these age assessments.

Asylum Support

Delays in the Home Office's provision of accommodation to asylum seekers can result in homelessness. Further there are instances where accommodation that is provided is poor or unsuitable. We act for individuals who have experienced unlawful delays or unsuitable conditions and seek urgent relief for those at risk of homelessness.

Challenging Non-Appealable Decisions

We have the expertise and skill to challenge non-appealable decisions. These include adjournment refusals, bail decisions and delayed decisions by public bodies, including the Home Office.

Policies/Practices of the Immigration and Asylum Chambers

Some policies and practices adopted by the First-tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal affect the way appeals and judicial reviews are run. We regularly challenge policies and practices that are unlawful or unfair by way of judicial review, to ensure that our clients do not face detriment due to any changes.

Fees and Funding

Public Funding (Legal Aid)

Legal aid is given to eligible individuals who cannot afford to pay for legal advice and representation. We will advise as to whether legal aid funding may apply in your case. When it does, we can assist you in making the necessary applications for funding and advise you of any arising financial obligations.

Conditional Fee Agreements ('No Win No Fee')

In some cases, we offer a conditional fee or a damages based fee agreement, commonly known as 'no win no fee' funding. To determine if your claim is eligible, we will assess the prospects of success in your case and the chances of a court or tribunal making costs orders in your favour.

If you win your claim your opponent should be responsible for paying the majority of your legal costs and disbursements. Any legal costs not paid by your opponent could be deducted from the compensation awarded to you. This way, you should not pay anything until your claim has reached its completion, unless our agreement is that you will be responsible for paying the disbursements. We may be able to assist you in obtaining legal cover to protect you from the possibility of your opponent not paying the disbursements or for obtaining a costs order against you.

Private Funding

In all privately funded cases, our aim is to offer fair prices in exchange for the specialist services we provide. We offer competitive hourly rates and a number of fixed fee packages; for example, if you are consulting us about court proceedings. At your first meeting with us, we will discuss with you how we calculate our charges.

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