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John Goss

Call: 2015

John accepts instructions in all of Chambers' main practice areas with particular interest in police law, public/administrative matters, inquests and information law.

John's clients include police forces and other public bodies and he is part of the Government Legal Department's 'Junior Junior' scheme. Recent cases he has acted in include the high profile 'Deepcut' Inquests.

John joined 5 Essex Court in September 2016 after successfully completing pupillage. Previously, he spent six years as a Royal Engineer officer in the British Army, including service in Iraq and Afghanistan. This included extensive work with the Afghan National Police.

Police Law

John appears in the Crown, County and Magistrates' Courts on civil applications by the police relating to anti-social behavior, the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, orders under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, gang violence, domestic violence, football hooliganism and dangerous dogs.

He has particular experience in cash forfeiture proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, and in Sexual Risk Orders and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, including in situations involving vulnerable witnesses or defendants. He also regularly appears for police forces to resist appeals against refusal to remove notification requirements under the 2003 Act.

John also represents police forces defending claims brought in the High Court and County Court. This has included advising, drafting pleadings, and appearing in trials of actions against the police, especially in relation to property, as well as strike out/summary judgment applications in negligence, human rights and malfeasance claims, and CCMCs and other interim hearings in larger multi-track claims. He also appeared on behalf of a police force in the High Court to resist an injunction application brought by individuals within witness protection.

He regularly appears in the Family Court and Court of Protection on behalf of police forces seeking or resisting disclosure of information. He also represents police forces in the Family Court on applications for Forced Marriage Protection Orders relating to both capacity and coercion.

Inquests

John is currently being led by Francesca Whitelaw on the **Sean Benton Inquest** after working extensively with her on the **Cheryl James Inquest**. Both inquests arose out of deaths at Deepcut Barracks in 1995 and have been extensively covered in the media.

He has appeared alone for both family members and police in inquests, including one arising out of a suicide while under investigation by the police. He has assisted in both Article 2 and non-Article 2 inquests involving deaths in prison custody, during police restraint and resulting from police RTAs, and on an application to the High Court to quash a previous inquest. He is particularly keen to develop his experience in inquests.

Public / Administrative

John has drafted summary and detailed grounds and appeared on behalf of public bodies in permission hearings in the Administrative Court. He is currently instructed by a police force on a substantive judicial review relating to the handling of public complaints under the Police Reform Act 2002.

He is frequently instructed by the Home Office to draft grounds for immigration judicial reviews in the Upper Tribunal.

John regularly appears in the Crown Court to resist appeals against firearms licensing decisions. His military experience gives him particular insight into the technical issues that can arise.

He also appears in the Magistrates' Court to resist appeals against other licensing decisions, particularly in relation to minicabs and taxis.

As a member of the Government Legal Department's 'Junior Junior' scheme, John has carried out large-scale disclosure reviews for Ofgem (in connection with a major public inquiry, the **Renewable Heat Incentive Inquiry**) and the Government Legal Department. He also often acts as independent counsel for LPP sifts in ongoing criminal investigations.

Employment

John has gained experience in a variety of police discipline cases, including matters arising out of Plebgate and allegations of serious crime. He has also worked on resisting appeals to the PAT and advised on investigations under the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2012.

He also has an in-depth understanding of the Determinations relating to police pay, having worked extensively on unpaid overtime/untaken leave claims brought by police officers.

He has assisted with providing advice to respondents in employment disputes and drafting grounds of resistance to Tribunal claims.

Prior to joining chambers, John volunteered for the Free Representation Unit representing employees bringing claims in the Employment Tribunal for unfair dismissal, discrimination and unlawful deductions from wages.

John is a co-author of the Employment Tribunal Handbook, Fifth Edition (BloomsburyProfessional) 2017.

Personal Injury

John has appeared in and advised on quantum for infant approval hearings. As part of the Government Legal Department's 'Junior Junior' scheme, he has advised and drafted documents in large-scale personal injury litigation and would like to develop his experience of personal injury work.

John is happy to accept cases on a CFA basis where appropriate.

Human Rights

Many of John's instructions raise human rights issues, particularly under Articles 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 of the ECHR. He

advises on liability and damages under the Human Rights Act 1998, and acted in cases where human rights are engaged – either on a freestanding basis or in conjunction with other issues – in the High Court, County Court, Family Court, Crown Court and Magistrates' Court.

Information Law

John has experience of matters relating to information law, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation. He is well placed to act in claims relating to handling of information by public bodies, having advised on the extent of the police's obligation to co-operate with annual risk assessments under the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, and delivered training to police forces and other agencies on information sharing between public bodies and on data protection. He has also drafted strike out/summary judgment applications in relation to defamation and Data Protection Act claims in the High Court and County Court, and advised on the compatibility of decisions about the collection, handling and distribution of information with Article 8 ECHR.