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Beatrice Collier
Call: 2004



Beatrice is recognised as a leading junior specialising in the areas of police law, public law, mental health and capacity law, human rights and civil liberties, inquests and public inquiries.

Beatrice acts for a range of clients including police forces, prison services, local authorities and NHS Trusts. She is currently instructed in a number of civil actions, judicial reviews and human rights claims within her police practice. In her inquest practice she specialises, in particular, in cases with a mental health or capacity dimension (whether in the context of the police or community care services or in prison) and in police pursuit deaths.

Beatrice is happy to provide lectures and training on all aspects of her practice. She recently delivered training on human rights in the context of police cases, the issue of causation in inquests, policing and mental health, DOLs and capacity assessments, and was a panellist at the APL Autumn Conference 2017.

Recommendations

"She is very considered, accommodates tight deadlines and her pleadings are detailed, insightful and robust."
(Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"Very conscientious and has a good ability to get to grips with a case and quickly identify and communicate potential issues." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"She is very bright and thorough, does very detailed paperwork and always provides helpful guidance" (Police Law -Defendant)
Chambers UK 2018

"well educated, well qualified and bright" (Police Law -Defendant)
Chambers 2017

"She has an exceptional level of experience beyond her level of call"
Legal 500 2017

"careful and conscientious"
Legal 500 2016

"an excellent grasp of employment law"
Legal 500 2015

"an effective advocate"
Legal 500 2015

Police Law

Beatrice has acted in high profile litigation involving the police and has expertise in a wide range of police law.

She advises and represents police forces in a range of areas including search warrants, covert policing, informants, Human Rights Act claims, including claims alleging breach of Article 2 ECHR, Article 3 ECHR claims alleging a failure to investigate, trafficking/modern slavery cases, claims under Article 5 ECHR for unlawful detention, false imprisonment, assault, malicious prosecution, misfeasance, negligence claims, stop and search, public order, assorted police powers under PACE 1984, data and information retention/disclosure including claims under the Data Protection Act 1998, misuse of private information, and Article 8 ECHR.

She is currently instructed to represent the IOPC in the ongoing Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

Beatrice's recent cases include:

R (Owens) v Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police (2018) – judicial review challenge to the seizure of a cow's DNA.

R (Garthwaite) v Chief Constable of Lancashire Police (2018) - Judicial review challenge to a search warrant.

R (Hora) v Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary (2018) – judicial review challenge to a decision not to prosecute.

R (Ghuman) v Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police [2018] EWHC 2059 (Admin) - challenge to the issuing of a child abduction warning notice (CAWN).

R (Brook) v Chief Constable of Lancashire Police (2018) - Judicial review challenge to a search warrant.

R (Densham) v Chief Constable of Devon & Cornwall Police (2018) - Judicial review challenge to the police's decision to take no further action in relation to a reported offence.

R (LJ) v Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police (2018) - Judicial review challenge to the police's decision not to refer a matter to the CPS, but to take no further action.

Roxana Jones v Chief Constable of Kent Police (2018) - Civil action (wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and assault).

Medihani v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis (2017) (led by Jeremy Johnson QC) - Negligence/ Article 2 ECHR claim brought against the MPS by family of a girl murdered by her friend.

Francis v Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police (2017) - Judicial review claim challenging the outcome of a PSD investigation into the claimant's complaints concerning numerous aspects of a police investigation.

Sutton v Chief Constable of South Wales Police (2017) - Assault, false imprisonment, and malicious prosecution claim.

Toros v Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police (2017) - Assault, false imprisonment, and malicious prosecution claim.

Wilson v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis (2016) - Assault, false imprisonment, and malicious prosecution claim.

Lady Caledon v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis [2016] EWHC 2214 - Part 8 claim for disclosure of information obtained by the police during the course of a criminal investigation into a third party (phone hacking-type claim).

Jallow-Halake v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis (2016) - Judicial review challenge to the retention of information about the Claimant in police systems.

Melville v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis (2016) - Claim for damages for an alleged failure to investigate a serious criminal offence.

Mouncher v Chief Constable of South Wales Police [2016] EWHC 1367 (led by Jeremy Johnson QC) - Claim by 16 former officers of false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, misfeasance, breach of Article 8, trespass arising out of the collapse in 2011 of the UK's largest criminal trial involving alleged police corruption.

Beatrice's recent advisory work has included the following topics:

- Numerous aspects of policing and mental health, including the use of s135 and s136 of the Mental Health Act 1983
- Advice on capacity assessments
- Whether there should be a fresh independent investigation into the 1985 Bradford City stadium fire
- The policing of drug testing tents at music festivals
- The disclosure of information by the police (duties and powers)
- Numerous claims asserting that a police investigation of a serious offence has been inadequate (Article 3 ECHR)
- Numerous challenges to a police decision to take no further action / CPS decision not to prosecute
- Claims for overtime brought by undercover officers
- The retention by the police of sensitive personal data
- The legality of search warrants

Inquests

Beatrice has wide-ranging experience of inquest work and is used to advising and representing clients throughout the inquest process. She has the knowledge and skills to help clients identify potential impact and risks at an early stage, to advise on witnesses and evidence and to represent clients at the inquest. She understands the importance of working with other interested persons where appropriate and helping clients to manage any post-inquest matters, including any Regulation 28 Reports.

Her inquest work usually overlaps with other areas of her expertise, including policing (police pursuits/restraint) prisons (death in custody) and mental health and capacity (care homes/social care/psychiatric patients/dementia sufferers).

Beatrice's recent inquests include:

Inquest into the death of Richard Handley (2018) - representing the local authority

Inquest into the death of Kirsty Walker (2017) - representing the NHS Trust providing mental health

Inquest into the death of Ashley Forde (2017) - representing the police in a police pursuit death

Inquest into the death of John McKeown (2017) - representing the police in a police pursuit death

Inquest into the death of Leah Ratheram (2017) - representing the social care provider (mental health context)

Inquest into the death of Jack Davies O'Neill (2017) - representing the local authority providing mental health services

Inquest into the death of Stewart Atkins (2016) - representing the police

Inquest into the death of Monica Wallace (2016) - representing the local authority

Inquest into the death of Christiaan Woestenburg (2016) - representing the IPCC

Inquest into the death of Paul Crick (2016) - representing the commissioning authority

Inquest into the death of Lakwinder Singh (2016) - representing the prison

Public Inquiries

Beatrice has considerable experience of representing and advising clients in public inquiries. She is able to guide clients effectively through the challenges faced when involved in a public inquiry, and can advise on all aspects of this process.

Public Inquiry work includes:

IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (2016-to date)

Billy Wright Inquiry (public inquiry into the fatal shooting in the Maze Prison of a loyalist paramilitary prisoner by a republican paramilitary prisoner) (2006-2010)

Public / Administrative

Beatrice undertakes a range of public law work, with particular specialisms in civil liberties, human rights, policing and criminal justice, and mental health/capacity.

Recent cases include:

R (Ghuman) v Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police [2018] EWHC 2059 (Admin) - challenge to the issuing of a child abduction warning notice (CAWN)

R (Brook) v Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary and R (Garthwaite) v Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary [2018] EWHC 2024 (Admin) – two separate challenges to search warrants

R (on the application of Parkinson) v HM Senior Coroner for Kent [2018] EWHC 2173 (Admin) – decision concerning mental capacity and the appointment of a litigation friend

Mental Health and Capacity

Beatrice is an acknowledged authority on policing and mental health and has expanded her practice to include mental health and capacity law more generally, including detention, deprivation of liberty and best interests. Her clients have to date included the Ministry of Justice, NHS providers, prisons and local authorities as well as individuals.

Recent work includes an application before the Divisional Court for an assessment of capacity.

She also undertakes work in the areas of mental health and capacity pro bono, via the Bar Pro Bono Unit.

Human Rights

Many of Beatrice's cases have a human rights dimension, whether in the context of privacy/Article 8, criminal justice, equality and discrimination, detention, mental capacity, trafficking/modern slavery, or policing.

Over the last year she has advised on numerous Article 3 ECHR claims following DSD. She is frequently instructed to represent the police and other public authorities at inquests and then in connection with Article 2 ECHR civil claims arising from the death.

She regularly provides training to police forces on human rights and policing.

Information Law

Beatrice is able to provide assistance and representation on contentious and non-contentious information law issues in this shifting regulatory and civil litigation environment. Her expertise covers Article 8/privacy, the overlap between privacy and data protection, the conflict between freedom of expression and privacy, breach of confidence and misuse of private information as well as the DPA, the FOIA and the GDPR.

Beatrice's clients include private individuals and public authorities. In connection with the latter in particular she understands the importance of excellent crisis and reputation management in this sensitive area.