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Catriona Hodge

Call: 2012

Catriona specialises in police and public law, inquests, employment, human rights and information law. She is regularly instructed by police forces to act in civil claims, inquests and judicial review proceedings. Catriona has experience working for government departments and has acted for individuals, corporations and local authorities in employment, immigration and personal injury claims.

Catriona is appointed to the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel.

Recent examples of her work include ***Rees & Others v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis*** (claims for malicious prosecution and misfeasance) and ***Ipswich Town Football Club Company Ltd v The Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary*** (a claim for repayment of money relating to the provision of special police services at football matches).

Catriona is happy to provide lectures and training relating to developments in her practice areas.

Police Law

Catriona is regularly instructed to act for police forces in claims for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, assault, trespass, negligence and breaches of the Human Rights Act 1998. She has experience of acting in claims for discrimination under the Equality Act 2010 and for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998. As junior counsel, she has been instructed in claims for malicious prosecution and misfeasance, for the repayment of money relating to the provision of special police services and for the quashing of a search warrant.

Catriona has considerable advocacy experience acting successfully in a 5-day civil jury trial and frequently appearing in the High Court, County Court, Crown and Magistrates' Courts in applications for forced marriage protection orders, slavery and trafficking risk orders, female genital mutilation orders, domestic violence prevention orders, sexual risk and harm prevention orders and cash forfeiture.

Significant cases include:

Rees and Others v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis [2017] EWHC 273 (QB) – claims for malicious prosecution and misfeasance in public office arising out of the murder of Daniel Morgan in 1987 (led by Jeremy Johnson QC).

Ipswich Town Football Club Co Ltd v Chief Constable of Suffolk [2016] 4 W.L.R. 118 (High Court) and [2017] 4 W.L.R 195 (Court of Appeal) - a claim for the repayment of money relating to the provision of special police services at football matches.

Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis v Jamie Thorpe [2015] EWHC 3339 (Admin) – an appeal brought by way of case stated against a decision of the Ealing Magistrates' Court to impose restrictions on a football banning order.

***R (on the application of Craig Paolo) v City of London Magistrates' Court & Commissioner of Police for the City of London* [2014] EWHC 2011 (Admin)** – an application for an order quashing a search warrant on grounds of material non-disclosure.

Inquests

Catriona has acted in a number of sensitive and lengthy inquests involving allegations of failings on the part of state agents. She has experience of cases concerning homicide, police pursuits and deaths (including suicides) following police custody and other contact with the police such as 999 calls. Several of her cases have involved a complex history of mental illness including detention in mental health institutions and contact with community mental health teams.

Catriona has represented police forces, family members and a healthcare professional. She has been instructed to handle applications for witness anonymity, public interest immunity and judicial review claims challenging the verdict of inquests. She regularly advises on case preparation, witness handling and disclosure.

Significant cases include:

Inquest into the death of Michael Dowling [2016] – jury inquest into the death of a man who committed suicide during the execution of an arrest warrant.

Inquest into the death of Shawn Browne [2015] – acting on behalf of West Midlands Police in an Article 2 inquest, before a jury, into the death of a suspect during a police pursuit.

Inquest into the death of Joshua Brown [2015] – instructed by Surrey Police to act in an Article 2 inquest, held with a jury, into the death of a pedestrian during a police response to a 999 call.

Inquest into the death of Terence Wotton [2014] – Article 2 inquest into the tragic death of a man murdered by his son who suffered from a serious mental illness.

Public / Administrative

Catriona has acted in judicial review claims concerning investigative failures by the police, breaches of the Data Protection Act, a challenge to the lawfulness of a search warrant (as junior counsel) and applications to quash inquest verdicts and order fresh inquests. She has experience working for the government and representing claimants in cases concerning immigration detention, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and modern slavery.

Notable cases include:

***Flower v Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon Coroner* [2016] 1 W.L.R. 2221** – an application for a fresh inquest to be held pursuant to s. 13 of the Coroners Act 1988.

***R (on the application of Craig Paolo) v City of London Magistrates' Court & Commissioner of Police for the City of London* [2014] EWHC 2011 (Admin)** – an application for an order quashing a search warrant on grounds of material non-disclosure.

Human Rights

Catriona's practice encompasses a broad range of human rights issues. She has experience of cases involving investigative failings, allegations of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, breach of privacy, infringement of the right to freedom of assembly and discrimination. She has acted on behalf of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and has dealt with cases involving victims of modern slavery.

Before calling to the bar, Catriona worked as an assistant in the Human Rights Department of Leigh Day. The cases in which she was involved included the independent inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, an application to the ECtHR challenging the decision of a local authority to take a baby into care and a licensing appeal challenging a local authority's failure to comply with its race equality duties.

Information Law

Catriona has experience of cases concerning misuse of private information, breach of confidence and breaches of Article 8 ECHR. She has been instructed in claims for compensation and judicial review proceedings for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998. Catriona is regularly instructed to handle applications for public interest immunity and for disclosure of information between related sets of proceedings. Her advisory work has covered issues arising under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000,

Employment

Catriona has experience representing individuals and organisations in claims for unfair dismissal, discrimination and whistleblowing. She was instructed as junior counsel to review a significant volume of disclosure and prepare witness evidence in a large-scale and complex claim of whistleblowing against the Secretary of State for Health.

Catriona's recent work has included conducting a 7-day trial of claims for disability, sex and race discrimination, obtaining substantial damages for a client in a claim for whistleblowing, and acting for a claimant in a claim for unfair dismissal following a business restructuring which resulted in redundancy.

Personal Injury

Catriona is regularly instructed to act in cases involving Occupiers' Liability, Defective Premises, Highway Maintenance and Health and Safety at Work.

Catriona has conducted fast-track trials and settlement negotiations and has considerable experience of pleading and advisory work.

Healthcare

Inquest into the death of Terence Wotton (2014) - acted for an approved mental health professional in this Article 2 inquest into the tragic death of a man murdered by a family member who suffered from an acute mental illness.

Inquest into the death of Michael Dowling (2016) - acted in an inquest into the suicide of a male who suffered from psychosis and whose treatment was being managed by his community mental health team.

Inquest into the death of June Vickery (2016) - acted for family members at a pre inquest hearing into the death of a hospital patient resulting from suspected neglect.

Inquest into the death of Craig Sanders (2018) - acting in an inquest into the death of a male who tragically committed suicide whilst on s. 17 leave.

Keble Advanced Advocacy Course (2016) - undertook training in expert medical evidence.

Independent Inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (2010-2011) - worked as a paralegal for Leigh Day and Co Solicitors who represented a group of family members of patients who died in the care of the Trust.