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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 and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

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.

## Police Law

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

He has particular experience in cash and listed asset 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.

In 2018, John advised on and appeared in a series of applications for injunctions to reduce gang-related violence linked to drill music. Many of the respondents were involved in very significant violence, up to and including serious risk to life.

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 and other interim 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. He recently appeared in the Family Division of the High Court in relation to whether the police should fund Special Advocates in family proceedings.

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.

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He has an in-depth understanding of the Determinations relating to police pay and has advised on recoupment of overpayments made in respect of police injury pensions.

## Inquests

John was led by Francesca Whitelaw on the **Sean Benton Inquest** after working extensively with her on the **Cheryl James Inquest**. In both inquests, John and Francesca acted for individual soldiers and NCOs who had been made Interested Persons. Both inquests arose out of deaths of trainee soldiers following gunshot wounds at Deepcut Barracks in 1995 and were 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 recently acted for a police force on a substantive judicial review relating to the handling of public complaints under the Police Reform Act 2002, reported at **R (S) v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police** [2018] EWHC 1709 (Admin). He has also drafted grounds in respect of police vetting decisions.

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 under the Licensing Act 2003 and 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.

## Public Inquiries

John is currently instructed by the Mayor of London on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (led by Anne Studd QC).

He previously acted in large-scale disclosure and LPP reviews in respect of the Renewable Heat Incentive Inquiry.

## Employment

John assisted with providing advice to respondents in employment disputes and drafting grounds of resistance to

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Tribunal claims. He has drafted statements in several complex and high-value employment claims. Additionally, many of his police and public law matters raise issues under the Equality Act 2010.

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, 5th edition (Bloomsbury Professional) 2017.

## Personal Injury

John has appeared in and advised on quantum for infant approval hearings and on interim applications in contested PI claims, as well as credit hire trials. Many of his public law and police cases have a substantial personal injury aspect. 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, Coroner's Court, Crown Court and Magistrates' Court.

## Information Law

John has experience of matters relating to information law, the Data Protection Acts 1998 and 2018 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 on the general powers and duties on police forces and other public bodies about sharing information. He has delivered training to police forces and other agencies on information sharing between public bodies and on data protection in the context of fighting anti-social behaviour. He has also drafted and appeared in 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.