

Louis Browne KC

Call 1988 | Silk 2017



Clerks

 Neil Wright
 0151 242 8814

Appointments

- Junior Counsel to the Crown January 2000 – January 2017; held Security Clearance in that position.
- Recorder (2004 to date)

Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Constitutional & Administrative Law Bar Association

Education

- First Class Honours Degree, Law
- Postgraduate Degree of Bachelor of Civil Law, Balliol College, Oxford

Overview

Louis Browne KC has a wide ranging civil practice with particular emphasis in catastrophic personal injury claims, inquests and inquiries, public law and media law. He appears regularly in the Higher Courts.

In recent years, Louis has been instructed in some of the most high-profile cases (see specific examples in 'Cases' section).

Louis has considerable expertise in all areas of public law and judicial review. He frequently acts on behalf of both claimants and defendants in the Administrative Court. His particular areas of specialism are human rights-based challenges in the context of community care, immigration, education and mental health.

He is ranked as a Leading/Tier 1 Silk by Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500 in Personal Injury, Inquests and Inquiries, Administrative and Public Law and IT, Telecoms and Data Protection.

Louis has a reputation for being accessible, easy to work with and for giving clear and straightforward advice.

Inquiries and Notable Cases

Manchester Arena Inquiry (2018 – to date)

Representing Salford University at the public inquiry into the Manchester Arena bombing; Salman Abedi was a student at the University at the time of the bombing.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry (2018 – to date)

Acting at the public inquiry for the Fire Officers Association and Senior Fire Sector Commander on the night, who made the most significant decisions as to the implementation of search and rescue.

Hall v Green (2022)

Following a 9 day trial, the Claimant who pursued a substantial claim for damages arising out of an alleged brain injury was found fundamentally dishonest.

Sarah Mir, Partner at DWF, commented:

“The judgment of HHJ Walden-Smith should send a strong message to claimants and their instructing solicitors. Insurers, such as RSA, take fundamental dishonesty seriously and are not averse to running cases to trial, referring claimants to the IFED and/or issuing committal proceedings for contempt of court.

“Huge plaudits go to Louis Browne QC who, from the outset of his instruction, has been fastidiously prepared on a very complex and document heavy case. He is a huge believer in collaborative working. During the trial, Louis displayed prodigious advocacy skills.”

AA (2022)

Represented Criminal Injury Compensation Authority in pre-tariff claim at hearing involving catastrophic brain injury in a shaken baby case. Compensation assessed at over £12m.

AB v British Transport Police (2022)

Successfully represented Claimant, who has autism, in action for breach of DPA 1998/2018. Court ordered deletion of inaccurate personal data held by BTP. Court also found disproportionate for BTP to retain those records as breach of ECHR Article 8.

JG v Walton Hospitals NHS Trust (2022)

Successfully defended Hospital Trust in breach of duty claim. Allegations that paralysis of patient was caused by a negligently performed cervical laminectomy procedure.

Joseph Anderson v Liverpool City Council [2021] EWHC 2205 (Admin)

Representing Liverpool City Council in judicial review challenge by the former Mayor of Liverpool into the Council’s refusal to grant him an indemnity for legal criminal defence expenses.

Pryor v Liverpool Women’s Hospital/Lumsden [2021] EWHC 2911 (QB)

Breach/invasion of privacy claim. Successfully applied to strike claim out.

Re Stewart-Brady deceased [2018] Ch.543

Acted for Sefton Borough Council in respect of applications made concerning the disposal of the body of Ian Stewart-Brady (formerly Ian Brady), one of the infamous Moors Murderers. The case concerned, among other things, whether the court had an inherent jurisdiction to direct how the body of a deceased person would be disposed of/what directions should be given for disposal. This included who should be appointed as administrator of the estate of the deceased.

Tyrell v HM Senior Coroner for Durham/Ministry of Justice [2017] 153 BMLR 208 [2016]

Important case concerning the extent of the procedural duty under ECHR Article 2 and whether a Middleton complaint inquest was required where a prisoner had died of natural causes in custody.

John Ahmed (February/March 2017)

Represented the Prison Service at the inquest into the death of a prisoner who died following a control and restraint procedure.

John Jaundoo (February 2017)

Represented the Probation Service at the lengthy inquest into the death of a young man murdered by three men with whom he shared a hostel.

Carmel Bloom (September 2016)

Represented Shire Hospital at an inquest (the third) into the death of a woman from sepsis at a private hospital. This Inquest raised many highly challenging questions/ issues concerning urological/ anaesthetic medicine. Also represented the private hospital at a judicial review ([2014] Med LR 490).

Rai v Ministry of Defence [2016] High Court

Whether an Army training exercise in Canada fell within the definition of “civil and commercial matters” within Rome II. Limitation: did Albertan or English law apply.

Billett v Ministry of Defence [2015] EWCA Civ 773; [2016] PIQR 1

Assessment of future loss of earning capacity adjustment of Reduction Factors in Ogden Tables A – D. The first case of its kind to reach the Court of Appeal.

Gilruth v Harding [2015] EWCA Civ 1085

Court of Appeal. The calculation of damages arising from the putative sale of a high class/high value show jumping horse.

Hadfield v Cooke [2015] EWHC 3480

Difficult and complicated shareholder dispute. Acted for the successful Claimant at trial.

Ifede v Ministry of Defence [2015] EWHC 3835

Important and high value claim. Successfully argued claim was statute barred.

Ryan Clark (2014)

Lengthy and highly sensitive inquest into the death of a young man at a YOI, who had hanged himself.

Inquest into the death of Ian Terry (2010)

Represented four members of GMP Tactical Firearms Unit at this lengthy inquest into the shooting of a colleague on a training exercise.

R (on the application of CPS) v Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages [2003] All ER 540

Successful judicial review challenging the refusal of the Registrar to grant a prisoner on remand for murder a license to marry his partner; she was a witness to the murder. Such a marriage would have rendered her a non-compellable witness.

R v Sec of State for Health Ex p Wagstaffe [2001] 1WLR 292

As Counsel to the Laming inquiry into the actions of Harold Shipman, appeared at judicial review hearing challenging the lawfulness of the private inquiry established.

Callery v Gray / Russell v Pal Pak [2001] 3 All ER 833

Recoverability of success fee under CFA. First case of its kind to reach the Court of Appeal.

Recommendations

“Louis Browne handles issues excellently, and he is good with clients.”

“Louis is an ingenious tactician who can absorb complex evidence and present it to both clients and tribunals in a smart yet clear manner, in a style which is not conceited but suave and intelligent.”

“Louis Browne KC is a class act.”

Chambers and Partners 2025

“Louis is terrific with clients and has a very sound legal mind. He is straight talking and provides no-nonsense advice, and he is a calm and assured advisor with an excellent court manner.” (IT, Telecoms and Data Protection)

“Louis is leagues above others. His expertise and knowledge is phenomenal, he always makes time for all of the parties involved in a case, he puts witnesses at ease, and he has a tenacity of extracting information witnesses in the box in a calm way.” (Personal Injury)

Tier 1 – Administrative Law and Human Rights

Tier 1 – Inquests and Inquiries

The Legal 500 2025

“Louis is a superb advocate He is intelligent, committed, passionate and patient.”

“Louis always thinks outside the box and has an excellent courtroom manner.”

“Louis’ attention to detail and understanding of the issues is second to none.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

‘Louis is unflappable, his attention to detail is meticulous, and his deep understanding of the issues involved in complex, high-value personal injury cases is always apparent. His advocacy skills are amongst the best, he always has a calm but steely approach that draws out the pertinent points from factual and expert witnesses at trial, and he demonstrates a real understanding of the bigger picture.’ **The Legal 500 2024**

‘Louis is very approachable and down to earth, making his vast knowledge very accessible.’ **The Legal 500 2024**

“He is measured in his approach and a pleasure to work with.”
Chambers and Partners 2023

“Louis Browne is exceptionally bright and methodical with a personable yet professional manner towards his clients. His submissions are always focused and evidence-backed and therefore extremely powerful.” **Chambers and Partners 2023**

“Highly intelligent, with the ability to digest and make sense of complex papers quickly. A good advocate.” **The Legal 500 2023**

“An excellent barrister who is very approachable, intelligent and hard-working.” **Chambers and Partners 2022**

“He’s a very smooth advocate and is strong on his feet.” “He’s tactical, has great skill with clients and is easy to work with.”
Chambers and Partners 2022

‘Highly intelligent, with the ability to digest and make sense of complex papers quickly. A good advocate.’ **The Legal 500 2022**

‘Louis is personable in conference, putting clients at ease, as a thorough in-depth knowledge of public law and his drafting of pleadings et cetera is first class.’ **The Legal 500 2022**

‘Louis Browne QC is a true gentleman. He is polite, even when pushed by an opponent. He is courteous at all times. Presence flows from him in any formal setting. His strength is to grasp the issue and his main goal is to settle that on the best possible terms. Quite simply a legal phenomenon.’ **The Legal 500 2022**

“He cares deeply about his cases and is an excellent advocate.”
Chambers and Partners 2021

“He cares deeply about his cases and is a pleasant advocate.”
Chambers and Partners 2021

“His strengths are: Excellent interpersonal skills. Patience. Very bright.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“Very hard working and immensely knowledgeable in his field. He is approachable and easy going with clients. Meticulous attention to detail is apparent in his advocacy and written submissions. A very capable barrister, who is well regarded by his clients and is highly recommended.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“Highly skilled barrister with excellent knowledge of his working area.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“Recommended for data breach claims.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“His attention to detail is second to none and he really understands complex medical evidence. He takes an excellent approach with factual professional witnesses which puts them at ease and allows him to quickly get to the heart of complex issues.” **Chambers and Partners 2020**

“His ability to digest complex expert evidence is exceptional” **The Legal 500 2020**

“A strong advocate with good client care skills.” **The Legal 500 2020**

“A fearsome opponent.” **The Legal 500 2020**

“His legal acumen is first rate.” **The Legal 500 2018/19**

“A combination of great legal acumen, tenacity and pragmatism.” **The Legal 500 2018/19**

“A fierce and equitable advocate.” **The Legal 500 2018/19**

“Very experienced across the spectrum of public law matters.”
The Legal 500 2017

“Highly experienced in personal injury matters.” **The Legal 500 2017**

“A commanding advocate.” **The Legal 500 2017**

“A strong negotiator with an excellent analytical ability.” **The Legal 500 2016**

“Highly experienced in judicial reviews.” **The Legal 500 2016**

“Mr Browne presented this difficult case with great clarity and skill.”

“...showed consummate professionalism throughout the hearing.”

“In accordance with the best traditions of government litigation and with a professionalism that brings credit to the Bar, Mr Browne drew our attention to the [academic] criticism that had been made of the decision upon which he relied.”