

## Public matters: February 2025

27 February 2025

### Report: Risk management in local government

Explore the critical evolution of risk management in local government in our latest report, developed in partnership with the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU). This comprehensive analysis delves into the challenges and strategies essential for safeguarding public services amidst increasing complexities and pressures.

[Read more](#) →

### Practical guide to the English Devolution Whitepaper

Explore the transformative landscape of local governance in England with Laura Hughes' insightful article. She explores the significant reorganisation and strategic shifts outlined in the December 2024 White Paper, offering practical advice for navigating these changes effectively.

[Read the full guide](#) →

### Awaab's Law to take effect from October 2025

Set to revolutionise the standards of social housing, Awaab's Law will begin its phased implementation in October 2025, promising enhanced safety and living conditions for tenants. Named after Awaab Ishak, a young boy tragically affected by inadequate housing conditions, this law mandates stricter compliance timelines for landlords to address critical health hazards, including damp and mould.

[Read more](#) →

### Government proposals to enhance public trust in the public inquiry process

In light of recent government proposals to conduct public inquiries into significant societal issues, Stephanie McGarry examines the evolving landscape of public trust in these processes. This article explores the historical significance of public inquiries and discusses potential improvements to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.

[Read more](#) →

### Proactively handling contracts once Procurement Act comes into force

As the Procurement Act 2023 approaches its enforcement date, Anja Beriro highlights the imperative for public authorities to enhance their contract management strategies. This article published on Public Finance, delves into the necessary preparations and the significant cultural shifts required to comply with the new regulatory framework governing public sector procurement.

[Read more](#) →

## Law Commission 'call to consult' on compulsory purchase orders

The Law Commission, under the guidance of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, has initiated a crucial consultation on the reform of compulsory purchase orders, set to conclude on March 31, 2025. This consultation seeks to address the complexities of the current system, aiming to streamline procedures.

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## HSE continues its 'Asbestos: Your Duty' campaign with local authorities

In their ongoing effort to enhance asbestos management awareness, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is intensifying its 'Asbestos: Your Duty' campaign, targeting local authorities to ensure compliance with legal obligations. The campaign includes planned visits to various local authority buildings, emphasising the importance of proper asbestos management to prevent health risks in public and workplace environments.

[Find out more](#) →

## New rights to Neonatal Care Leave and Pay Act: What do employers need to know

In the ever-evolving landscape of employment law, the Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act 2023 introduces crucial rights for parents dealing with the challenges of neonatal care. Employers must familiarise themselves with the specifics of these entitlements, as outlined in the newly published regulations, to ensure compliance and support for their employees during these critical early days of parenthood.

[Read more](#) →

## Employment Tribunal recognises foster carers' right to bring whistleblowing and discrimination claims

In a significant preliminary ruling by the Employment Tribunal, foster carers have been granted the ability to bring claims of whistleblowing and discrimination against local authorities, marking a significant shift in the landscape of employment rights for foster carers in the UK. This decision not only challenges long-standing legal precedents but also signals a potential transformation in the recognition and protection of foster carers under employment law.

[Read more](#) →

## Getting prepared for local child sexual exploitation inquiries

In the wake of government initiatives for locally-led inquiries into child sexual exploitation. This article published on LocalGov underscores the importance for councils to be well-prepared. As local authorities gear up to tackle these sensitive issues, understanding the nuances of local governance and data management becomes crucial for effective investigation and compliance.

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At Browne Jacobson, our work places us at the forefront of society's biggest issues. As such, we're proud to work with clients who share our values and are making a difference.

#PositivePurpose showcases the inspiring initiatives of these clients and puts the spotlight on their fantastic work. From HealthTech to regeneration, each story we share will be an opportunity to hear directly from our clients about the meaningful work they're doing.

## The B2W Group

Back 2 Work Group: Tackling unemployment We collaborated with Back 2 Work Group to produce a short film about their transformative work. The Group specialise in equipping individuals with the skills, confidence and opportunities needed for workforce entry or career advancement, impacting impact individuals and communities across the country.

Back 2 Work Group partners with employers across all sectors, connecting businesses with untapped talent in high-demand industries whilst driving social mobility and transforming lives. Visit our website to watch the short film and discover more about #PositivePurpose.

[Find out more](#) →

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