

## Public matters, August 2024

30 August 2024

### **Court of Appeal extends local authority liability for kinship foster carers**

The Court of Appeal has recently made a significant ruling that extends the liability of local authorities for kinship foster carers. This ruling has important implications for local authorities and their obligations towards kinship foster carers. This article explores the details of the ruling and its potential impact on local authorities and kinship foster carers.

[Read more](#) →

### **What to expect from the proposed changes to National Planning Policy Framework**

The UK government has proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that could have a significant impact on the country's planning system. The proposed changes aim to simplify and speed up the planning process, encourage the development of new homes, and support economic growth. We take a closer look at the proposed changes to the NPPF and what they could mean for developers, local authorities, and communities and the potential challenges and opportunities that may arise from these changes.

[Read more](#) →

### **Procurement Act 2023: Light Touch Regime**

One of the main drivers of the Procurement Act 2023 is to increase flexibility in public procurement, so it is unsurprising that the Light Touch Regime, which applies to contracts for certain social, health and other public services, and exists with fewer restrictions under the current procurement regime, has been maintained in the Procurement Act 2023. This article explores aspects of the Light Touch Regime and how it will operate under the Procurement Act 2023 when it goes live in October this year.

[Read more](#) →

### **What is the grey belt? Analysing NPPF reform proposals**

This article explores the proposed introduction of a "grey belt" designation in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) reform proposals and what the grey belt is, how it fits into the NPPF reform proposals, and what it could mean for planning decisions in the future.

[Read more](#) →

### **The Horse Hill decision puts the spotlight on fossil fuel projects' Scope 3 emissions**

A recent ruling by the UK Supreme Court, has brought the issue of Scope 3 emissions from fossil fuel projects into the spotlight. The decision has significant implications for the energy industry, particularly for companies involved in oil and gas exploration and production. In this article, we explore the details of the Horse Hill decision and its potential impact on the future of fossil fuel projects in the UK and the broader implications of the ruling for the energy sector and the environment.

[Read more](#) →

## The legal and planning hurdles that must be overcome to get Great British Energy generating

As the world continues to shift towards renewable energy, the UK is looking to increase its energy generation capacity. However, there are several legal and planning hurdles that must be overcome before this can be achieved. We look at the challenges that must be addressed in order to successfully implement renewable energy projects in the UK and the complexities of this important issue.

[Read more](#) →

## Planning reform for public sector bodies

The new Labour government has recently announced a series of planning reforms which are aimed towards Britain building the infrastructure it needs, including the building of 1.5 million homes in five years and a clean power system that the government committed to in its manifesto.

Our experienced legal team will help you navigate through the proposed changes and revision of the National Planning Policy Framework.

[Find out more](#) →

## Product Safety and Metrology Bill: E-bike and e-scooter fires

The rise of e-bikes and e-scooters has brought about a new set of challenges in terms of product safety. With the increasing popularity of these modes of transportation, there has been a growing concern over the risk of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries. In response to this, the UK government has introduced the Product Safety and Metrology Bill, which aims to address these issues. We explore the potential risks associated with e-bikes and e-scooters and how the new bill seeks to mitigate them.

[Read more](#) →

## Why releasing green belt land in medium-sized cities could help hit housebuilding targets

The UK government has set ambitious targets for housebuilding, but the lack of available land has made it difficult to achieve these goals. One potential solution being considered is the release of green belt land in medium-sized cities. This approach could not only help meet housing targets but also unlock regional productivity gaps. In this article, PBCToday explore the benefits and drawbacks of releasing green belt land and how it could impact the construction industry.

[Read more](#) →

## More on planning reforms: It's all about the plan, isn't it?

The UK Government has recently proposed significant changes to the planning system, aiming to streamline the process and boost housebuilding. However, as with any major reform, there are concerns and questions about how it will work in practice. We look at the potential impact of the changes on the planning process and highlight the need for local authorities to ensure their plans are up to date and fit for purpose.

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## Upcoming events

### Mock inquest training sessions

This virtual training course will provide essential knowledge, tools and insights delivered by a range of legal experts and includes insights, lectures and mock inquest scenarios involving Dr Nina Lewis, Medical Examiner and five experienced Coroners.

[Find out more](#) →

### Procurement reform roadshow Wales

The date has been set. The Procurement Act 2023 will “go live” on 28 October 2024.

In anticipation of this date, we have created a session to help our public sector clients navigate the changes required by the Act in Wales.

[Find out more](#) →

### Biodiversity Net Gain: Lessons learnt half a year in...

BNG became mandatory in February 2024 – which has resulted in changes needing to be made by local authorities to policies, processes and decision making throughout the planning process.

Our breakfast events will explore how the first few months of BNG have impacted local authorities and what lessons can be learnt.

[Register for Manchester](#) →

[Register for Nottingham](#) →

### L&GC hour: Procurement of AI solutions

Using case studies, examples and stories, Richard will guide you through considerations for the procurement of AI solutions. He will cover what to look for, the differences from other IT procurement, who should be involved in the procurement process, and lessons learnt from previous AI deals.

[Find out more](#) →

## Key contact

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