

# Laura Hughes

Partner

 Nottingham

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Laura Hughes is head of our public law team, as well as head of the insurance and public risk department. Laura is an experienced public law expert who advises her clients on their most important and high-profile matters. She acts across the public sector advising clients in government, local government, education, health, audit, sports and natural resources.

Laura has over 19 years' experience advising public sector clients on the full range of public law matters including decision making, consultation, statutory interpretation, statutory and guidance drafting, judicial review and civil enforcement. Laura's clients include Welsh Government, National Audit Office, Natural Resources Wales, Sport England, Qualification Wales, Northern Ireland Audit Office, UK Sport, and the Cabinet Office.

Laura has a particular specialism in the environment and has acted for many of the environmental regulators for all of her legal career. She is a passionate supporter of organisations looking to move to net zero or otherwise manage their environmental impact and leads the firm's own efforts in this area.

Laura is happiest when she is sat around a client's Board or Executive table helping them through their trickiest issues to a decision which is defensible, lawful and made in the public interest.

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## Expertise

Arm's length bodies

Central government

Education

Emergency services

Energy and infrastructure

Government

Health and life sciences

Local government

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## Featured experience

### Charnwood Borough Council

Advising Charnwood Borough Council in relation to a certificate of lawful use or development (CLEUD) involving an area of land on which an applicant stated he had been using for up to 140 caravans when, in fact, only 10 were allowed on the site. Laura advised on the legal arguments and evidence submitted by the applicant and reviewed third party evidence to assist the Council in their determination of the CLEUD application.

### County Council

Conducting complex litigation for a county council in the administrative court and Chancery Division in relation to their decision to require payment from a community association for use of rooms within a primary school.

### Natural England

Defending several judicial reviews for Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales regarding their decisions on the designation of sites of special scientific interest, consideration of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations and the exercise of discretion in relation to an agri-environment scheme.

### Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Advising on all aspects of planning, highways and compulsory purchase - recently advising the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in relation to the redevelopment of Cremorne Wharf, a major regeneration project.

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## Testimonials

*"Laura Hughes – excellent understanding of the client's business and able to give credible advice to Board members in difficult circumstances."*

**Legal 500 2023,**

*"Laura Hughes – diligent and user friendly."*

**Legal 500 2022 ,**