



Charles Forrest

Call: 2014 [Public Access](#)

Practice areas:

Planning, Environment, Highways, Commons and Open Spaces, Compulsory Purchase and Compensation, Major Infrastructure Projects, Ecclesiastical Law and Religious Liberty, Rating, Council Tax and CIL, Public Law, Licensing



Practice Profile

Charles welcomes instructions to advise and represent clients across all of Chambers' practice areas. He is regularly instructed by local authorities and other public bodies, large and small developers, action groups and similar, and individuals.

He specialises in Planning and Environment; Public and Local Government including judicial review; Rights of Way, Highways and Traffic; Infrastructure; Compulsory Purchase and Compensation; Licensing; and related areas (see the section of this profile on 'Practice Areas and Experience' for further information)

Charles is a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel. He has appeared as sole counsel before the High Court, planning inquiries, enforcement inquiries, traffic inquiries, DCO issue specific hearings, the Valuation Tribunal, Crown Court, County Court, Magistrates' Court, and Council sub-committees. He also has experience of ADR procedures such as mediation.

Charles is direct and licensed access qualified, which means in appropriate cases he can be instructed by members of the public directly or through a professional other than a solicitor. Charles is also happy to work pro bono in appropriate cases and in 2024 he was included in Advocate's Inaugural Pro Bono Recognition List in recognition of his dedication to providing pro bono services.

Planning

Charles is regularly instructed in and has experience of a wide variety of planning matters, including Green Belt; heritage including listed buildings, conservation areas and non-designated heritage assets; planning permissions including conditions; enforcement and CLEUDs/CLOPUDs; permitted development including prior approval; housing land supply; planning obligations under s.106 TCPA 1990; CIL; AONBs/National Parks etc.; town centres; minerals; special controls including advertisements, s.215 TCPA 1990 maintenance notices, and trees.

He is regularly instructed to represent clients in court, draft pre-action correspondence and pleadings, and to advise. As a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel, he regularly appears in the High Court on behalf of central government in relation to planning and environmental law matters.

Charles was previously seconded to the planning department of HB Public Law, which provides legal services to London local planning authorities. He also previously attended and provided legal advice to the LB of Bexley's planning sub-committee. Both these roles gave him a close insight into the workings of local planning authorities and decision-taking by committee.

s.78 planning appeals including residential

Charles' experience includes:

- Appeared for the successful SoS in challenges made to the High Court under s.288 TCPA 1990: *Parry v SSHCLG* (AC-2025-00200, concerning heritage), *Uppal v SSHCLG* (AC-2025-LON-000075, concerning town centres and sequential test)
- Parklands, Wokingham, acted, with Morag Ellis KC, for a successful appellant in a four-day s.78 inquiry concerning a scheme of up to 55 dwellings which involved an SPA and SANG and SAMM
- *Kenton Lane Farm*, acted on behalf of the local planning authority in a two-day s.78 inquiry concerning a scheme involving enabling development and heritage issues
- Advised on a range of matters for different clients including on housing land supply, annual position statements, and First Homes
- Co-author of the chapter on 'Achieving Sustainable Development' (including the presumption in favour of sustainable development) in the FTB NPPF Handbook

Enforcement and CLEUDs/CLOPUDs

Charles has experience of a wide range of enforcement and CLEUD/CLOPUD issues, including at inquiries and in criminal proceedings. His experience includes:

- Appeared for the successful SoS in appeals made to the High Court under s.289 TCPA 1990: *Dharmeshkumar v SSHCLG* [2025] EWHC 25123 (Admin) (concerning the interpretation of s.55(2) TCPA 1990 and prior approval decision notices), *Syed Mubarak Ahmed v SSHCLG* (AC-2024-LON-004087).
- *108 Hibernia Road*, acted for the successful local planning authority in a 3-day enforcement inquiry concerning an unlawful HMO use
- *126A Green Lane*, acted for the successful appellant in a 2-day CLEUD inquiry
- *6 Havelock Walk*, acted for the successful local planning authority in a CLEUD inquiry concerning the alleged immunity of a live/work unit
- *Rose Gardens, Cambridge Road*, acted for an appellant caravan and motorhome business in an enforcement inquiry in relation to land in the Green Belt. This also included advising on the enforcement register and what must be submitted at different stages of the appeal process
- *Sarsville, 67 Icknield Way*, acted for the successful local planning authority in an enforcement inquiry
- *7 Hodford Road*, acted for the successful local planning authority in an enforcement inquiry
- *73 Kyverdale Road*, acted for an appellant homeowner in an enforcement inquiry
- *Former Travellers Rest Public House*, drafted written representations for a successful appellant small developer in a written-representation enforcement appeal which involved heritage issues. This included advising on standing to bring an enforcement appeal, withdrawal and re-issue of an enforcement notice, and the lawful scope of a ground a) appeal
- *298-300 Brixton Hill*, drafted written representations for an appellant company in a written-

representation enforcement appeal.

- Acted for the successful SoS in *Mark Phillips Developments Ltd v SSHCLG* (AC-2024-LON-003560) which concerned CLEUDs
- Acted for both the prosecution and defence in Regulatory/Criminal proceedings concerning offences under e.g. ss.179, 187A, and 196D TCPA 1990. For more details, see the section of this profile specifically concerning Regulatory/Criminal work.
- For details of Charles' experience in relation to injunctions, see the section of this profile concerning Protests, Injunctions, and Committal Proceedings
- Advised on a range of enforcement matters for different clients including s.289 TCPA 1990 appeals and procedure; nullity/invalidity of an enforcement notice and breach of condition notice; immunity from enforcement and the extent of any immunity; compliance with Planning Contravention Notices; Stop Notices; conditions precedent; enforcement discretion; mode of service of enforcement notice including on recipients abroad; who can be served with an enforcement notice/breach of condition notice; costs at enforcement inquiry; planning units and choosing the land to which an enforcement notice ought to relate; different types of dwellings in planning law; concealment; and the interaction between the planning and HMO regimes.
- Advised on a range of CLEUD/CLOPUD matters for different clients including appeals and procedure, objecting to the grant of a CLEUD, revocation of a CLEUD, definition of a dwelling in planning law, changes in matters going to lawfulness in the context of CLOPUDs; the interaction between CLEUDs and enforcement notices; whether to apply for a CLEUD or CLOPUD.

Planning permissions including applications and conditions, permitted development, Use Classes Order

Charles' experience includes:

- Acted for a local authority in a preliminary issue hearing concerning the interpretation of a planning permission in the Peak District National Park
- Advised on a range of matters for different clients including PD and prior approval issues; the procedure for making and handling planning application; the allocation of planning functions between different tiers of local government; call-ins; outline planning permissions and reserved matters approvals; validity of conditions and severing invalid conditions; implied conditions; Grampian conditions; excluding PD rights/Use Class Order rights/existing use rights by condition; restricting uses including *I'm Your Man* and related principles; planning units including their amalgamation; ss.73 & 96A TCPA 1990, drop-ins, and *Hillside* implications; fallback; ancillary/incidental uses; intensification of use; abandonment of use; s.70C TCPA 1990; re-determining a prior approval application post-quash; self/custom build housing

S.106 TCPA 1990 and CIL

Charles' experience includes:

- *R (Newton Longville PC) v Aylesbury Vale DC* [2019] CO/5165/2018, acted in the High Court on behalf of the local planning authority in this case which concerned a s.106 agreement and the planning register and Reg.122 CIL Regulations 2010
- advised on a range of matters for different clients including on the enforcement of s.106 agreements; modifying or discharging a planning obligation by agreement under s.106A(1)(a); the relationship between a s.106 agreement and a planning permission; publicisation of a draft obligation under Art 40 DMPO 2015; appeals under Reg.114 CIL Regs 2010 and whether a building is 'in-use' for the purposes of those regulations; the chargeable amount under Reg. 40 CIL Regs 2010; and agreements under s.16 Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1974
- reviewing s.106 agreements on behalf of local planning authorities

Special controls including advertisements, s.215 maintenance notices, trees etc.

Charles' experience includes:

- Advertising: advising on what constitutes an advertisement including political placards near Downing Street and pro-Palestine murals; different categories of advertisement; the relationship between advertisement and planning and heritage control, Article 10 ECHR in the context of advertisement control; and different advertisement offences and enforcement methods.
- s.215 TCPA 1990 maintenance notices: acted for a successful appellant farmer in which the local planning authority was forced to withdraw its notice prior to the appeal hearing due to submissions made on behalf of the appellant
- Trees: acted for an LPA in a prosecution for breach of TPO regulations in the Magistrates' Court; advised a householder on appealing a refusal to cut down a tree protected by a TPO.

Minerals

- Advised on a range of matters including advising a minerals operator on the interaction between the planning system and the Water Industry Act 1991; advising a minerals operator on the basis and quantum of compensation (including the date of valuation) for mineral sterilisation caused by a gas main; advising a minerals operator, which had been undertaking backfill works, on compensation following the cancellation by the government of the A12 widening scheme.
- Co-author of the chapter on 'Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals' in the FTB NPPF Handbook

Environment

Charles is regularly instructed in environmental law matters, either in their own right or as a dimension of other areas of his practice such as planning, infrastructure etc. (see other sections of this profile). In addition to work as part of those other practice areas, his experience includes:

- Currently acting for the defendant in *R (Theodorou) v Barnet LBC* (AC-2025-LON-001308) which concerns inter alia the Habitats Regulations and protected species.
- Acted on behalf of Natural England in a number of issue specific hearings across 4 days for the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Windfarm DCO (up to 300 turbines). This included a significant number of environmental and ecological issues involving SPAs, SACs, SSSIs, MCZs, European Protected Species Licences, Habitats, and marine licensing
- *Parklands, Wokingham*, acted, with Morag Ellis KC, for a successful appellant in a four-day s.78 inquiry concerning a scheme of up to 55 dwellings which involved an SPA and SANG and SAMM
- Charles has extensive experience of statutory nuisance, acting for and advising both appellants/operators and local authorities. He acted for JCB in respect of alleged noise nuisance at its World Headquarters, in which the abatement notice served on JCB was quashed by the court by consent. He has also given expert talks on behalf of MBL Seminars in relation to all aspects of statutory nuisance. He co-authors a number of Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Notes and Precedents on different aspects of statutory nuisance, environmental criminal liability (in the case of companies, directors, and individuals), environmental anti-social behaviour and how to deal with it (including Community Protection Notices (CPNs), Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), Part 1 ASBCPA 2014 injunctions) and wildlife crime (see 'Publications' section of this profile)
- Advised or assisted in advising on a range of matters for different clients including EIA, EIR and FOI (including their interaction with the law of copyright); the Aarhus Convention and costs protection;

European Protected Species Licences; the Waste Framework Directive and Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016; extractive waste under the Mining Waste Directive 2008, and littering offences under EPA 1990.

Highways, Commons and Open Spaces

Charles has a particular interest in these areas of law. As a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel, he is regularly instructed by central government in relation to highways and public rights of way matters.

His experience in rights of way and highways law includes:

- acted for the successful highway authority in *R (Brett Taylor) v Essex County Council* (AC-2025-002252) which concerned the council's power to serve a notice under s.143 HA 1980, including in respect of Town and Village Green land, and the scope of its duty under s.36(6) HA 1980
- currently acting for a local authority being sued in negligence and breach of statutory for an alleged breach of s.36(6) Highways Act 1980
- *Wayne Elliot v Monmouthshire County Council*, acted for and advised a highway authority in an action under s.56 Highways Act 1980 relating to its duty to maintain the highway
- *R (Ramblers Association) v SoSE and Ors* [2017] EWHC 716 (Admin), acted, with Juan Lopez, in the High Court on behalf of the successful Network Rail in a case which concerned incapacity to dedicate arising from statutory incompatibility under s.31 HA 1980 and cul-de-sacs
- Advised and assisted advising on a range of matters for different clients including whether a way is a highway; the extent of a highway; stopping up of highways; diversion of highways including under ss.116, 119 HA 1980 and ss.247, 257 TCPA 1990; whether and how a highway is maintainable at public expense; modification of the definitive map and statement involving footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways, and BOATs; agreements under s.38 and s.278 HA 1980 including their interpretation; notices under ss.37, 143, 149 HA 1980; the highway authority duty under s.130 HA 1980 and its powers to remove obstructions from the highway or to licence obstructions (e.g. tables and chairs for bars and restaurants), and the regime for enforcing that duty under ss.130A-D HA 1980; offences under ss.132, 137, 137ZA HA 1980 and s.78 PCSCA 2022; gates across highways; rights of way over a common including vehicular rights; rights acquired through different types of prescription and dedication and the scope of those rights; drainage of highways; inhabited or abandoned vehicles on the highway; common law presumptions such as hedge to hedge and ad medium filum; varying the width of the footway relative to the carriageway.
- For details of Charles' experience in relation to protests on the highway, see the section of this profile specifically concerning [Protests, Injunctions, and Committal Proceedings](#)

Charles has traffic experience in many matters under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Traffic Management Act 2004. He has a particular interest in the introduction of low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs). His experience in traffic law includes:

- He acted, with Andrew Fraser-Urquhart KC, in the High Court on behalf of the Claimant in *Bouchti v LB of Enfield* [2022] EWHC 2744 (KB), having advised as sole counsel in the first instance. This case, which concerned an LTN and the procedural requirements for making and varying/modifying such a scheme, including lawful consultation
- *The Camden (Torrington Place to Tavistock Place)* (*Prescribed Routes, Waiting and Loading*

Restrictions and Loading Places) Traffic Order [2017], acted on behalf of the Licensed Tax Drivers' Association (LTDA) in a four-week traffic inquiry in relation to the Torrington Place to Tavistock Place corridor in Camden. The LTDA and others succeeded in persuading the inspector to recommend making a traffic order in a different form from that proposed by the traffic authority

- Advised on a range of matters for different clients including temporary traffic orders; speed limit orders; traffic authority duties under RTRA 1984 including s.122 and the TMA 2004 including s.16; different parking regimes (both charged and uncharged) on: the public highway, both on-street and off-street, on housing estates, in car parks, on roads in public parks, on grass verges, and on private land; controlled parking zones; the pedestrianisation of major streets in Central London; powers to remove/immobilise illegally parked vehicles; enforcement for different traffic contraventions in different areas (including civil enforcement areas); appeals in relation to parking contraventions.

Charles also has experience of street works and has advised street authorities on unreasonably prolonged occupation of the highway and on objections made to proposed street works.

Charles has also advised on and appeared in a mediation in relation to navigation rights and bridges over navigable waterways.

Compulsory Purchase and Compensation

Charles acted, with Guy Roots KC, on behalf of a business park landowner in a compensation claim under the Electricity Act 1989 following the grant of a necessary wayleave. Compensation was successfully agreed between the parties prior to the hearing.

He has assisted in advising a landowner in relation to advance payments compensating for HS2 and a public body on the means by which the property register of land compulsorily acquired under the London Underground (East London Line Extension) Order 1997, could be discharged.

Major Infrastructure Projects

Charles' experience includes:

- Acted on behalf of Natural England in a number of issue specific hearings across 4 days for the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Windfarm DCO (up to 300 turbines). This included argument on the appropriateness of an arbitration mechanism in a DCO, as well as environmental and ecological issues involving SPAs, SACs, SSSIs, MCZs, European Protected Species licences, and marine licensing.
- As pupil to Meyric Lewis KC, assisted with a number of petitions to the House of Commons from residents and businesses directly and specially affected by the construction and operation of High Speed Rail 2. He attended the House of Commons Select Committee hearings
- Assisted with a challenge brought following an appeal allowed under Schedule 17 to the High Speed Rail (London to West Midlands) Act 2017
- Advised or assisted in advising on a range of matters, including a major energy company in relation to the replacement under existing planning consents of plant for the purposes of electricity generation; a public transport body in respect of the legality of its consultation which considered a

number of proposed routes; a business in relation to the heads and quantum of a claim for compensation for land which will be temporarily possessed under a DCO; a minerals operator which had been undertaking backfill works on any compensation owed to it following the cancellation by the government of A12 widening scheme.

Ecclesiastical Law and Religious Liberty

Charles acted, with Gregory Jones KC, in Consistory Court proceedings concerning a substantial extension of a church in the Diocese of Chester, which raised issues in relation to the relationship between the planning and faculty jurisdictions and of lawful consultation requirements. He also advised on a charitable trust concerning land given to the Parochial Church Council/Diocesan Board of Finance on the condition it be used for ecclesiastical purposes only, and the *cy-près* doctrine.

Rating, Council Tax and CIL

Public Law

Licensing

Public (including human rights, European law, and equalities)

Charles is regularly instructed in public law matters, either in their own right or as an aspect of other areas of his practice such as planning and local government (see other sections of this profile). He is regularly instructed in matters which involve the following:

- fair consultations: acted, with Andrew Fraser-Urquhart KC, in the High Court on behalf of the Claimants in *Bouchti v LB of Enfield* [2022] EWHC 2744 (KB) which concerned whether a lawful consultation had been carried out for a low traffic neighbourhood
- duty to give reasons: *R (Newton Longville PC) v Aylesbury Vale DC* [2019] CO/5165/2018, acted in the High Court on behalf of the local planning authority in this case which concerned the duty to give reasons under a delegated authority decision
- procedural impropriety including bias and predetermination: *Bouchti v LB of Enfield* [2022] EWHC 2744 (KB) involved predetermination, *R (Madzikanda) v Warwick Crown Court* AC-2024-BHM-000089 involved natural justice, *Parry v SSHCLG* (AC-2025-00200) involved bias and procedural fairness.
- legitimate expectation, unreasonableness/irrationality, mistake of fact, and duty of candour

- ECHR and Human Rights Act 1998: acted for Tfl, with Andrew Fraser-Urquhart KC, in three successful High Court claims against hundreds of people protesting under the banner of Insulate Britain, Just Stop Oil, and other groups. These claims involve a number of human rights issues; advised local authorities on the human rights issues connected with managing pro-Palestine protests on the highway including near sensitive sites and removing pro-Palestine murals which violated advertisement control.
- public sector equality duty: *R (Khala) v Kingston Crown Court, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2019] CO/15/2019, acted in the High Court and below on behalf of the successful Police in this claim which included an alleged breach of the PSED; advised a local authority on the PSED implications of removing pro-Palestine murals which violated advertisement control
- public law remedies and refusal to grant relief: *R (Ramblers Association) v Secretary of State for Environment and Ors* [2017] EWHC 716 (Admin), acted, with Juan Lopez, in the High Court on behalf of the successful Network Rail.
- contempt proceedings brought against a Secretary of State

Charles also previously drafted summary grounds of resistance on behalf of the Home Office in immigration public law claims.

Regulatory / Criminal

Charles has experience prosecuting and defending individuals and companies in both the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court. He appears in trials as well as in preliminary and sentencing hearings. His experience includes:

- Acted for an LPA prosecuting an offence under s.196D TCPA 1990 (demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area) in an 11-day trial at the Old Bailey involving expert structural engineering and brickwork evidence in the context of historic buildings and legal argument on the interpretation of the statutory defence
- Acted for Defendants (a company and a director) prosecuted for offences under s.196D TCPA 1990 and s.80(4) Building Act 1984 in the Crown Court. This included expert valuation evidence, drafting a basis of guilty plea, and providing advice on the following: parallel criminal and planning enforcement proceedings, sentence for demolition in a conservation area, costs, Newton hearings, the role of a defendant's means, credit for guilty plea, ancillary orders such as confiscation orders under proceeds of crime, victim surcharge, and compensation orders.
- Acted for a developer being prosecuted for failure to comply with a breach of condition notice (BCN) under s.187A TCPA 1990 in the Magistrates' Court. The prosecution was ultimately withdrawn following representations made on behalf of the defendant developer.
- Acted for an LPA prosecuting Defendants for failure to comply with a breach of condition notice (BCN) under s.187A TCPA 1990 in a 3-day trial (including sentencing) in the Magistrates' Court. This included advising on defence disclosure and how to deal with intimidation of witnesses before trial.
- Acted for Defendants in prosecutions under s.179 TCPA 1990 for breach of an enforcement notice in both the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court. This has included advising on all aspects of s.179 TCPA prosecutions e.g. the elements of the offence, statutory defence, the relevance of retrospective applications including in relation to adjournments, prosecutorial discretion, sentence, proceeds of crime, and costs.
- Acted for an LPA prosecuting for breach of Tree Preservation Order (TPO) regulations in the Magistrates' Court

- Acted for a Defendant subject to receivership, restraint, and external confiscation orders following his conviction for drug trafficking in Australia in the 1990s
- Advised on a range of matters including the most appropriate criminal defendant in cases involving companies, directors, and individuals including piercing the corporate veil; applying the DPP full code test, including in the context of an extant enforcement policy; councils bringing criminal proceedings under s.222 LGA 1972; abuse of process including in respect of delay in bringing a prosecution; whether an offence is continuing or a 'one off'; whether a prosecution is time barred under s.127 MCA 1980.
- Co-authored various Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Notes on criminal liability in the environmental sphere (see 'Publications' section of this profile).

Protests, Injunctions and Committal Proceedings

Direct action protests, by both named and unknown protesters, and proceedings brought against them have become increasingly common and contentious in recent years. Charles has considerable experience in complex and high-profile such proceedings:

- For 4 years he acted for TfL, with Andrew Fraser-Urquhart KC, in three successful High Court claims against hundreds of people (both named and persons unknown) protesting under the banner of Insulate Britain, Just Stop Oil, and other groups, see *TfL v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 3005 (KB), *TfL v Persons Unknown* [2025] EWHC 55 (KB), *TfL v Persons Unknown* [2023] EWHC 1201 (KB). *TfL v Persons Unknown* [2023] EWHC 1038 (KB), *TfL v Lee* [2023] EWHC 402 (KB), and *TfL v Lee* [2023] EWHC 3102 (KB). This included obtaining and extending multiple final and interim injunctions, all initially granted on an urgent without notice basis, and 'review hearings' concerning such injunctions. Charles also advised on all procedural and substantive aspects of such claims, including persons unknown/newcomers, human rights, new powers under the Police, Courts, Crime and Sentencing Act 2022 and the Public Order Act 2023 etc.
- Advised local authorities on the respective roles between them and the police in managing large protests on the highway including near sensitive sites, managing pro-Palestine protest marches on the highway, and enforcing against pro-Palestine murals painted on elevations facing the highway in breach of advertisement control

Charles also has experience of various statutory injunctions, including planning injunctions under s.187B TCPA 1990, Gang Injunctions under the Police and Crime Act 2009, and Part 1 ASB Injunctions under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Charles has experience dealing with various different types of civil and criminal contempt of court and ensuing committal proceedings, including:

- Acted for the Metropolitan Police in committal proceedings for multiple breaches of a gang injunction (previously successfully obtained by the Police when represented by Charles).
- Advised on contempt proceedings being brought against a Secretary of State
- Advised on pre-trial witness intimidation in a case he was prosecuting for an LPA
- Acted in a hearing involving the making of reporting restrictions under the Contempt of Court Act 1981

Licensing, Police and Anti-social Behaviour

Charles has appeared before the Crown Court, Magistrates' Court and Licensing Sub-Committees on behalf of licence holders, licensing authorities, and the Police in relation to different licences e.g. alcohol, late night refreshment, regulated entertainment, taxis, special treatment (massages), and shotgun licences. He has also acted as a legal clerk to a licensing sub-committee.

He has advised on a range of matters including the scope of a licensing authority's powers on a variation application and the scope of its delegation powers; he has frequently advised on the licensing of street trading in different parts of the country and how it interacts with other areas of law such as planning, highways, and European law.

Charles has extensive experience acting for the Metropolitan Police in the High Court, Crown Court, County Court, and Magistrates' Court in matters concerning civil orders and anti-social behaviour. His experience includes:

- *R (Khala) v Kingston Crown Court, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2019] CO/15/2019, acted in the High Court and below on behalf of the successful Commissioner in a challenge relating to the grant of a closure order
- *R (Hitchens) v Thames Magistrates' Court, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2017] CO/4077/2017, acted in the High Court and below on behalf of the successful Commissioner in a challenge relating to the legality of a Community Protection Notice (CPN)
- Advised numerous local authorities enforcing against unauthorised encampments under s.77-80 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Acted for the Metropolitan Police in committal proceedings in the County Court for multiple breaches of a gang injunction. He also successfully acted for the Police in the County Court when that Gang Injunction was made following a 3-day hearing and when it was upheld on appeal following a 1-day hearing
- Acted for the Metropolitan Police in dozens of cases before the Crown Court, County Court, and Magistrates Court concerning sexual civil orders (SHPOs, SOPOs, SROs, notification orders), closure orders, Part 1 ASB Injunctions, shotgun certificate appeals, civil proceedings for proceeds of crime, and return of property by the Police.
- Advised the Metropolitan Police on CPNs, littering offences under s.87 EPA 1990, and data protection under the GDPR. Some of this advice concerned political fly posting in close proximity to Downing Street

Charles has also co-authored various Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Notes on anti-social behaviour matters and how to deal with them including PSPOs, CPNs etc (see 'Publications' section of this profile).

Local Government Including Council Tax and Rating

In addition to the local government experience which Charles has gained from his other work such as planning, highways etc., he has also been involved in the following local government matters:

- Acted as a legal clerk to a Standards Committee in relation to breaches of the code of conduct by Parish Councillors

- Advised different local authorities on a range of matters including their powers under s.111 LGA 1972 (subsidiary powers), s.122 LGA 1972 (appropriation of land for a different purpose) and s.123 LGA 1972 (disposal of land); the legality of policies aimed at tackling anti-Semitism; the making of byelaws under different legislation; the letting of Council properties; the transfer of land from a maintained school to an academy

Charles is also instructed in Council Tax and Rating matters. His experience includes:

- *2nd Floor, 11-15 Farm Street*, acted for a ratepayer in the Magistrates' Court, securing the setting aside of liability orders with costs
- *Part of 2 Shed, 44 Berth, Port of Tilbury*, acted for the ratepayer in the Magistrates' Court
- *Property on Camberwell Road*, acted for an appellant in a rating matter in Valuation Tribunal for England
- *Property in Moorgate*, acted for a ratepayer in the Magistrates' Court
- Advising on a range of matters including advising HMRC on amending an entry in a closed rating list; advising a local authority in relation to Council Tax student disregards, single person discounts, and discretionary reductions; and advising an individual in relation to Council Tax premiums in Wales

Tort and Land

Charles has been instructed in numerous civil tort claims with a planning or related dimension, including:

- Currently acting for a local highway authority being sued in negligence and breach of statutory duty under s.36(6) Highways Act 1980
- Acted in a multi-track claim (including 3-day trial and preliminary issue hearing) for a successful local planning authority being sued for misfeasance in public office, in connection with its officers' interpretation of a planning permission. This included advising on Part 36 offers and limitation periods
- Acted in a multi-track claim (including 2-day trial) for a successful local planning authority being sued in negligent misstatement, in connection with its handling of a planning application. Following Charles' cross-examination of the Claimant on the first day of trial, the Claimant discontinued his claim mid-trial incurring full costs liability.
- Acted for a successful defendant against whom an interim injunction was being sought for alleged interference with a private right of way
- Advised a local planning authority in connection with an alleged breach of its statutory duty under s.188 TCPA 1990
- For 4 years Charles acted for TfL, with Andrew Fraser-Urquhart KC, in its successful 3 claims in the High Court against hundreds of Insulate Britain and Just Stop Oil protesters for trespass, private nuisance, and public nuisance on the public highway.
- Acted for a successful individual being sued in trespass and private nuisance, including defeating an application in the High Court for permission to appeal following successful strike out of the claim
- Advised on potential private nuisance and damages arising from invasive Japanese knotweed
- Assisted in advising a local authority in occupiers liability arising from disused mines within their ownership but of unknown location

He also has experience of land and housing matters, either in their own right or as an aspect of his other practice areas such as planning, rights of way, or local government. His experience includes advising or

assisting in advising on easements created through different types of prescription; what constitutes substantial interference with an easement; determining the boundary between plots of land; issues under the Access to Neighbouring Land Act 1992; right to manage companies; discharge of restrictive covenants; discharging the register of charges or mortgages and the appeal procedure from a decision of the Registrar; compensation under Part II Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

Charles has experience of a number of different types of private law procedural hearings, including summary judgment/strike out, trial of preliminary issue, unless orders, relief from sanctions, allocation, and costs and case management.

Professional Discipline

Charles acted, with Jeremy Phillips KC, on behalf of a suspended social worker in an appeal in the High Court in the case of *PSA v Social Work England and Bennett* [2021] EWHC 3593 (Admin)

Qualifications, Achievements and Other Experience

Qualifications

- University College London, BA (Hons) History (First Class)
- BPP University, GDL (Distinction)
- BPP University, BPTC (Very Competent)

Scholarships, awards and prizes

- Major Scholarship, Inner Temple
- Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship, Inner Temple
- Internship Award, Inner Temple
- GDL Exhibition, Inner Temple
- Winner of the Senior UKELA Lord Slynn Mooting Competition (2016) judged by The Hon Mrs Justice Patterson DBE

Other experience

Prior to starting pupillage Charles spent three months at *The Advocates for Human Rights* in Minnesota, USA where he helped to draft laws for the Somali Constitution. Through Reprieve in Houston, USA he was part of a legal team which secured a life sentence with parole for one of the longest serving death row prisoners in Texas history. He also taught law for the *African Prisons Project* to inmates in a maximum security prison in Kampala, Uganda as part of their rehabilitation and education.

Professional Memberships

Charles is a member of the Planning and Environmental Bar Association (PEBA), the Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA), and the Compulsory Purchase Association (CPA).

Publications

In addition to delivering talks and seminars to clients and a wider audience (including on behalf of MBL Seminars), publications include:

- Co-author of the chapters on 'Achieving Sustainable Development' and 'Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals' in the upcoming FTB NPPF Handbook
- [Statutory nuisance, Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Note](#) (subscription required)
- [Appealing an abatement notice, Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Note](#) (subscription required)
- [Noise nuisance offences, Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Note](#) (subscription required)
- [Anti-social behaviour- environmental breaches](#), Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Note (subscription required)
- [Environmental Criminal Liability- environmental offences](#), Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Note. (subscription required)
- [Wildlife Crime, Lexis Nexis PSL Practice Note](#). (subscription required)
- [Precedent of an Abatement Notice](#), for Lexis Nexis. (subscription required)
- [Precedent of a Notice of Appeal against an Abatement Notice](#), for Lexis Nexis. (subscription required)
- [Precedent of a Complaint for bringing a private action for statutory nuisance under s.82 EPA 1990](#), for Lexis Nexis. (subscription required)
- [Precedent of a Notice under s.82\(6\) EPA 1990 of bringing a private action for statutory nuisance](#), for Lexis Nexis. (subscription required)
- [A new age of reason?](#), Solicitors Journal, 13 December 2016 (SJ 160/47).
- Posts to the FTB Environmental Law Blog on Conservations Covenants under the Environment Act 2021, Available [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

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