

VINCENT FRASER QC

Year of call: 1981
Year of silk: 2001

Clerked by: Gary Smith Mark Ronson

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Administrative & Public Law Environment Licensing Local
Government Planning



Licensing

Vincent has extensive experience advising and appearing in licensing cases.

Significant Reported Cases

Kelly v Liverpool City Council [2003] EWCA Civ 197 [2003] 2 All ER 772 - Licensing, local government - fees, inspections, licences, local authority powers and duties, private hire vehicles, taxis.

R(Barry) v Liverpool City Council [2001] EWCA Civ 384 (2001) LGLR 40 - Licensing, local government - entertainment licences, doormen registration scheme, power to charge.

Profile

Vincent is a leading practitioner in town and country planning, compulsory purchase and compensation, environmental, local government and finance, highways, administrative and public law.

He acts for and advises developers, local authorities, government agencies and interest groups. He regularly appears at inquiries into major infrastructure projects, housing development, major retail and regeneration schemes, commercial development, minerals, landfill and highways.

He regularly appears in the Administrative Court and the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber).

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Year of Silk: 2001

Areas of Expertise

Administrative & Public Law

Environment

Licensing

Local Government

Planning

Memberships

Planning and Environmental Bar Association

Administrative Law Bar Association

UK Environmental Law Association

Northern and North Eastern Circuit

Appointments

Recorder 2002

Deputy High Court Judge (Admin Court) 2010

Publications

Planning Decisions Digest – Sweet & Maxwell 1992

Qualifications

Oxford (University College)

Open Scholarship Sweet & Maxwell Prize

MA (1st class) Jurisprudence

1981 Gray's Inn

Holker Entrance Award

Reid Scholar

Band Prize

Recommendations

Chambers UK 2021

"He enjoys an enormously successful practice."

"He is extremely experienced, diligent and a real expert in his field."

"He is a genius in his field and his cross-examination skills are outstanding." "He is a really good advocate."

Chambers UK 2020

"He is experienced, a very good team leader and an excellent advocate. His cross-examination is very good and he has a good eye for strategy."

"He is a very strong, able advocate."

"He is very much part of the planning landscape in the North." "Very bright and exceptionally well prepared."

Chambers UK 2018

"He is very knowledgeable and personable. He has a good presence in court and never appears to allow himself to be flustered."

"He is a skilled advocate who gets to the heart of the issue and he's excellent at cross-examination."

"Forthright in the provision of advice and presentation of cases. Strong in cross-examination." "He takes a forensic and measured approach."

"An extremely good and combative advocate." "He's excellent to work with and robust in his advice. He's a very determined advocate who knows his stuff and gives you confidence that you're going the right way."

Legal 500 2018

'He is very knowledgeable and experienced with a great courtroom presence.'

Legal 500 2017

'He has a brilliant legal mind and is one of the best cross-examiners around.'

Chambers UK 2017

"He is a very skilled cross-examiner and an excellent person to have on your side." "His knowledge is encyclopaedic; he truly is a first-class QC."

"He is excellent, his attention to detail is superb and he provides sound advice."

Chambers UK 2016

"He has always done a great job for us. He's very good at handling the administrative and planning law side of environmental issues."

"His cross-examination is first-class, and the way he puts his cases together is excellent."

Chambers UK 2015

"He gets to the bottom of every case. He's excellent at cross-examination because he has that detail - it's where he really excels. He's an extremely good advocate."

"His reports on village green inquiries are excellent." "He is detailed, thorough, excellent in cross-examination, and also extremely perceptive in terms of how to direct a case."

"His advice is very sage - he makes you stretch your thoughts on the matters you're dealing with. For a dogfight, I'd instruct Vincent." "Clients really rate his advice on CPOs."

Chambers UK 2014

Vincent Fraser QC "is very intelligent and effective in cross-examination, with an ability to clearly present complex legal points." "We have used him for both inquiries and court work; he knows the renewables sector and is highly attuned to it."

"He is always on top of his subject matter and is a good strategic thinker."

Chambers UK 2013

Solicitors say Vincent Fraser QC "is a formidable advocate" who is "intellectually and academically very, very good." Adept at taking on all manner of planning cases, he is particularly known for appearing for and advising retailers, local authorities, housebuilders, wind farm developers and leading energy companies. Of late, he has been appearing for Morrisons at an inquiry into a supermarket proposal in Wells. Vincent Fraser QC proves particularly active in wind farm cases. Recent representative work for him includes successfully acting for Cornwall Light & Power in relation to a challenge brought by Hargreaves to consent given for the construction of a wind farm. He also appeared in the Frodsham wind farm inquiry acting on behalf of Peel Energy.

Vincent Fraser QC is an experienced practitioner with expertise in planning and local government law. He recently represented an authority during the consultation process for changing electoral boundaries.

Planning Magazine

Vincent is included amongst the top planning Barristers as chosen by leading planning lawyers and consultants in England and Wales.

