



VINCENT FRASER KC | MANCHESTER, LEEDS & BIRMINGHAM

Year of call: 1981

Clerked by: Gary Smith Mark Ronson

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:



Planning

Vincent is a leading practitioner in all aspects of planning and environmental law advising regularly on development proposals and challenges, and appearing at public inquiries and judicial challenges. He has particular experience in retail and commercial development, residential development, wind farms and renewable energy, waste and compulsory purchase. He has extensive experience promoting infrastructure projects and dealing with environmental and conservation issues. He regularly acts for retailers, leading energy companies, wind farm developers, housebuilders, local authorities and public bodies.

Housing

Vincent has extensive experience throughout the country promoting and resisting major residential development addressing a wide range of issues including affordable housing, housing land requirements, and design, both in the context of residential development alone and as part of major mixed use schemes.

Commercial Planning

Vincent regularly advises on and appears at inquiries involving major commercial and mixed use developments: examples include promoting a major mixed use redevelopment of Warrington town centre, proposals for the redevelopment of New Brighton, a major mixed use development including a new rugby league stadium for Salford City Reds, proposals for mixed use development centred around a new racecourse in Salford, the largest glass manufacturing plant in Europe in Ince/Elton, major mixed use redevelopment of a town centre site in Beverley close to the Minster, motorway service areas in various locations, oil and gas terminal in Flintshire, Birch Coppice Distribution Centre, industrial development at Wrexham Industrial Estate, major redevelopment in Salford Quays.

Retail

Vincent has extensive experience advising and appearing on retail matters for retailers and local planning authorities. Examples include various Wm Morrison, Tesco, Sainsburys and ASDA superstores, town centre redevelopments in Huddersfield, Warrington, Salford, factory outlet centre (Kendal), and proposals where retail development has been advanced as enabling development.

Renewable Energy

Vincent has extensive experience of renewable energy projects having advised on and successfully promoted a number of wind farm proposals in England, Wales and Scotland, including Tween Bridge (Doncaster), Green Rigg (Tynedale), Wandylaw (Berwick), Nuts Grove (Peterborough), Frodsham Marshes (Cheshire), Llanbrynmair (Powys), Garreg Lwyd (Powys), Mynydd Brombil (Neath Port Talbot), Keirs Hill (East Ayrshire) and Out Newton (Holderness). The proposals have involved detailed consideration of a multiplicity of issues including energy policy, landscape and visual impacts, environmental assessment, impacts upon nature conservation interests (including implications for European law), radar, aviation interests, air defence and military training, cultural heritage, archaeology, underground mining, drainage, and noise.

Compulsory Purchase and Land Compensation Issues

Vincent has substantial experience advising on compulsory purchase orders and appearing at inquiries into orders; examples include successfully promoting Meden Valley compulsory purchase orders on behalf of English Partnerships which considered issues of regeneration and housing; successfully resisting orders for acquisition of Huncoat Power Station which involved considerations of compulsory purchase order powers and procedures and waste disposal needs and strategy in Lancashire; successfully promoting Trinity Gateway bus station in Bolton; successfully promoting the compulsory purchase of Pioneer House in Dewsbury under the Listed Buildings Act to preserve the listed building; various highway and housing compulsory purchase orders.

Vincent regularly advises upon land compensation issues and appears at Lands Tribunal and arbitration hearings with respect to such issues. Examples include compensation following town centre redevelopments in Liverpool and Newcastle, compensation following acquisition for new roads, and compensation following redevelopment of residential areas. He has advised on and appeared in cases assessing compensation for provisions of utilities and compensation under the Land Compensation Act 1973 consequent on the provision of public works.

Development plan examinations

Vincent advises on and has appeared at numerous development plan examinations both for local planning authorities and objectors, including Salford Core Strategy, Bury Core Strategy, Ryedale Plan, Harrogate Sites and Policies DPD.

Airports

Vincent appeared at the Manchester Airport Second Runway inquiry. He has advised on and appeared at a number of inquiries addressing issues affecting airports including, impacts upon airport radar and operations, noise related impacts and airport parking.

Infrastructure

Vincent has extensive experience advising on and appearing in inquiries into infrastructure proposals including, energy projects, waste disposal, roads and bridges, motorway service areas and utilities.

Enforcement

Vincent has extensive experience advising upon and appearing in enforcement cases; examples include local authorities' powers and duties following major development in the absence of planning permission and prior environmental impact assessment, and enforcement following unauthorised waste disposal.

Highways, Footpaths & Right of Way

Vincent regularly advises on and appears in cases involving highways and rights of way including litigation and footpath and rights of way inquiries. He has appeared in cases addressing the existence, extent and status of highways. He has regularly appeared in court and at inquiries addressing stopping up and diversion of highways. He has advised on and promoted traffic regulation orders at inquiry. He has appeared in arbitration addressing utilities in the highway.

Commons and Village Greens

Vincent has advised on and appeared at inquiries into commons and village greens both successfully promoting and resisting registration; examples include Hogshaw Wood in Buxton. Vincent has also sat as an independent inspector reporting to the registration authority; examples include Hardy Spicer Sports Ground in Sutton Coldfield, Carrington Close in Birchwood, and Cartwright's Field in Stockton Heath.

Judicial review and Statutory Challenges

Vincent regularly advises on and appears in Administrative Court proceedings. Please see examples in the significant cases section below.

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).

Year of Call: 1981

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 2023

"Vincent is excellent at developing arguments - both written and spoken."

"Vincent is particularly well regarded for cross-examination, he has honed his skills to perfection."

Chambers UK 2022

"A very good and well-established barrister."

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.