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Rhodri Williams KC



Call: **1987 (2009 Northern Ireland)** Silk: **2010**

"A very shrewd tactician with vast public law experience. An advocate with strong powers of persuasion and a calm, authoritative manner."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2023

Clerk Details

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Practice Overview

Rhodri Williams KC is recommended in the legal directories for public procurement, local government, and public and administrative law where he is described as a "*very shrewd tactician*" and an "*advocate with strong powers of persuasion*". He was called to the UK Bar in 1987 and to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 2009, and he took silk in 2010. Prior to joining Keating Chambers in October 2022, he was a member of Henderson Chambers in London and 30 Park Place Chambers in Wales.

Rhodri specialises in public procurement cases and clients report that he is "*very good on really difficult complex cases and very strong on his feet.*" A longstanding expert in the field, his experience includes representing the successful appellants in the first ever case concerning public procurement to be heard before the Supreme Court in *Brent LBC v Risk Management Partners Ltd & London Authorities Mutual Ltd & Harrow LBC* [2011] UKSC 7. More recently he was instructed in a claim for breach of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, concerning provision of orthodontic services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to public procurement, Rhodri also deals with a wide range of local government issues, including judicial review of post office closures, school re-organisation plans and school transport decisions. He handles cases involving both local and regional government, including advising the Welsh Government and other Government Departments and local authorities, in

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England, Wales and in Northern Ireland. In 2000, he was appointed to the Attorney General's list of approved Counsel and to the list of the Counsel General to the National Assembly for Wales (subsequently Senedd Cymru/the Welsh Parliament) and has represented the United Kingdom Government on several occasions before the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg.

Practice Areas

Public Procurement, European and Competition Law

Since working with the European Commission in Brussels in the 1990's, Rhodri has long specialised in the law of the internal market as it affects the public sector, and, in particular, the EU public procurement regime, competition and state aid.

Rhodri has advised on and been involved in litigation concerning all aspects of public procurement, including application of the Teckal exemption, framework agreements, central purchasing bodies, service concessions, the competitive dialogue procedure and remedies. He was involved in the leading authority on time limits for bringing public procurement challenges in case C-406/08 *Uniplex (UK) Ltd v NHS Business Services Authority* [2010] ECR I-817, and in 2010 he was instructed to represent the successful appellants in the first ever case concerning public procurement to be heard before the Supreme Court in B*rent LBC v Risk Management Partners Ltd & London Authorities Mutual Ltd & Harrow LBC* [2011] UKSC 7. He has also represented the United Kingdom Government and other public bodies on several occasions before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Other cases in this area include the successful defence of a local authority on a claim of deceit arising out of the abandonment of a competitive dialogue tender procedure in *Montpellier Estates Ltd v Leeds City Council* [2013] EWHC 166 (QB) and, more recently, a claim for breach of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, concerning provision of orthodontic services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In relation to State aid, he has recently advised on such issues as exemption from the Community Infrastructure Levy, grants for heritage and culture projects, disposals of land and the application of block exemptions generally.

Rhodri is a long-standing representative of the Bar Council's Legislative Reform Committee and European Law Committee. He has also been appointed to the Bar Council's Retained EU Law Working Group. liaising between the Bar and HM Government on the status, extent and effect of Retained EU Law under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

- ***IDH Group Ltd-v-NHS Commissioning Board*** *[2021] EWHC (TCC)* Claim for breach of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in respect of the procurement of a contract for the provision of orthodontic services challenging the decision to proceed to award contracts under various lots following a previous decision to pause the tender process during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ***Diagnostics ai Ltd-v-MDC Ltd*** *[2020] EWHC (TCC)* Claim for breach of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in relation to the award of the contract for the provision of automated testing services at the UK Lighthouse Laboratories network, the national network of screening laboratories for the Covid-19 virus

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- ***SRCL Ltd-v-NHS Commissioning Board*** *[2018] EWHC 1985 (TCC)* Claim for breach of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in respect of award of contract by the NHS in England under a framework agreement for the disposal of clinical waste on grounds that there was a breach of the rules governing abnormally low tenders
- ***Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust-v-Lancashire CC*** *[2018] EWHC 1589 (TCC)* Claim for breach of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in respect of the award of a contract using the "light touch regime" for the provision of care services by a local authority
- ***Damira Dental Services Ltd-v-NHS Commissioning Board*** *[2017] EWHC (TCC)* Claim for breach of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in respect of award of an NHS contract for the provision of dental services
- ***Premaitha Ltd v Cardiff & Vale UHB*** *[2016] EWHC (TCC)* Challenge to tender procedure held by Cardiff and Vale UHB for the award of a contract for the implementation of an in-house non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) screening service. The execution of the contract was suspended pursuant to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Successful application to lift automatic suspension under regulation Gill.
- ***Montpellier Estates Ltd v Leeds City Council*** *[2013] EWHC 166 (QB)* Successfully defended a local authority of claim for breach of the EU public procurement regime and for deceit.
- ***Brent LBC v Risk Management Partners Ltd & London Authorities Mutual Ltd & Harrow BC*** *[2011] UKSC 7; [2011] LGR 169* Represented the Interested Parties on their successful appeal against the decisions of the High Court and Court of Appeal in respect of a claim for breach of the EU public procurement regime in relation to the establishment by various London authorities of an insurance mutual to provide insurance services.
- ***Lancashire County Council v EWC Ltd*** *[2010] EWCA Civ 1381; [2011] LGR 350* Successfully prosecuted appeal against finding of breach of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 in respect of tender for waste management services.

Public, Administrative & Local Government

Rhodri deals with a wide range of local government issues, including judicial review of post office closures, school reorganisation plans and school transport decisions. He deals with cases involving both local and regional government, including advising the Welsh Assembly Government and other Government Departments and local authorities, in England, Wales and in Northern Ireland. He appeared on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales on the first ever reference to the Supreme Court under the Government of Wales Act 2006 in *Local Government Byelaws (Wales)* Bill 2012 – *Reference by the Attorney General for England and Wales* [2012] UKSC 53.

He has represented local authorities in a number of challenges by way of judicial review to decisions in respect of school closure, school reorganisation and school transport. He has also advised local authorities on numerous occasions on their powers in respect of such decisions in the field of education. Finally, he often advises the Department of Education in relation to Government programmes and its duties, for example, to provide Institutes of Technology, the provision of Get into Teaching Service (GITIS) and the provision of education services to young offenders in custody.

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Reported Cases

- Brookhouse Group Ltd-v-Lancashire CC [2024] EWCA Civ 717
- Brookhouse Group Limited v Lancashire County Council [2023] EWHC 2921 (TCC)
- InHealth Intelligence Limited v NHS England [2023] EWHC 352 (TCC)
- InHealth Intelligence Ltd v NHS England [2022] EWHC 2471 (TCC)
- Mak Systems Group Ltd v Velindre University NHS Trust [2026] EWHC 8 (TCC)
- SRCL Ltd (t/a Stericycle) v NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board [2025] EWHC 2964 (TCC)
- International Sos Assistance UK Ltd v Secretary of State for Defence [2025] EWHC 2634 (TCC)
- Robert Heath Heating Ltd v Orbit Group Ltd [2024] EWHC 3039 (TCC)

Other information

Education & Professional Career

- Keating Chambers, Barrister (2022)
- Henderson Chambers, Barrister (1999 – 2022)
- 30 Park Place Chambers, Barrister
- Welsh Government KC Panel (reappointed 2025)
- Legal Member of the Welsh Language Tribunal (2019-2024)
- Treasurer of the Wales and Chester Circuit (2017)
- Bencher of Gray’s Inn (2015)
- Queen’s Counsel (2010)
- Called to the Bar of Northern Ireland (2009)
- Inns of Court School of Law (1987)
- Dip Law PCL (1986)
- BA Exeter College Oxford (1985)

Memberships

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- Civil Justice Council (CJC) from 1 January 2019 to present.
- Bar European Group
- Administrative Law Bar Association
- Procurement Law Association
- Co-founder of the Public Law Wales

Seminars & Publications

Public Procurement Law Review (Sweet & Maxwell); member of editorial board

Recommendations

"Rhodri Williams KC is an absolute heavyweight in the procurement world but always accessible and a pleasure to work with."
Public Procurement, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Rhodri Williams KC is excellent. His advocacy and ability to take on complex cases are very strong."
Public Procurement, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Rhodri is excellent. He is a very good advocate."
Public Procurement, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Rhodri is a real specialist and he holds everything in his brain."
Public Procurement, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

"Rhodri is a real specialist and he holds everything in his brain."
Administrative & Public Law, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Rhodri is an excellent barrister who always offers the best level of service."
Administrative & Public Law, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Rhodri Williams KC is user-friendly and one of those people who likes to get into the detail."
Public Procurement, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Rhodri is very organised and methodical. In court, his advocacy is very strong."
Public Procurement, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Rhodri is incredibly thorough and brilliant with paperwork."
Administrative & Public Law, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"He is very experienced in the area."
Administrative & Public Law, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Rhodri is an excellent all rounder. He is thorough and detail oriented, but also able to see the wider tactical picture. He has an amiable and clear client manner, and is an excellent advocate. His calm and measured style of advocacy wins him favours with clients and judges alike."
Public Procurement, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"Rhodri is a top public law silk, especially in EU and procurement issues."
Administrative & Public Law, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

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"Rhodri is dependable and hard-working."

Public Procurement, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"This advice is delivered promptly and considers all the angles in a case."

Public Procurement, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"A leader in his field who provides excellent advice."

Public Procurement, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

'He has considerable expertise in public procurement challenges and judicial reviews.'

Chambers UK 2024

'Rhodri does a lot of work involving local authorities and is very good at it. He is highly knowledgeable.'

Chambers UK 2024

‘Rhodri is a distinguished advocate, thoughtful and very assured in his advice.'

Legal 500 2024

"A very shrewd tactician with vast public law experience. An advocate with strong powers of persuasion and a calm, authoritative manner."

Legal 500, 2023

"He's very insightful and certainly very able." "He's very good on really difficult complex cases and very strong on his feet."

Chambers UK, 2022

"Rhodri has encyclopaedic knowledge of public procurement law. He is very experienced and knows the law in Wales really well.”

Chambers UK 2022

"He is my go-to for public procurement work, has a wealth of experience in the procurement field, particularly when acting for a defendant. He is user-friendly and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the regulations."

Legal 500 2022

"Very knowledgeable and experienced in a range of areas. Rhodri provided clear, practical advice in conference and prepared comprehensive and robust pleadings which resulted in a very positive outcome for our client."

Chambers UK, 2021

"His strength comes from experience and knowledge of case law." "Rhodri is responsive with arguments and excels both in an advisory capacity and as an advocate." "He moves cases forward and can anticipate how they're going to run."

Legal 500, 2021

"He is responsive, practical and provides robust advice." "His performance in court is strong and focused."

Chambers UK, 2020

"Tactically very good, strong strategically and one of the leading names in the procurement space."

Chambers UK, 2020

“Extremely approachable and goes above and beyond what is required.”

Chambers UK, 2019

"Great on the law and very responsive", "He is able to react quickly and decisively when handling cases of great complexity."

Chambers UK, 2019