BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

Brick Court Chambers
7-8 Essex Street, London WC2R 3LD
DX 302 London Chancery Lane

Paul Bowen KC

YEAR OF CALL: 1993 **YEAR OF SILK**: 2012

'Paul is my go-to leading Counsel for financial services regulatory public law work. His advocacy is excellent, and his tone with Judges is good.'

Legal 500, 2027 (Offshore)

Email: **paul.bowen@brickcourt.co.uk**



Practice Overview

Paul Bowen KC is a leading public law silk. His practice centres on public law, human rights and constitutional challenges in fields including energy regulation, financial services, data regulation and offshore work. He acts in regulatory disputes, commercial cases with constitutional and human rights implications, Privy Council appeals and cross-border disputes. Paul acts for and against regulators and governments in England and Wales, the Overseas Territories, the Crown Dependencies and other common law jurisdictions. He is an expert in statutory drafting and interpretation and advises on legislation as it is made and in later legal challenges. Commercial teams turn to him when a case hinges on a difficult point of public law or human rights. He is often instructed before proceedings begin, including regulatory and criminal investigations. His expertise has been developed over more than three decades of practice and in many ground-breaking appellate cases such as *Nicklinson*, *Catt* and *Cheshire West* in the Supreme Court and *Volaw* and *Ramoon* in the Privy Council. He has acted as counsel in more than twenty cases in the Supreme Court, House of Lords and Privy Council and in many in the European Court of Human Rights.

Paul has appeared before the Privy Council, or been admitted locally as an advocate, in jurisdictions including Jersey, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, Bermuda, the BVI, the Isle of Man, Jamaica, St Helena, Trinidad and Tobago and St Vincent and the Grenadines. He has also advised in disputes in other jurisdictions including Cyprus and Gibraltar. He gives expert advice and evidence on English public law, human rights law and their relationship with the constitutional law of the Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other common law jurisdictions.

Paul has been ranked in the leading legal directories for a quarter of a century. He is currently ranked in five categories across Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500, including Tier 1 in the Legal 500 for offshore regulatory and constitutional work. He began his career as a solicitor at Clifford Chance.

Paul also sits as a Deputy High Court Judge in the King's Bench Division and Administrative Court (2021) and as a Recorder in the Crown Court (2018).

Recent work

- Leading for an energy producer in a substantial regulatory dispute with a UK energy regulator.
- Leading for a regulated utility in the Isle of Man in a doléance and judicial review challenge to price controls imposed by the utilities regulator.
- Leading for the Governor of the Cayman Islands in ***Douglas and Ramoon***, which is due before the Privy Council in 2027.
- Leading for the Attorney General of St Helena in a constitutional challenge to costs legislation and in appeals on prison conditions.
- Leading on an application to the European Court of Human Rights arising from a multi-million dollar cross-border confiscation (A1P1, Article 6, Article 7).

Public Law

Paul is a judicial review specialist who has been ranked in public and administrative law for more than two decades, and in civil liberties and human rights since 2003. He acts for and against public authorities, regulators and governments, and for corporations, individuals and NGOs. He is on the 'A' Panel of Counsel to the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Regulatory

Paul acts for regulated businesses and for regulators in the UK and offshore, particularly in energy, data regulation and financial services (including anti-money laundering).

- Energy producer v UK energy regulator (leading; substantial regulatory dispute, including successive representations to the regulator, expert evidence, legal professional privilege and implied waiver, and the preparation of judicial review and interim relief proceedings)
- Challenge by a regulated gas utility to price controls imposed by the Isle of Man utilities regulator (leading; doléance and judicial review)
- *Maples Corporate Services Ltd and MaplesFS Ltd v Cayman Islands Monetary Authority* (Grand Court, GC 20 of 2021, 30 March 2023; for the trust and corporate service providers; successful challenge to the regulator's findings on the scope of customer due diligence under the Anti-Money Laundering Regulations; the regulator's appeal was withdrawn)
- *BDO, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG and PwC v Governor of the Cayman Islands* (Grand Court; for the Governor; legality of CI$5 million of trading fees)
- *Datalink v OfReg* (Grand Court, Cayman Islands; for the utility and telecoms regulator in a telecoms judicial review)

- *Coastal Housing Group Ltd v Mitchell*; *Trivallis Ltd and Wales and West Housing Association Ltd v Welsh Ministers* [2024] EWHC 2831 (Ch), [2025] 1 WLR 1517 (Divisional Court; leading for registered social landlords; renting homes regulation in Wales)
- Gatwick Airport's challenge to the 2026 slot allocation regulations (Administrative Court; advising an interested party)
- *R (Enterprise Managed Service Ltd) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government* (Administrative Court; retrospective removal of a £5 million pension exit credit under A1P1 and Article 6)

Data protection and data regulation

Paul advises businesses and public bodies on data protection, freedom of information and the protection of confidential information. He is a contributor to *Information Law* (Phillip Coppel ed, 2020).

- Advising an energy producer on the confidentiality of material held by a UK regulator, under FOIA, data protection law and Article 8
- *R (Catt) v ACPO*; *R (T) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* (Supreme Court; police retention of sensitive data)
- *R (Butt) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* (Court of Appeal; the collection and use of private information under the 'Prevent' strategy)
- *Butt v United Kingdom* (European Court of Human Rights; privacy and data protection in the harvesting of online profiles)

Legislation

Paul advises promoters, governments and affected businesses on legislation, from drafting through to Royal Assent and challenge.

- Royal Albert Hall Bill (House of Lords Opposed Bill Committee; for the Corporation of the Hall of Arts and Sciences as promoter)
- Gas (Economic Regulation) Bill 2026 (Isle of Man; for a regulated utility; ECHR compatibility and representations to the Ministry of Justice on Royal Assent)
- *R (Public Law Project) v Secretary of State for Justice* (Supreme Court; the 'residence test' for legal aid, introduced by secondary legislation)

Human rights

- *R (Nicklinson) v Ministry of Justice* (Supreme Court; assisted dying)
- *R (Purdy) v DPP* (House of Lords; assisted dying and the DPP's discretion to prosecute)

- *R (Maguire) v HM Senior Coroner for Blackpool and Fylde* [2023] UKSC 20 (Supreme Court; for the Equality and Human Rights Commission; Article 2 and deaths in care)
- *R (AG, JE and LK) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* (Administrative Court; the 'ten-year route to settlement' for young migrants)
- *R (Morahan) v West London Assistant Coroner* (Court of Appeal; Article 2 and the death of a psychiatric patient)
- *R (B) v DPP* (Divisional Court; the DPP's discretion to discontinue a prosecution)
- Mental health and capacity: *Cheshire West and Chester Council v P* (Supreme Court; deprivation of liberty); *Rabone v Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust* (Supreme Court; Article 2); *HL v United Kingdom* (ECtHR; 'Bournewood' detention); *MH v United Kingdom* (ECtHR; Article 5(4)); *R (Munjaz) v Mersey Care NHS Trust* (House of Lords; seclusion)

Inquiries and national security

In 2018 Paul was appointed Independent Investigator in the Independent QC Investigation into the First Minister of Wales's actions and decisions in relation to Carl Sargeant AM's departure from office. He has acted in many inquests into deaths engaging Article 2, including for the family of Connor Sparrowhawk. He was a Special Advocate from 2007 to 2012.

- *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AF (No 3)* (House of Lords; Article 6 and closed material in control order proceedings)
- *Secretary of State for the Home Department v BM* (Administrative Court; TPIM proceedings)
- *Al Jedda v Secretary of State for the Home Department* (SIAC; deprivation of citizenship)
- *Chahal v United Kingdom* (ECtHR; public interest immunity and Article 5(4))

International/EU

Paul has particular expertise in the legal systems of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, in appeals to the Privy Council and in applications to the European Court of Human Rights. He is ranked Tier 1 in the Legal 500 for offshore regulatory and constitutional work.

Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

- *Douglas and Ramoon v Governor of the Cayman Islands* (Grand Court, Court of Appeal and Privy Council; for the Governor; transfer of prisoners to the UK and closed material procedures, including *Ramoon v Cayman Islands* [2023] UKPC 9)
- *Peters v Attorney General of St Helena* (St Helena; for the Attorney General; constitutional

challenge to the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance 2025)

- *Lawrence and Buckley v Attorney General of St Helena* (St Helena Court of Appeal; for the Attorney General; prison conditions under Articles 3 and 8)
- *Thompson v Cayman Islands Health Services Authority* (Grand Court and Court of Appeal; for the Government; statutory bar on clinical negligence claims)
- *Volaw Trust v Office of the Comptroller of Taxes* [2019] UKPC 29 (Privy Council, Jersey; disclosure notices and the privilege against self-incrimination)
- Public registers of beneficial ownership (advising on the constitutional and human rights implications of a UK proposal, under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018, to impose a register on an Overseas Territory without its consent)
- Closed material procedures (drafting a procedural code for an Overseas Territory, after a comparative review of six regimes)
- Constitutional advice to the Attorney General of St Helena, including on the compellability of the Governor as a witness

Privy Council appeals

- *Clarke v The King* (Privy Council, Bahamas; for the appellant; admissibility of a confession allegedly obtained by torture; hearing 2027)
- *The Crown v Ariste* [2023] UKPC 18 (Privy Council, Bahamas; for the appellant; successful appeal: confession wrongly admitted and conviction quashed)
- *The King v Moss* [2023] UKPC 28 (Privy Council, Bahamas; for the appellant; duress and murder)
- *Robinson v The State* (Privy Council; constitutionality of the mandatory death penalty in Trinidad and Tobago)
- *Benedetto v R* (Privy Council, BVI; successful appeal against a murder conviction)
- *Kim John v The State* (Privy Council; successful appeal against conviction for two defendants on death row)
- *Pringle v R* (Privy Council; successful appeal against conviction for a prisoner on death row)
- *R v Shorn Samuel* (Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal, St Vincent and the Grenadines; successful appeal against a murder conviction and death sentence)

European Court of Human Rights

- Application arising from a multi-million dollar cross-border confiscation (A1P1, Article 6, Article 7)

- *Papa v Albania* (property rights under A1P1)
- *MH v United Kingdom* (ECtHR), Article 5(4) and incapacitated individuals
- *Munjaz v United Kingdom* (ECtHR), seclusion and Arts 3/5/ 8.
- *Wilkinson v United Kingdom*, (ECtHR). compulsory treatment and Arts 3/ 8
- *HL v United Kingdom* (ECtHR), Art 5 and 'de facto' detention of learning disabled adult

EU law

EU law plays a significant part in many of Paul's cases. Since the UK left the EU, that work has turned to assimilated EU law, the Withdrawal Agreement and the domestic regimes that replace EU rules. He chaired the JUSTICE Working Group on the EU Settlement Scheme in 2023, which reported on the rights of EU citizens under the Withdrawal Agreement.

- Gatwick Airport's challenge to the 2026 slot allocation regulations (advising an interested party; airport slot rules derived from the assimilated EU Slot Regulation)
- *R (Gudanaviciene and others) v Director of Legal Aid Casework* (Court of Appeal; EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Trafficking Directive and the Qualification Directive)
- *R (Public Interest Lawyers) v Legal Services Commission* (Administrative Court; EU public procurement challenge)

Commercial

Commercial teams turn to Paul when a dispute hinges on a difficult point of public law or human rights. He acts for businesses in disputes with regulators and governments, and advises on regulatory risk, disclosure, privilege and self-incrimination in commercial litigation. He also acts in claims against states and multinational businesses. He is often instructed before proceedings begin, including during regulatory or criminal investigations, and at the interface between regulatory and criminal law.

Energy and utilities

- Energy producer v UK energy regulator (leading; substantial regulatory dispute, including legal professional privilege, the confidentiality of commercial material and the preparation of judicial review and interim relief proceedings)
- Challenge by a regulated gas utility to price controls imposed by the Isle of Man utilities regulator, and advice on the Gas (Economic Regulation) Bill 2026 (leading; doléance, judicial review and representations on Royal Assent)

Financial services and anti-money laundering

- *Maples Corporate Services Ltd and MaplesFS Ltd v Cayman Islands Monetary Authority* (Grand Court, 2023; for the trust and corporate service providers; successful challenge to the regulator's anti-money laundering findings)
- Cayman funds dispute (Grand Court; leading the counsel team; anti-money laundering risk from investors, directors' duties and a winding-up petition)
- Advising on anticipated criminal proceedings in the Cayman Islands for alleged breaches of anti-money laundering regulations, including disclosure and privilege
- Advising a trust and corporate service provider on later inspections by the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority

Disclosure, privilege and self-incrimination

- *Mozambique v Credit Suisse International* [2022] EWHC 3094 (Comm) (Commercial Court; disclosure, collateral use and self-incrimination alongside foreign criminal proceedings)
- *Volaw Trust v Office of the Comptroller of Taxes* [2019] UKPC 29 (Privy Council, Jersey; tax disclosure notices issued at the request of Norway and the privilege against self-incrimination)

Property rights and regulatory change

- Application to the European Court of Human Rights arising from a multi-million dollar cross-border confiscation (A1P1, Article 6, Article 7)
- *R (Enterprise Managed Service Ltd) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government* (Administrative Court; retrospective removal of a £5 million pension exit credit under A1P1 and Article 6)
- *Coastal Housing Group Ltd v Mitchell*; *Trivallis Ltd v Welsh Ministers* [2024] EWHC 2831 (Ch), [2025] 1 WLR 1517 (Divisional Court; leading for registered social landlords)
- *Papa v Albania* (European Court of Human Rights; property rights under A1P1)
- Gatwick Airport's challenge to the 2026 slot allocation regulations (Administrative Court; advising an interested party)
- Royal Albert Hall Bill (House of Lords Opposed Bill Committee; for the Hall as promoter of a private bill affecting its commercial operations)

Claims against multinationals

- Advising claimants on a prospective group claim in the Cayman Islands, arising from alleged human rights abuses by security personnel of a multinational business in Kenya

Publications

- Contributor, ***Executive Decision-Making and the Courts: Revisiting the Origins of Modern Judicial Review*** (TT Arvind, Richard Kirkham, Daithí Mac Síthigh and Lindsay Stirton eds, Hart Publishing, 2022)
- Contributor, ***Information Law*** (Phillip Coppel ed, 2020)
- ***Blackstone's Guide to the Mental Health Act 2007*** (OUP, 2008). In his foreword, Munby LJ writes that users of the book will benefit enormously from the author's 'detailed knowledge and illuminating analysis'.

Talks and media

- 'Inside the Case: A right to die?', University of Law podcast with Frances Gibb (2026)
- Speaker, 25th Commonwealth Law Conference, Darwin (2027): 'Sanctions, Standards and State Power: Navigating Global Enforcement Regimes'

Education & Qualifications

Career

- Solicitor, Clifford Chance (1991–93)
- Called to the Bar, Inner Temple (1993)
- Cloisters Chambers (1999–2000)
- Doughty Street Chambers (2000–14)
- Queen's Counsel (2012)
- Brick Court Chambers (2014–)

University

- Exeter (LLB, 2.1; EU law, first), 1986–89

Admissions

- Temporarily admitted to the Bar of the Cayman Islands (on several occasions since 2019)
- Temporarily admitted to the Bar of the Isle of Man (2026)
- Called to the Bar of the Bahamas (2025)

- Called to the Bar of St Helena (2026)
- Called to the Bar of St Vincent and the Grenadines (2012)

Appointments

- Chair, JUSTICE Working Group on the EU Settlement Scheme (2023)
- Deputy High Court Judge (2021)
- Member, JUSTICE Working Party 'When things go wrong' (2019)
- Recorder of the Crown Court (2018)
- Independent Investigator, Independent QC Investigation into the First Minister of Wales's actions and decisions in relation to Carl Sargeant AM's departure from office (appointed 2018)
- Honorary Professor, School of Law and Politics, University of Sussex (2016–)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission 'A' Panel (2015, reappointed 2019)
- Legal Services Commission Special Controls Review Panel (2011–13)
- Advisory Panel to the Children's Commissioner (2011–13)
- Special Advocate (2007–12)

Memberships

- Inner Temple
- ALBA
- Commonwealth Lawyers' Association
- JUSTICE
- Liberty

Awards

- Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year, Outstanding Achievement (2019)
- Law Society Excellence Awards, Advocate of the Year (2009)
- Shortlisted, Barrister of the Year, Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards (2007)

Languages

- French (conversational)

Directory Quotes

2027

- ‘Paul is my go-to leading Counsel for financial services regulatory public law work. He is an expert, very hard working, responsive, and gets into the weeds of the case at an early stage. His advocacy is excellent, and his tone with Judges is good.’ (Legal 500: Offshore, other expertise)
- ‘Paul is an incisive and effective advocate, able to distill a complex case into the key points and communicate it effectively to the court. His knowledge of constitutional and international human rights law is second to none, and he is one of the leading practitioners in this area … His written arguments and advocacy are of the highest order, and he is a powerful, extremely hardworking, and intelligent advocate.’ (Legal 500: Administrative law and human rights)
- ‘Paul is enormously tenacious and a precise advocate. He really rolls his sleeves up and gets into the detail. With Paul, you get a very engaged silk who is one of the best in business.’ (Chambers and Partners: Administrative and public law)
- ‘Paul Bowen KC is my go-to for all public law matters, but particularly those with a financial services base.’ (Chambers and Partners: Administrative and public law)
- ‘Paul is a big hitter and very good. He is extremely thorough and engaging on his feet.’ (Chambers and Partners: Civil liberties and human rights)
- ‘He is incredibly collaborative, responsive and hard-working. Once he commits to a case he is in it for the long haul and if an urgent issue arises you can be sure that he will make himself available.’ (Chambers and Partners: Civil liberties and human rights)

2026

- ‘Paul is a go-to leading counsel for public law disputes with a financial services element.’ (Legal 500)
- ‘He is extremely strategic and his written submissions are first-rate.’ (Legal 500)
- ‘A distinguished practitioner who regularly handles both domestic and international human rights and public law claims.’ (Chambers and Partners)
- ‘Paul Bowen KC is my go-to leading counsel for public law, particularly for judicial review matters.’ (Chambers and Partners)

2025

- ‘Paul is an intellectual powerhouse in appellate work.’ (Chambers and Partners)

- ‘Paul is a go-to leading counsel with respect to public law and, in particular, judicial review proceedings with a regulatory element.’ (Legal 500)

2024

- ‘He demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the case law … A brilliant resource.’ (Chambers and Partners)

2023

- ‘A fantastic leader who inspires confidence and sets the strategy in a collaborative manner.’ (Chambers and Partners: Civil liberties and human rights)
- ‘He is very incisive: he cuts through factual complexity with ease and provides advice that is extremely clear.’ (Chambers and Partners: Administrative and public law)
- ‘One of the most innovative thinkers in public law cases. Very strategic and able to boil down complex legal arguments to clear propositions.’ (Legal 500: Administrative law and human rights)

Earlier directory comments

- ‘He increasingly handles public law claims in the commercial and financial services spheres.’ (Chambers and Partners, 2018)
- ‘He combines a ferocious intellect with commercial pragmatism.’ (Legal 500, 2018–19)
- ‘One of the best black-letter lawyers at the Bar.’ (Legal 500, 2021: Offshore)
- ‘A Renaissance man of public law, human rights and civil liberties work.’ (Chambers and Partners, 2013)
