

Prof Roy Light



YEAR OF CALL: 1992

INN: GRAY'S INN

“ Roy is excellent. He has a hands-on and no-nonsense approach, drills down to the crux of a matter and gets to grips with the details of a case extremely quickly. Clients warm to his very approachable and open manner.”

LEGAL 500, 2022
LICENSING

Practice Overview

Roy accepts instructions in all areas of licensing. He is highly commended for his advocacy, legal knowledge, negotiating skills and approachable client-friendly manner.

He acts for individuals and small businesses as well as public authorities and international corporations throughout England and Wales. Clients include supermarket chains, convenience store operators, petrol companies, breweries, restaurant businesses, taxi companies and drivers, nightclub operators, national stadiums, race courses, festival organisers, police authorities, private individuals, local residents and licensing and planning authorities.

Roy writes and lectures extensively, regularly speaks at national conferences and provides training for local authorities and others. He is professor emeritus, Bristol Law School.

Areas of Expertise

Administrative Law

Roy's practice covers the actions of administrative and judicial agencies of government, particularly in regulatory, adjudicatory and enforcement matters. He has extensive experience of defending and challenging public law decisions. Roy advises and acts in statutory appeals and judicial reviews and has appeared in a number of leading administrative law cases.

Licensing

Roy is one of the UK's leading licensing barristers and has appeared in a number of leading cases. His extensive

experience includes alcohol and entertainment, late night refreshment, open-air festivals, race courses, gambling, taxis and firearms.

Roy advises and acts for local authorities, police forces, independent operators and public corporations throughout England and Wales. He is pleased to take instructions on all matters from simple preparatory advice for independent traders and residents to High Court challenges on behalf of multi-national corporations and local authorities.

Recent cases

- ▶ Erkan Kutuk v North Somerset Council
- ▶ Off Licence TQ Limited v Torbay Council
- ▶ Syed Ala Miah v East Devon Council
- ▶ R (on the application of Valley Wood Resources) v Exeter City Council [2015] Admin Court
- ▶ Troia Restaurants (The Ivy) Ltd v Bristol City Council
- ▶ Stores Extra LLP (Subway) v Bristol City Council
- ▶ Mu Mu Enterprises v North Somerset District Council No.2 (2014)
- ▶ R (on the application of Carl Cummings and others) v The County Council of the City of Cardiff [2014] EWHC 2544 (Admin))
- ▶ In the Matter of Chelmsford City Racecourse (2014)
- ▶ Mu Enterprises v North Somerset District Council
- ▶ R (on the application of Somerfield Stores Limited) v Hinkley Magistrates Court and Blaby District Council [2011] Admin
- ▶ R (on the application of Murco Petroleum Limited) v Bristol City Council
- ▶ Hall & Woodhouse Limited v The Borough and County of the Town of Poole
- ▶ R (on the application of Bristol City Council) v Bristol Magistrates Court and Somerfield Stores [2009] EWHC 625 (Admin)
- ▶ Carmarthenshire County Council v Cooperative Group (CWS) Ltd & Tesco Stores [2007] LR 624
- ▶ Hereford County Council v Bostwick [2007] LR 729
- ▶ London Borough of Haringey/Liverpool City Council v Marks and Spencer PLC/Somerfield Stores Ltd [2004] EWHC 1141 (QBD)

Recommendations

"He has a very practical approach and goes the extra mile on matters to understand the issues and provide top-

quality service to client. He is very personable, down to earth with clients and able to put clients at ease and explain in straightforward language the strengths and weaknesses of the matter in hand."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022

LICENSING

Roy is very approachable, and has key industry knowledge. He is one of the pre-eminent barristers in the field. 'He quickly identifies the salient points and provides relevant and to-the-point advice.'

CHAMBERS UK, 2021

LICENSING

"His significant knowledge and practical approach to all licensing matters. Also his availability and prompt response to instructions, along with his excellent personable skills in dealing with a variety of individuals. Be that Responsible Authority Officers, lay persons or the court."

CHAMBERS UK, 2020

LICENSING

"Roy excels at providing practical, strategic advice that is tailored to the facts and legal issues involved but is also presented in a way that is accessible to our clients. He is always friendly and approachable and goes out of his way to be available to discuss matters to ensure client deadlines can be met." "He has a huge amount of experience and is a leading light in the area."

CHAMBERS UK, 2020

LICENSING

"Very approachable. He is able to present issues to clients in an easy to understand and pragmatic way. Clients warm to his style. He is a very convincing advocate."

LEGAL 500, 2020

REGULATORY, HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND LICENSING

Professional memberships:

- ▶ Fellow of the Institute of Licensing
- ▶ Member, Planning Law Bar Association

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ LLB, LLM (London), M Phil, PhD (Cantab)

Additional information:

Recent seminars include:

- ▶ Institute of Licensing annual training conference, 'Bias in licensing hearings: defining, addressing and avoiding', Stratford upon Avon, (18 November 2021)
- ▶ 'Licensing Councillor Training Courses', Institute of Licensing, held remotely (May, June & October 2021)
- ▶ Institute of Licensing annual training conference, 'the Gambling Act 2005', held remotely (16-18 November 2020)
- ▶ Webinar, 'Licensing lockdown & release', 20 September 2020
- ▶ Institute of Licensing annual training conference, 'the Crime & Disorder Licensing Objective' and 'the Fit & Proper Person Criterion in Taxi Licensing', Stratford upon Avon (10 November 2019)
- ▶ Local Government Law Conference, Recovering Costs in Licensing Appeals, Bristol (6 December 2018)
- ▶ Institute of Licensing, Avoiding and Dealing with Licensing Appeals and the Portman Group Complaints Panel, Stratford upon Avon, (15-16 November 2018)
- ▶ North Devon Council, Avoiding and Dealing with Taxi Licensing Appeals, (27 September 2018)
- ▶ Institute of Licensing, taxi licensing appeals, Leeds, (10 July 2018)
- ▶ Institute of Licensing, taxi licensing appeals, Swindon, (26 April 2018)
- ▶ Institute of Licensing annual training conference, Licensing petrol stations and motorway service areas and licensing sexual entertainment venues, Stratford upon Avon, (16-18 November 2017).
- ▶ Institute of Licensing, Super Strength Beers, Lagers & Ciders, Stratford upon Avon (17 November 2017)
- ▶ Institute of Licensing, Taxis: 'fit & proper persons', Stratford upon Avon, (16 November 2017)
- ▶ Tri-Authority training day, taxis and Licensing Act 2003, Poole, (15 November 2017)
- ▶ Tri-Authority training day, gambling and sex establishment licensing, Poole, (13 September 2017)
- ▶ North Dorset District Council, licensing update, Dorchester (25 July 2017)
- ▶ Borough of Poole, Councillor Training, Poole, (13 July 2017)
- ▶ Isles of Scilly Council licensing training, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, (17 May 2017)
- ▶ Institute of Licensing, The Police and Crime Act 2017 & Immigration Act 2016, Bristol (24 April 2017)
- ▶ Institute of Licensing, The House of Lords Select Committee on LA 2003, Bath (9 December 2016)
- ▶ Tri-Authority training day, taxis and Licensing Act 2003, Poole (15 November 2016)
- ▶ House of Lords Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003 invited oral evidence (1 November 2016)

Contact Roy:

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