# Simon Whitfield

## Call 2009

## Clerks

Joe Mawson
0161 817 2753

Chris Brown
0161 817 7146

Prya Anisa
0161 817 2794

Miriam DoVale
0161 817 7138

## Appointments

- TECBAR accredited adjudicator
- UK Adjudicators panel adjudicator

## Memberships

- The Northern Circuit
- The Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association
- The Chancery Bar Association
- Technology and Construction Bar Association
- Technology and Construction Court Users Group Committee Member

## Education

- BA (Law), Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, 1989
- (MA, 1991) Law Society Finals, Chester College of Law (1990)
- Hong Kong SAR PRC, Overseas

## Local Government and Social Housing

Simon advises numerous local authorities in relation to both commercial matters and regulatory issues. He also advises registered social landlords in relation to possession actions, anti-social behaviour orders and injunctions.

Simon is also a recognised expert in the field of non-domestic rating law. He regularly advises local authorities and payers on rating disputes and appears in both the Magistrates' Courts and on appeals in the High Court.

## Local Government & Social Housing Cases

Successfully pursuing for local authorities contested claims for Non-Domestic Rates Liability Orders.

Appearing for the billing authority both before the District Judge (Magistrate) and in the High Court on appeal by way of case stated concerning listed buildings and liability to business rates – ***R on the Application of Burnley Borough Council v Huron Properties Limited [2016] EWHC 3803 (Admin)***.

Appearing for the billing authority before the District Judge (Magistrate) in ***Liverpool City Council v Preservation & Promotion of the Arts (6 April 2021)*** successfully defeating a claim of the payer that it was entitled to charitable rates relief.

Pursuing contested claims of other local authorities for business rates where the occupiers claim charitable exemption.

Lawyers Qualification Examination (2003)

Appearing for the billing authority before the District Judge (Magistrate) in ***Halim v Manchester City Council (13 March 2020)*** and successfully resisting an application to set aside rates liability orders on the basis of delay in bringing the application.

Acting for the billing authority in securing liability orders against a payer that claimed not to be liable as it was a corporate subsidiary of a charity – ***Rochdale Borough Council v Easygift Trading Limited (4 May 2022).***

Advising a City Council in judicial review proceedings threatened by a national retailer concerning the application of Retail, Hospitality and Leisure non-domestic rating reliefs introduced as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Advising a billing authority in relation to an alleged business rates evasion scheme in the form of multiple sham sub-leases entered into by the landlord of a business park site.

Acting for a billing authority in successfully resisting an application to set-aside rates liability orders on the basis that there was no procedural defect leading to the orders being made – ***Bibi v Manchester City Council (20 November 2023)***.

Acting for the billing authority in securing the discontinuance of multiple applications to set aside liability orders – ***Ali v Sheffield City Council (14 March 2024)***.

Acting for the billing authority in securing the dismissal (as totally without merit) of an application to the High Court to compel the magistrates' court to state a case – ***R oao Mahmood v Rochdale Borough Council (8 May 2024)***.

Securing liability orders for a billing authority against a member of Peacekeepers.org – ***Liverpool City Council v Horn (12 August 2024)***.

Advising a local authority in a dispute with a developer arising out of a s.106 Agreement.

Appearing for registered social landlords in possession claims and obtaining anti- social behaviour injunctions under the Housing Act 1996, and subsequent orders for committal for breach of injunction.

Obtaining Civil Restraint Orders against vexatious litigants.

## Recommendations

"Simon Whitfield worked as a construction solicitor for a long time, which is helpful."
**Chambers and Partners 2026**

"Simon is a skilled, tenacious and compelling advocate; someone who clients are glad to have on their side."
**The Legal 500, 2026**

"Simon Whitfield is commercial and diligent."
**Chambers and Partners 2025**

"Simon Whitfield has been good, reliable and easy to deal with."
**Chambers and Partners 2024**

"Simon has an incredible attention to detail, he is creative and very proactive. His client
service is excellent, he always goes the extra mile."

"He provides very good advice."
**Chambers and Partners 2023**

"Simon is very pragmatic and easy to deal with, and he responds very quickly and gets to the heart of issues with minimal fuss."
**Chambers and Partners 2022**

"He is approachable, knowledgeable, gives clear advice and makes himself available within a short period of time, which is very helpful."
**Chambers and Partners 2021**

"He is good at cutting through the chaff and getting to the real points."

"His approach is sensible while still being robust in protecting his client's interests."
**Chambers and Partners 2020**

"He is highly responsive to solicitors' needs."

"He is very user-friendly and has a good presence with clients."

"He has lots of experience in various construction disputes."
**Chambers and Partners 2019**

"Simon always makes himself available to his clients and is hard-working and outcome-
focused."

"He managed to digest an awful lot of information very quickly, which was really
impressive."
**Chambers and Partners 2018**

"Known for his expertise in complex contentious matters."
**Chambers and Partners 2017**

"Simon possesses clarity and practicality. He provides good tactical advice and excellent drafting."
**The Legal 500, 2025**

"Mr Whitfield has exceptional skills in giving oral and written advice as well as drafting. He is extremely prompt in responding to requests for advice and drafting, even with very short deadlines."
**The Legal 500, 2024**

"Simon is very approachable and available in order to discuss aspects arising from instructions. He has a particular strength in having previously qualified and had considerable experience as a solicitor and partner in a significant regional firm of solicitors. Therefore, he has an understanding of the detailed pressures and sensibilities involved in the client relationship on both sides of the profession."
**The Legal 500, 2023**

"Simon is very calm and collected – nothing ruffles him. He really knows his stuff and he's excellent with clients. He is a strong advocate where his calm, authoritative approach is very effective."
**The Legal 500, 2022**

"He has a wealth of knowledge and confidence with his approach to complex matters. He makes himself available and does his best to accommodate last minute instructions, which is very helpful when deadlines are received with little notice."
**The Legal 500, 2021**

"Particularly recommended for construction and business rate disputes."
**The Legal 500, 2020**

"Very experienced in construction and engineering disputes."
**The Legal 500, 2018/19**

"He has a sharp analytical mind."
**The Legal 500, 2017**

"Clients single out Simon Whitfield as being "knowledgeable"... "capable" and highly regarded for contentious work."
**The Legal 500, 2016**