

## Louis Browne KC

Call 1988 | Silk 2017



### Clerks

 Neil Wright  
 0151 242 8814

### Appointments

- Junior Counsel to the Crown January 2000 – January 2017; held Security Clearance in that position.
- Recorder (2004 to date)

### Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Constitutional & Administrative Law Bar Association

### Education

- First Class Honours Degree, Law
- Postgraduate Degree of Bachelor of Civil Law, Balliol College, Oxford

### Inquiries

Louis Browne KC has extensive recent experience of acting at major public inquiries. He has most recently represented:

- the Fire Officers Association (“FOA”) and Richard Welch at the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (2018 – to date),
- the University of Salford (“UoS”) at the Manchester Arena Inquiry; the bomber was a student at the University.

In 2017 – 2018, Louis chaired the **UoS Independent Investigation Review Panel** into the adequacy and effectiveness of its duties under Prevent and its structures and mechanisms around student welfare, support and engagement. As Chairman, he:

- drafted the Terms of Reference,
- identified evidence likely to be required to discharge the duties of the Panel, and chaired all meetings of the Panel (at which the Terms of Reference and evidential framework which Louis drafted were opened up for discussion),
- proactively encouraged the voicing of any concerns and alternative views so that through open and frank discussion, the point of consensus was reached; all Panel members were entirely comfortable with the agreed way forward,
- led the Panel in its decision making as to which witnesses to call; requiring careful judgement calls to ensure that comprehensive evidence was presented whilst adhering to timetable constraints and overall efficiency,
- interviewed witnesses, working closely with and encouraging the full input of the Solicitors to the Panel to draft topics and questions.

After taking and reviewing the relevant evidence, Louis prepared the first draft of both the Evidence Review and the Report, setting out Conclusions and Recommendations. This followed close liaison with all other members of the Panel, which included an MP and senior academic staff and educationalists. The Evidence Review and Report was agreed by the Panel, with minimal amendments and was positively received by the University Council.

At the **Grenfell Tower Inquiry**, as Counsel for FOA/Richard Welch, Louis persuaded the Inquiry to grant Core Participant status for his clients. He took the lead in securing funding for them from the Chairman, having carefully considered the relevant provisions of the Inquiry Act 2005 and the Inquiry Rules 2006. Louis prepared and delivered the Opening and Closing Statements for various modules. Participation at this Inquiry required close working with Leading Counsel for the London Fire Brigade, Counsel for the Fire Brigade Union and the Inquiry Counsel Team. In this way, the suggested topics for questioning of key witnesses was relevant and focused, eliciting important evidence as to the causes of the fire and the actions of firefighters on the night.

At the **Manchester Arena Inquiry**, drawing on the extensive knowledge gained from chairing the Review, Louis prepared and delivered orally UoS' Opening Statement. Careful analysis of the evidence on complicated and sensitive issues, including on the scope of the Prevent duty and Radicalisation, allowed him to question the expert education witness to good effect. He made oral submissions during the course of the Inquiry, explaining complex issues in terms accessible to all, and in a manner that demonstrated sensitivity to those who had been deeply affected by the incident.

At both Inquiries, without a junior, Louis marshalled extensive evidence, including immensely complex expert evidence. He prioritised and condensed this material to produce succinct and incisive written and oral submissions, ensuring the evidence was presented in straightforward and easily understood terms. His approach is thorough but rigorously efficient in managing his various Inquiry workstreams alongside other professional commitments.

Given the highly sensitive nature of both inquiries, Louis' open and honest approach to the evidence and close engagement with other members of the inquiry teams was imperative in ensuring the confidence and trust of both colleagues and the chairs. His inquiry work has demanded sound legal judgement and strategic thinking in the preparation of complex and voluminous evidence, advance planning and rigorous prioritisation of workload and, perhaps most importantly, truly collaborative working which inspires confidence and trust.

Louis Browne KC is on the Government Panel of Approved Silks.

## Recommendations

“Louis is a superb advocate He is intelligent, committed, passionate and patient.”

“Louis always thinks outside the box and has an excellent courtroom manner.”

“Louis’ attention to detail and understanding of the issues is second to none.”

**Chambers and Partners 2024**

‘Louis is unflappable, his attention to detail is meticulous, and his deep understanding of the issues involved in complex, high-value personal injury cases is always apparent. His advocacy skills are amongst the best, he always has a calm but steely approach that draws out the pertinent points from factual and expert witnesses at trial, and he demonstrates a real understanding of the bigger picture.’ **The Legal 500 2024**

‘Louis is very approachable and down to earth, making his vast knowledge very accessible.’ **The Legal 500 2024**

“He is measured in his approach and a pleasure to work with.”  
**Chambers and Partners 2023**

“Louis Browne is exceptionally bright and methodical with a personable yet professional manner towards his clients. His submissions are always focused and evidence-backed and therefore extremely powerful.” **Chambers and Partners 2023**

“Highly intelligent, with the ability to digest and make sense of complex papers quickly. A good advocate.” **The Legal 500 2023**

“An excellent barrister who is very approachable, intelligent and hard-working.” **Chambers and Partners 2022**

“He’s a very smooth advocate and is strong on his feet.” “He’s tactical, has great skill with clients and is easy to work with.”  
**Chambers and Partners 2022**

‘Highly intelligent, with the ability to digest and make sense of complex papers quickly. A good advocate.’ **The Legal 500 2022**

‘Louis is personable in conference, putting clients at ease, as a thorough in-depth knowledge of public law and his drafting of pleadings et cetera is first class.’ **The Legal 500 2022**

'Louis Browne QC is a true gentleman. He is polite, even when pushed by an opponent. He is courteous at all times. Presence flows from him in any formal setting. His strength is to grasp the issue and his main goal is to settle that on the best possible terms. Quite simply a legal phenomenon.' **The Legal 500 2022**

*"He cares deeply about his cases and is an excellent advocate."*  
**Chambers and Partners 2021**

*"He cares deeply about his cases and is a pleasant advocate."*  
**Chambers and Partners 2021**

*"His strengths are: Excellent interpersonal skills. Patience. Very bright."* **The Legal 500 2021**

*"Very hard working and immensely knowledgeable in his field. He is approachable and easy going with clients. Meticulous attention to detail is apparent in his advocacy and written submissions. A very capable barrister, who is well regarded by his clients and is highly recommended."* **The Legal 500 2021**

*"Highly skilled barrister with excellent knowledge of his working area."* **The Legal 500 2021**

*"Recommended for data breach claims."* **The Legal 500 2021**

*"His attention to detail is second to none and he really understands complex medical evidence. He takes an excellent approach with factual professional witnesses which puts them at ease and allows him to quickly get to the heart of complex issues."* **Chambers and Partners 2020**

*"His ability to digest complex expert evidence is exceptional"* **The Legal 500 2020**

*"A strong advocate with good client care skills."* **The Legal 500 2020**

*"A fearsome opponent."* **The Legal 500 2020**

*"His legal acumen is first rate."* **The Legal 500 2018/19**

*"A combination of great legal acumen, tenacity and pragmatism."* **The Legal 500 2018/19**

*"A fierce and equitable advocate."* **The Legal 500 2018/19**

*"Very experienced across the spectrum of public law matters."*  
**The Legal 500 2017**

*“Highly experienced in personal injury matters.” The Legal 500 2017*

*“A commanding advocate.” The Legal 500 2017*

*“A strong negotiator with an excellent analytical ability.” The Legal 500 2016*

*“Highly experienced in judicial reviews.” The Legal 500 2016*

*“Mr Browne presented this difficult case with great clarity and skill.”*

*“...showed consummate professionalism throughout the hearing.”*

*“In accordance with the best traditions of government litigation and with a professionalism that brings credit to the Bar, Mr Browne drew our attention to the [academic] criticism that had been made of the decision upon which he relied.”*