

PUBLIC SECTOR



MORTON
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SOLICITORS

Outstanding Lawyers

PUBLIC SECTOR

The public sector is an area of strategic focus for Morton Fraser. We have extensive experience of acting for clients within the sector, who appreciate our in-depth understanding of the strategic issues and political sensitivities that they face. We represent over 100 public sector organisations including:

- The Ministry of Defence
- Scottish Government
- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Aberdeen City Council
- Falkirk Council
- Transport Scotland
- Trunk Roads Network Management
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Scottish Police Authority
- Historic Scotland

Public sector organisations are currently facing unheralded financial pressures against an unrelenting demand for services. This means that all decisions over the coming years will have to be managed closely to ensure that maximum public benefit is derived from the limited budget available. This is where Morton Fraser can help. We offer cost effective and pragmatic advice, and with vast experience in the sector we can quickly identify the key issues in any transaction and deal with these to keep transactions moving.

Our public sector team is cross divisional and draws on experience from specialists in the following teams:

- Projects
- Real Estate
- Planning and Environmental
- Health & Safety
- Employment
- Procurement and State Aid
- Regulatory Compliance
- Litigation
- Corporate
- Banking and Finance
- Family and Childcare Law
- Commercial Contracts

“One of the particular features of Morton Fraser’s advice is its relevance and practical nature. The firm also fosters a spirit of partnership and makes a real effort to understand our business and provide solutions which are appropriate.”

Janet Swadling, Principal, Scottish Agricultural College

KEY CONTACTS



Jonathan Seddon - Construction and Capital Projects
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Jonathan heads up the firm's Real Estate Division, and also leads the Construction and Projects Teams. He regularly advises on complex, high value construction and infrastructure projects, and his clients include Falkirk Council, the City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government. Jonathan recently led the team providing legal advice to the City of Edinburgh Council on the new East Neighbourhood Office and Criagmillar Library which were procured as part of the hub South East Scotland programme. He is also Morton Fraser's lead partner for construction issues arising out of Transport Scotland's programme for new trunk roads.



Duncan Murray - Employment and Litigation
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Duncan is a partner in our Litigation Division, specialising in employment law and is accredited as a Specialist by the Law Society of Scotland. He acts for a substantial number of public sector clients such as the Ministry of Defence, the UK Identity and Passport Service, the Meat Hygiene Service, the Department of Transport, the Scottish Policy Services Authority, the Department for Work and Pensions, and the Immigration and Nationality Department of the Home Office.



Nick Atkins - Real Estate and Environmental Law
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Nick is a partner in our Real Estate Division. He is the lead property solicitor for the Ministry of Defence in Scotland and his major recent projects include the Trident submarine developments at Faslane, the sale of the naval base at Rosyth and the installation at Eskdalemuir as part of the UK's contribution to the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. In addition he is the firm's lead environmental solicitor advising a number of key clients, including United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and the Ministry of Defence on a range of environmental matters.



Douglas Milne - Planning Law
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Douglas is the Head of our Planning Law Team. He draws particular benefit from having worked not only in private practice but also for the Scottish Government. Douglas advises public sector clients on all aspects of planning law, and frequently acts on behalf of planning authorities and public sector bodies which are themselves undertaking development.



Hugh Angus - Real Estate
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Hugh is a partner in our Real Estate Division. He has considerable expertise in public sector matters and in innovative transactions, particularly in relation to housing. Hugh's public sector clients include local authorities, the Scottish Government and the Ministry of Defence. He has acted for the Scottish Government in their major acquisitions since 2004, many by way of pre-let and has represented local authorities in the development of innovative funding structures for social housing outwith the Community Ownership Programme.



Chris Harte - Real Estate
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Chris is a specialist in our Real Estate Division. He specialises in major development schemes for both private and public sector clients. Recent experience includes advising Scottish Agricultural College on a number of ongoing projects including the redevelopment of their existing campuses at Ayr and Aberdeen and also acting for Falkirk Council with regard to the redevelopment of Denny Town Centre.



Andrew Meakin - Banking and Finance
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Andrew leads Morton Fraser's Social Housing Team. He advises on new financings, re-financings, LSVTs, treasury documents and security trust structures. He also advised on the UK's first ever local authority asset backed covered bond. He is very experienced in local authority borrowing issues and creating trusts over local authority debts.



Austin Flynn - Coproate, IP/IT, FOI and Data Protection
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Austin is a partner in our award winning Corporate Division, and acts for a wide range of public sector and corporate clients. He has significant experience in mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, partnership structures, new company start-ups, shareholder disputes and commercial contract work.



Rachel Shewan - Adoption and Family Law
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Rachel is a Senior Associate and an accredited specialist in Family Law. She is a Child Law expert and specialises in adoption and parental rights and responsibilities actions, both from a local authority and private client perspective. She regularly appears in the Sheriff Court and practices in the field of Collaborative Law. She is a member of the Family Law Association.



Suzanne McCord - Real Estate and Procurement Law
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Suzanne works within the Projects Team and has significant experience advising public sector clients on all aspects of infrastructure projects, specialising in both real estate and procurement law. Her work has involved advising clients on the procurement implications of various contractual arrangements and deal structures including development agreements, public/private projects and contracts for the sale of land containing overage provisions. She has also advised on contracts for the standard procurement of goods, works and services and dealt with all the processes involved. She has recently completed a secondment with the City of Edinburgh Council where she has further developed her expertise in procurement law, and she has also worked with Jonathan on the Criagmillar hub South East Scotland project, acting for the City of Edinburgh Council.



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