



HEALTH AND SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Health and safety legislation and regulation applies across sectors, to almost all businesses. Where the relevant regulators – typically the Health and Safety Executive or Environmental Health Officers for Local Authorities – receive reports of accidents or risks, rapid intervention can follow, including the commencement of regulatory and/or criminal investigations and the use of statutory information gathering powers and Improvement and/or Prohibition Notices. Owing to the focus on risk, health and safety investigations can move rapidly, with information requests being made and interviews (including under caution) happening at an early stage and with limited notice.

Our market-leading regulatory litigation and investigations practice group has advised companies, across sectors, in several technical, legally, and factually complex investigations, disputes and enforcement actions. Our work covers the spectrum of health and safety advice, from advising on establishing relevant policies and procedures, to conducting and advising on internal investigations into suspected breaches.

We have distinctive and market-leading experience and strength in investigations and enforcement action and have secured good outcomes for clients faced with the risk of protracted investigation, Prohibition Notices and financial penalties. Our team includes specialist criminal law expertise, and we can advise and navigate investigations in which criminal prosecution is threatened and initiated.

Our deep investigations and enforcement experience equips us to navigate the processes that help our clients avoid enforcement outcomes, including through dialogue and negotiation with and advocacy to regulators.

LEGAL 500 UK, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW

"The team is very competent and always available to discuss urgent matters."

"The team we worked with were very seasoned in complex regulatory matters and were able to bring that experience to bear on the advice requested."

"Stephenson Harwood is extremely fast in their responses. They are able to address urgent matters quickly and are always available."



OUR EXPERIENCE

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

HSWA, Building Safety Act and fire safety

Advising institutional investors and landlords on their obligations under the HSWA and the Building Safety Act 2022, and wider fire safety obligations.

Legionella outbreak

Advising a global company in the hospitality industry in respect of a Legionella outbreak.

Cladding

Advising on relevant health and safety and repair obligations in relation to buildings with identified cladding issues.

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013

Advising numerous clients concerned in heavy industry in response to serious and reportable accidents, reporting obligations (including under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 ("RIDDOR") and subsequent investigations by the Health and Safety Executive ("HSE").

Corporate organisations

Conducting internal investigations for corporates in the transport, life-sciences, technology, extractive and financial services sectors.

COMPLIANCE, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Advising companies in relation to compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 ("HSWA"), including preparing relevant policies and procedures.

Training

Preparing health and safety training materials.

Policies

Advising companies in relation to COVID-19 and safe return to work policies.

HSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (LOCAL AUTHORITY) INVESTIGATIONS & ENFORCEMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS

HSE

Advising companies in relation to health and safety investigations, including investigations by the HSE into fatalities and serious accidents in the workplace.

Public inquiry

Representing a Core Participant in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and associated police investigations (Operation Northleigh).

Inquest

Representing interested persons in complex inquests, including fatalities in the workplace.

Covid-19 health and safety legislation

Representing an airline in relation to allegations of breaches of health and safety legislation relating to Covid-19.

Pharmaceutical company

Representing a major pharmaceutical and life sciences company in relation to an investigation by the HSE concerning serious allegations relating to exposures to chemical substances.

Local authority

Advising a supplier of electrical goods in relation to an investigation by a local authority in England under the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016.

LEGAL 500 UK, 2025 ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW

'Stephenson Harwood bring exceptional levels of focus, hard work, and resourcing to their cases. They stay completely on top of things, produce excellent work, and tend to get great results.'



OUR TEAM



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