

Ranked as a leading junior in Inquests and Inquiries:

"Leila Ghahhary is a skilled advocate who has represented both public authorities and the bereaved in numerous inquests and inquiries, including the Hillsborough inquests. She also appeared on the Gosport Independent Panel. Leila is good with clients and her written advice is really comprehensive. She is bright, thorough, meticulous and highly engaging." - Inquests & Inquiries - Chambers and Partners 2024

'Leila's written advice is comprehensive yet succinct, and written in a way that is accessible to both lay and professional clients. She has a commanding court room presence and is clear in her oral argument and submissions; one of the go-to counsel for inquests operating on the Northern Circuit.' Tier 1 Inquests and Inquiries Legal 500, 2024

Recommended in Legal 500 2024 - Tier 1 - Business and Regulatory Crime(Inc H&S)

"She is a highly skilled advocate and has a commanding presence in court. She's always thoroughly well prepared." Chambers & Partners, 2023

"Leila is a superb leading junior in inquests and inquiries. She is a highly skilled advocate who presents well-reasoned arguments, captures the attention of the tribunal and always considers the bigger picture. She is meticulous in terms of approach and a fantastic team-player who will take on board the views of others." Legal 500, 2023

"She has a very good presence when performing on her feet and she got on well with the client. She was very accessible and approachable and the end result was really good." Chambers & Partners, 2023

"Her attention to detail is fantastic and she is very proactive. She is also easy to get hold of." Chambers and Partners, 2022

"Offers exceptional support, quickly grasps the key issues and complexities in the case and adopts a methodical and thorough approach." Chambers and Partners, 2022

"Leila's attention to detail and thoroughness are outstanding. Leila is a fantastic team player and ensures that everyone's view is considered. Leila's view is invariably sensible and clear" Legal 500, 2022

'A skilled advocate with excellent experience in this field. She has represented both public authorities and the bereaved in numerous high-profile inquests and inquiries, including the fresh Hillsborough inquests. She also appeared on the Gosport Independent Panel' - Chambers and Partners, 2021

'I would not hesitate to recommend her as she is excellent with clients and has a commanding presence on her feet in court.' 'Leila Ghahhary is extremely bright, thorough and meticulous; her analytical skills are second to none, as is her knowledge of public and regulatory law.' 'She is very sharp, delightful with solicitors and clients, and determined and fair in court. She's also meticulously well prepared.'



CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Public Inquiries

Inquests

Judicial Review

Equality and Human Rights Health and Safety Licensing

Trading Standards / Consumer Protection Food Safety

Environmental Protection

Fraud

Professional Disciplinary

Housing, Planning and Highways (Enforcement)

APPOINTMENTS

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Chambers and Partners, 2021

***"A 'commanding and authoritative presence on her feet',
Leila Ghahhary is also one to watch in this area of practice"*** - Legal 500, 2021

'Leila is an exceptional find! She has a background in local authority work which ideally suits some of the issues that arise in inquests and inquiries. Leila is an extremely competent advocate, compelling and impressive on her feet, always meticulously prepared and provides her clients with utmost confidence.'
Legal 500, 2021

Ranked as a leading junior in Business and Regulatory Crime:

'Leila is becoming a true expert in this field. Her background is superbly suited to the difficult and unusual regulations that appear in many cases. She is an absolute delight to work with and often has razor-like insight into complex cases. Her client care is second to none and she is always a real help.' - Legal 500, 2021

"She has good judgement and a commanding presence in court" - Legal 500, 2020

Leila is an established and well-regarded junior who specialises in public, regulatory and common law.

Leila is regularly instructed to represent and advise local and central government departments, individuals and, a variety of public and private organisations before a range of UK courts, tribunals and constitutional panels across a multitude of legal areas and issues arising under public law, regulatory law and common law including:

- Public Inquiries
- Inquests
- Judicial Review
- Equality and Human Rights • Health and Safety
- Licensing
- Trading Standards / Consumer Protection
- Food Safety
- Environmental Protection
- Fraud
- Professional Disciplinary
- Housing, Planning and Highways (Enforcement)

Leila has been instructed in matters of national significance such as the Gosport Independent Panel Inquiry and, the Hillsborough Inquests.

Leila has been appointed onto:

- The Attorney General's Panel of Counsel. She regularly receives instructions from the Government Legal Department to represent and advise a variety of government departments on a range of public law and civil matters.



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- The Panel of Specialist Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law providing advice and representation to the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, the Office of Rail and Road, the Care Quality Commission, the Office of Nuclear Regulation and, Natural Resources Wales.
- The Equality and Human Rights Commission Panel of Counsel providing advice and representation to the Commission on matters relating to equality, public and human rights law.

Prior to joining Lincoln House Chambers, Leila spent 9 years working in-house as a Local Government Lawyer within the Common Law Department of a Greater Manchester Local Authority. The work Leila undertook in this role was varied, complex, voluminous and covered the whole range of common law and statutory and corporate functions of a local authority, in relation to a wide range of legal issues relevant to all departments and levels of seniority within local government. Leila regularly represented the Council conducting court proceedings on a wide range of civil, criminal and regulatory matters, in all manner of courts and tribunals. Since joining the independent Bar, Leila continues to enjoy instructions from many local authorities on all aspects of local government business.

Leila's experience covers both the enforcement and administrative aspects of Public and Regulatory Law. Leila provides advice and assistance to both prosecution and defence on all aspects and stages of the regulatory enforcement process including: enforcement notices, the investigation, the decision to prosecute, PII and disclosure issues.

Leila accepts instructions on all types of regulatory and public law matters, her practice is not limited to the above list of areas. In this regard, Leila's background of experience brings to any case the added advantage of first hand understanding of the wider statutory, public law and corporate issues which affect governance in a public law and regulatory arena.

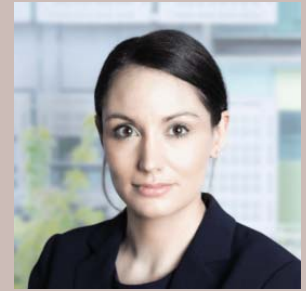
Leila also regularly delivers seminars and provides training to other legal professionals. These training courses are prepared and presented by Leila and have covered a variety of legal areas and issues. In particular she regularly provides such training to Local Government Officers on all stages of criminal investigations, disclosure and the preparation of a case for prosecution. In this regard Leila is accredited in Criminal Investigation Management by the University of Portsmouth.

PUBLIC LAW/PUBLIC INQUIRIES/INQUESTS

Notable Cases:

'Manchester Arena Inquiry (ongoing) - Leila is currently instructed to represent a number of family members of those who died as a result of the bombing at the Manchester Arena in 2017.'

Gosport Independent Panel (2016 - 2019) – Leila was appointed by the Secretary of State for Health, as Junior Counsel (lead Counsel Kate Blackwell QC) to the Gosport Independent Panel. This panel was constituted by the Minister to examine and report on historical events which relate to the care, treatment and deaths of the patients of the Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) in Portsmouth. The Panel's work was ongoing for four years and the Panel's report was published in June 2018. It received wide media national and international coverage. The issues and documents in this Inquiry



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were voluminous, varied, complex and sensitive.

The number of patients and families involved in the events at GWMH were in the many hundreds and the number of documents which were under review were in the many hundreds of thousands. The work required Leila to plan and implement a large-scale document review, manage, supervise and oversee the work of a team of barristers and numerous other professionals who were involved in this work, undertake legal research and provide advice, deal with matters of data protection and privilege, examine and analyse many hundreds of thousands of pages of documents relating to medical care and legal proceedings, present to the Panel on a regular basis and, assist in the writing of a report for submission to the Minister and for publication. After Publication of the report, Leila continued worked with the Panel in handing over to the new police investigation.

You can read the Panel's report here: <https://www.gosportpanel.independent.gov.uk/panel-report/>

Hillsborough Inquests before the Rt Hon Sir John Goldring, Assistant Coroner for South Yorkshire (East) and West Yorkshire (West) (2015 - 2016) – Leila was instructed as Junior Counsel (lead Counsel Lisa Roberts QC) for an Interested Party in the Hillsborough Inquests. These inquests related to the events during and after the well document- ed Hillsborough tragedy in April 1989. This case is one of national importance and significance and is the largest and longest inquest proceedings ever to be held in the UK. The Inquests followed an Independent Panel Report and successful application by the Attorney General to the High Court to quash the original inquest verdicts. The inquest proceedings lasted 2 years, involved over 100 parties and hundreds of thousands of documents and concluded in April 2016 when the Jury reached its verdicts in all 96 cases. Other investigations and proceedings into matters relating to this case are ongoing.

Inquests: Leila is regularly instructed to represent government departments and individuals in complex Article 2 Inquests.

GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW/LOCAL GOVERNANCE

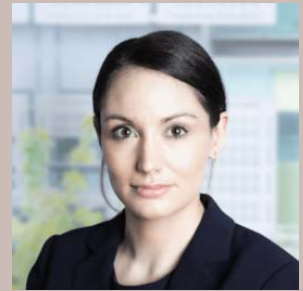
Leila's past experience in local government has involved the administration of local law and governance. Leila has been involved in the implementation, administration and application of public law at all stages and levels of local government administration.

Notable Cases:

Implementation Taxi / Private Hire Minimum Standards and Conditions – Leila is instructed to advise a number of local authorities on the drafting and implementation of a consultation, policy and minimum standards and conditions. This work feeds into the wider regional and national Department for Transport work ongoing in the area of Taxi Licensing.

Local Implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (2003 – 2012) – The Act came into force in 2005 and requires any arm of the State to disclose documents it holds to the public when requested to do so by a member of the public unless, the document meets one of the statutory exemptions and is therefore not disclosable. Leila was part of team of lawyers under the Borough Solicitor responsible for designing, advising on and implementing local governance of the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and thereafter continuing to provide advice on FOI requests and issues.

Local Implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 (2003 – 2012) – The Act came into force in November 2005. The Act overhauled the alcohol and entertainment licensing regime, transferring the administration and adjudication of licensing applications from the HM Courts Service to Local Government. Leila was part of a team of lawyers under the Borough Solicitor who were generally instructed to deal with licensing matters and responsible for the designing, advising on and implementing of local governance of the Licensing Act 2003 and thereafter continuing to provide



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advice to local licensing panels and to represent the Council in licensing appeals to the magistrates, crown and high court.

Equal Pay Act 1970 / European Equal Pay Directive Group Action (2006 – 2012) – Broadly speaking, historical manual worker pay schemes were successfully challenged and this led to a nationwide action against local authorities across the UK. The impact resulted in a 10-year job evaluation process carried out in consultation with the unions, wide scale claims in the employment tribunal for backdated pay and pension contributions and, a resulting settlement project agreed with the unions for thousands of workers who were deemed to be affected and therefore entitled to pay and pension claims. Leila was part of a team of lawyers under the Borough Solicitor who assessed, negotiated, and settled thousands of claims for pay and pension contributions within the agreed terms of settlement.

Local Implementation of Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (2009 – 2010) – The Act introduced a variety of new powers for local authorities in relation to protecting the local environment. This included the power to make Dog Control Orders. Leila was instructed to write and implement the Dog Control Orders for Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. This involved the drafting of local legislation, reporting to the executive committee, dealing with public consultation and implementation of the Orders and the system of enforcement of the Orders.

HEALTH AND SAFETY / TRADING STANDARDS / FOOD SAFETY /

ENVIRONMENTAL / PLANNING

Leila is regularly instructed to prosecute, defend and advise on Health and Safety, Food Safety and Trading Standards offences. Leila also accepts instructions on Planning and Environmental offences and has been involved in cases prosecuted by local authorities and the Environment Agency.

Northwest Trading Standards – Leila is instructed to advise on a number of large scale, complex, national, consumer protection criminal investigations and proceedings.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council v Shop Direct Home Shopping Limited – Prosecution of a very large organisation in respect of Health and Safety Breaches resulting in injury to a worker.

Bury Council v A Company – Defending a company prosecuted in respect of a planning enforcement notice relating to a listed building.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council v Mohammed Razaq t/a Debonair – Successful prosecution of a school uniform supplier for multiple, longstanding and flagrant breaches of trade marks law. This case involved legal arguments on novel points of trade-marks and European competition law.

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council v TGI Fridays – Successful prosecution of a large international restaurant chain based in a major UK shopping mall, for serious hot oil related health and safety breaches resulting in risk and injury to employees.

Trafford Council v Wellbeing – Successful prosecution of an internet food company and its director for breaches of food safety / health claim regulations and health products law. The regulations prohibit persons from making unapproved health claims in relation to food products. The prosecution was the first of its kind in the UK and involved technical and complicated areas of EU and domestic law. The breaches had occurred over many years and the evidence in this case was voluminous and highly specialised.



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Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council v Ashton Hajj & Umra Ltd, Khadim-Ul-Hujjaj Ltd & others – Successful prosecution of two companies and their directors for consumer protection offences involving the failure to secure required visas for travel for hundreds of customers resulting in hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of loss.

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council v Diversity ETrade, Lubanzu & Mdenga – Successful prosecution of multiple defendants for large scale breaches of numerous car manufacturer trade-marks and, Proceeds of Crime / Confiscation Proceedings.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council v Jawidani, Shapoli, Ahmadi & Ali Zada – Prosecution of multiple defendants for breaches of consumer health law and trade-marks law in relation to the large scale importation and sale of counterfeit tobacco.

Pendle BC & HSE v Qasum – Representing the Defendant in a Prosecution involving an unsafe mincing machine and employee loss of hand.

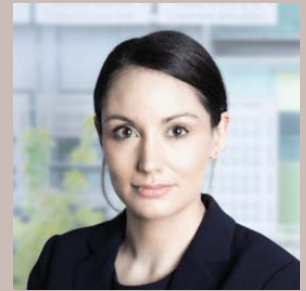
East Cheshire Council v Rowley – Successful prosecution of Puppy Farm who in breach of animal welfare legislation and consumer protection law, bred dogs which later died from illness soon after purchase causing suffering to the animals and humans involved.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council v O'Brien – Successful prosecution of Funeral Director for fraudulently selling funeral plans to vulnerable and elderly customers.

LICENSING

Leila is regularly instructed by Local Authorities and Licensees to provide advice and representation in all types of Licensing cases.

- **Advising a Local Authority on enforcement issues relating to the management of the taxi trade at a major UK Airport including, enforcement action against the Airport itself.**
- **Successful prosecution in a taxi licensing case which was listed for legal argument on novel and complicated issues concerning the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the A8 of the ECHR. The outcome of this case, if not favourable to the Council, would have a significant impact on the enforcement powers of the local licensing officers in Greater Manchester.**
- **Advising and representing a local authority on Taxi License Cross Border enforcement issues.**
- **Successfully acting for Local Authorities in appeals relating to decisions to refuse or revoke driver, operator and vehicle licences.**
- **Successfully acting for Local Authorities in appeals relating to decisions to revoke premises licences for example following a history of antisocial behaviour at a nightclub/restaurant.**
- **Advising an animal boarding establishment regarding a Licensing dispute in relation to the imposition of new licence conditions and refusal to renew a licence for an animal boarding establishment.**
- **Advising the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage trade and their Trade Union in relation to the licence conditions and permits associated with an Airport's taxi facilities.**



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– Successfully acting on behalf of a local authority in an appeal by the local taxi trade of a decision to refuse to licence a none standard hackney carriage vehicle. The case involved issues of European and Human Rights Law.

– Successfully representing a restaurant / cafe shesha business in a licensing hearing involving an action by the local authority to suspend its premises licence.

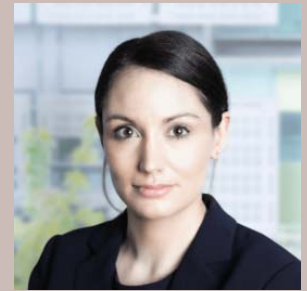
– Successfully representing a local authority in a Crown Court appeal by a taxi licence holder prosecuted for unlawfully plying for hire.

– Defending an individual prosecuted for a breach of a Dog Boarding Establishment Licence.

When working in local government, Leila liaised regularly and closely with the licensing officers in relation to administrative licensing decisions and panel hearings. Accordingly, Leila is well versed in the multitude of licensing and local government statutes, case law and guidance in this area; she is regularly instructed on behalf of local authorities, responsible authorities, applicants, trade unions, interested parties and objectors at all stages of the licensing process including; on issues of policy, the application stage, revocation and suspension decisions, discussions on conditions, all panel/committee hearings and, all types of appeal hearings.

PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINARY

Leila regularly appears on behalf of regulatory bodies and individuals in Professional Disciplinary Proceedings. Such cases involve dealing with regulations and guidance, large volumes of evidence and multiple disciplinary charges and often requires the need to understand complex medical issues and evidence and, safeguarding issues.



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