What is the Legal Panel Framework?



The Framework has been refreshed to now provide organisations with a turnover of less than £1,500,000.00 per annum (previously £500,000) the opportunity to access trusted legal advice and services from the appointed law firms on a pro bono basis. Each of the 15 law firms appointed to the Framework will provide up to £5,000 of pro bono support per year, up until September 2021.

In addition, it will provide all organisations across the sector with a database of trusted legal expertise in sport and recreation, including a free 20-minute helpline.

* The Legal Panel Framework was selected through a tender process which asked each firm to demonstrate the ability to provide legal counsel and expertise to sport and recreation organisations.
* Bates Wells Braithwaite, Bird & Bird, Brabners, Gateley, Hewitson Moorhead, Hugh James, Mills & Reeve, Muckle, Shakespeare Martineau, Wright Hassall, A&L Goodbody, Arthur Cox, Carson McDowell, Tughans and Worthingtons were appointed to the Legal Panel Framework.
* The pro bono fund will be open for applications until 30 September 2021

**Lisa Wainwright, Chief Executive of the Sport and Recreation Alliance said:**

“No matter what size the organisation, we believe in the implementation of good governance. This commitment from firms to provide pro bono advice will make a difference to smaller organisations who also remain committed to this practice. We know that trusted legal advice is incredibly valuable, and we want the Legal Panel Framework to be a benefit to organisations across the sport and recreation sector.”

**COVID-19 Guidance**

As we come to terms with the impact of COVID-19, each of the law firms have provided dedicated guidance to help organisations navigate their way through the epidemic.

A list of each of the law firm’s website pages can be found below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Firm*** | ***COVID-19 Website*** |
| Bates Wells & Braithwaite | <https://bateswells.co.uk/campaigns/coronavirus/> |
| Bird & Bird | <https://www.twobirds.com/en/in-focus/coronavirus-covid-19> |
| Brabners | <https://www.brabners.com/covid-19-support> |
| Gateley Plc | <https://gateleyplc.com/how-we-help/dealing-with-coronavirus-disease/> |
| Hewitson Moorhead | <https://www.hewitsons.com/covid-19> |
| Hugh James | <https://www.hughjames.com/service/coronavirus-support-hub> |
| Mills & Reeve | <https://www.mills-reeve.com/insights/foresight/coronavirus> |
| Muckle | <https://www.muckle-llp.com/what-we-do/covid-19/> |
| Shakespeare Martineau | <https://www.shma.co.uk/our-thoughts/coronavirus-resource-hub/> |
| Wright Hassall | <https://www.wrighthassall.co.uk/coronavirus> |
| A&L Goodbody | <https://www.algoodbody.com/covid-19-coronavirus-hub> |
| Arthur Cox | <https://www.arthurcox.com/COVID-19/> |
| Carson McDowell | <https://www.carson-mcdowell.com/what-we-do/legal-services/practice-areas/covid-19> |
| Tughans | <https://www.tughans.com/news/covid-19/> |
| Worthingtons | <https://www.worthingtonslaw.co.uk/resources/> |

Free 20 Minute Helpline

In addition to the individual services already offered by each firm on the Legal Panel Framework, each of the panel firms has committed to providing a free 20-minute helpline service to sport and recreation organisations. The helplines are available to all Sport and Recreation Alliance members and/or all organisations funded by UK Sport, Sport Wales, Sport England and Sport Northern Ireland.

**England and Wales**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Firm* | *Contact Name* | *Contact Details* |
| Bates Wells & Braithwaite | Thea Longley | t.longley@bwbllp.com  020 7551 7796 |
| Bird & Bird | Max Duthie | max.duthie@twobirds.com  020 7415 6000 |
| Brabners | Lydia Edgar | lydia.edgar@brabners.com  0161 836 8822 |
| Gateley Plc | John Burns | john.burns@gateleyplc.com  0161 836 7923 |
| Hewitson Moorhead | Ben Moorhead | benmoorhead@hewitsons.com  020 7400 5047 |
| Hugh James | Gareth Williams | gareth.williams@hughjames.com  029 2039 1022 |
| Mills & Reeve | Carol Couse | Carol.Couse@mills-reeve.com  0161 234 8806 |
| Muckle | John Devine | john.devine@muckle-llp.com  0191 211 7905 |
| Shakespeare Martineau | Ed Wright | ed.wright@shma.co.uk  0115 945 3744 |
| Wright Hassall | Christine Jackson | christine.jackson@wrighthassall.co.uk  01926 880 774 |

**Sport Northern Ireland**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Firm* | *Contact person* | *Contact details* |
| A&L Goodbody | Mark Thompson | mthompson@algoodbody.com  028 9072 7591 |
| Arthur Cox | Rosemary Lundy | rosemary.lundy@arthurcox.com  028 9026 2673 |
| Carson McDowell | Declan Magee | declan.magee@carson-mcdowell.com  028 90348827 |
| Tughans | Paul Eastwood | Paul.Eastwood@tughans.com  028 9055 3377 |
| Worthingtons | David Wilson | david@worthingtonslaw.co.uk  028 9043 4015 |

When you contact any firm on the panel you must:

* specify that you wish to use the helpline service and quote LPF2020;
* confirm your membership and/or funding relationship with the Sport and Recreation Alliance, Sport England, UK Sport, Sport Wales or Sport Northern Ireland.

*Please note the information below on how to use the helpline.*

Use of the helpline across the firms will be monitored. We ask you to use the helpline appropriately and respect the generous offering from the panel firms by following the rules below:

* The 20-minutes free time applies to the first call on new queries/matters only. It does not cover a matter where the firm is already acting for you or dealing with any correspondence in relation to it.
* This is not a call centre helpline and firms may not be able to answer your call immediately. Please do leave a message and the lawyer will return your call as soon as possible.
* The service covers the call to the designated point of contact for the firm, or on some occasions, when they refer you on to a specialist in that firm to discuss your initial query.
* If you have contacted another firm on the same query please let the lawyer know. Please note the collaborators and panel firms will be monitoring use by national governing bodies and repeated requests to different firms on the same query will be followed up with the organisation.
* Check if the firm covers the area of law that you require assistance on before contacting them.

**Pro-Bono Fund**

The Pro-Bono Fund brokers free legal advice from the Legal Panel Framework firms to national governing bodies (NGBs) and sport and recreation organisations.

Each firm on the panel has committed to provide up to £5,000 worth of free advice per year to the sport and recreation sector.

**Who is eligible to apply to the Fund?**

Organisations must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for the pro-bono fund:

* The organisation must have a turnover of less than £1,500,000.00 million (this is inclusive of grant income).
* The organisation must have no paid legal staff.
* The organisation must be a member of the Sport and Recreation Alliance and/or be a national governing body funded by UK Sport, Sport England, Sport Wales or Sport Northern Ireland.

*Please Note: Organisations who meet the eligibility criteria are not automatically entitled to an award from the fund. Decisions to make an award are at the discretion of the collaborators (Sport England, UK Sport, the Sport and Recreation Alliance, Sport Wales and Sport Northern Ireland).*

**What areas of law will the Fund be able to assist you with?**

Small NGBs and sport and recreation organisations who meet the eligibility criteria will be able to apply to the fund for free legal assistance with the following areas of law:

1. Charity & Trust Law including CASC registration
2. Child Protection/Vulnerable Groups (DBS, Protection of Freedoms Act)
3. Simple Contracts/Grant Agreements
4. Corporate Law/Governance/Constitutional Affairs
5. Employment Law
6. Insolvency Law
7. Property Law (such as leases, licences and security of tenure)
8. With prior approval of the Collaborators, any area of law not set out in a-g.

*Please note: The pro-bono fund will not be available for assistance with disputes or contentious matters and organisations will only be eligible to receive one successful application per year.*

**How do you apply to the Fund?**

Access to the free legal assistance is managed through a central application route coordinated by the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

Once an application is successful, the Legal Panel Framework firms are contacted to confirm who is available to provide advice on the matter.

When a firm confirms they are able to help, the Sport and Recreation Alliance puts the organisation in touch with the firm and they liaise directly with each other from that point.

A unique reference number will be given to the organisation which they must provide to the firm at the outset of the matter.

Applications to access the free legal advice must be submitted to: [Lpfprobono@sportandrecreation.org.uk](mailto:Lpfprobono@sportandrecreation.org.uk)

To apply, organisations must download and fill in the application form which is available below and send it along with a copy of the organisation’s latest audited annual accounts, business plan or financial information.

**When will you find out if your application has been successful?**

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis - the timescales are outlined below. Applications received after the 20th of the month will not be considered until the following month.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Application deadline | 20th of each month |
| Application reviewed | 30th of each month |
| Decision notification | 2 weeks after 30th |

Downloads:

[Pro-Bono Fund Application Form](http://sramedia.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/a1e6477e-cfcc-4899-8f6b-3046947c5e9f.doc)

[Pro-Bono Fund Fact Sheet](http://sramedia.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/6e064a6b-a8a9-47a7-a0eb-3970e5db82b1.docx)

[Legal Panel Framework Service Charter](http://sramedia.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/f814ab3b-6f0f-4cb3-9616-a413d35a42f0.docx)