

Casualty

We make sure that reduced budgets do not leave you open to risk and public scrutiny. Our team of Local Authority specialists literally wrote the book when it comes to Local Authority Liability. As the authors of Local Authority Liability and legal advisors to Alarm, the public sector risk management association, we specialise in highways claims, social services claims, human rights act claims, stress at work and educational negligence claims.

What we do

We are uniquely placed to understand the key risks you are facing. As policies have hit local authority budgets and self-insured retentions have increased; CSE claims have increased along with the public scrutiny of social services teams; schools have converted to academies; and services have been increasingly outsourced, we have been there. With every change in the sector, we have been at its heart, acting for over 90 unitary, metropolitan and county councils across the UK. Our approach is to be proactive. From day one, we recognise the importance of controlling costs. That is why we work hard to identify the chances of successfully defending a claim at the earliest stage and adopt the appropriate strategy to achieve a swift conclusion.

Our tailored, no-nonsense approach provides you with on-going benefits long after a claim is resolved. We will work with you to apply best practice techniques in identifying key risk management issues and setting out strategies and tactics for reducing future claims.

Our Services include:

- Education
- Highways
- Motor
- Public Liability
- Social Services
- Employer's liability
- Housing
- Property
- Regulatory
- Sports and Leisure
- Strategic and sensitive litigation
- Abuse and assault
- Failure to educate
- Group litigation

- Discrimination and equality claims
- Freedom of Information
- Media and public relations
- Workplace stress and harassment and bullying
- Wrongful arrest

Specialist Services include

- Contractors' indemnities
- Judicial review
- Misfeasance in public office
- Professional negligence
- Data protection
- Land charges and planning liabilities
- Officials' indemnity
- Policy coverage and interpretation
- Tree roots, nuisance and flooding

Access to insightful reporting

We understand the importance of data to our local authority clients and the role it plays in helping to reduce the overall cost of claims. Our case management system captures a wealth of information, through which we are able to offer meaningful, analytical intelligence.

We have built a number of bespoke models, with our clients, including demographic, settlement initiatives, KPIs and incisive trending. Our skilled data analysts use core information and convert it into useable evidence to fight claims fraud. The team has access to an extensive suite of claims databases, intelligence products and search engines to establish links between different parties involved in a claim, together with their claims histories.

Our other products

We understand that managing a claim does not just come down to litigation. We support our local government work with a range of products designed to best support our clients.

These include:

Case management software, EvoClaim, presents a streamlined, effective way of managing claims handling. EvoClaim is a feature rich claims management online software solution, which covers the entire claim lifecycle - from first notice of loss through to settlement and claim file closure and includes a host of automated reporting to ensure in house or self-insured high excess claims are settled quickly to standards and compliance

DWF 360 services are built on the Microsoft technology stack. The software is intuitive and therefore the change is positive rather than disruptive. Cost savings are highest on the agenda and our software saves costs by saving time and making insightful reporting, that you can react to, easier. Freedom of Information requests and GDPR requests to remove personal data by 'best endeavour' can be dealt with quickly and efficiently. DWF 360 services are all cloud-based, for agile working. A single data repository provides exceptional version control and ensures key actions occur precisely when required.

Our Crisis Response service brings together specialist consultants with detailed knowledge of managing crises for your business. These include lawyers, PR specialists, clinical psychologists, IT forensics specialists and industry bodies as well

as consultants specialising in safeguarding online reputation. Subscription to this free service ensures our clients are better prepared and protected in the event of a crisis.

Why DWF?

- Local Authority Liability, co-authored by DWF senior team members, comprises an invaluable overview of the nature and extent of the liability of local authorities.
- Along with our position as legal advisers to Alarm, DWF is uniquely placed to understand the key risks currently facing the sector.
- Our 'Local Authority Brief' is a news magazine written specifically for local authority clients. With a focus on the key issues of the day, it offers insight as to how current market trends and developments may impact upon local authorities.
- We also prepare ad hoc updates on key case law, procedural and legislative change.
- Our monthly 'Insurance Brief' summarises case law and predicts emerging issues for the wider insurance industry.
- Our insurance professional support lawyer (PSL) team provides clients with information and analysis of recent decisions, forthcoming changes in the law and emerging issues through our dedicated insurance website insurance.dwf.co.uk. Content has included support in relation to the Jackson report; Lord Young's report and helping clients formulate responses to government consultations.

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