



Public Sector Legal News Update

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Cases

Family Law

K and H (Children: Unrepresented Father: Cross-Examination of Child), Re. [2015] EWFC 1. Judge Clifford Bellamy. January 5, 2015

The court summarised the principles to be applied in family proceedings where a party was unrepresented and unable to cross-examine a child witness. Where it was inappropriate for the judge to put questions to the witness, the court could order a legal representative to be appointed to put those questions, and require the court service to pay the representative's costs.

Judgment accordingly

Official Publications

EDUCATION

School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 - Government consultation response. By Department for Education. December 23, 2014

Following the Department for Education's consultation proposing draft Regulations to implement new arrangements for local authorities to set school budgets for the financial year 2015 to 2016, the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 have been made and come into force on January 12, 2015.

[Read full text here](#)

Legislation referred: School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/3352)



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Further Reading

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

O'Connor v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and anor. *Farm Law* 2014, 214, 14-17

Comments on the Administrative Court decision in *O'Connor v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* on whether: (1) the secretary of state had given adequate reasons for granting planning permission to develop a site for two caravans on land known to be at risk of flooding; and (2) his assessment of potential harm was adequate and lawful.

Cases referred: *O'Connor v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*~ [2014] EWHC 3821 (Admin) (QBD (Admin))

PLANNING

New funding and aid for neighbourhood plans. *J.P.L.* 2015, 2, 152. By Ashley Bowes; Michael Purdue

Highlights the announcement by the Department for Communities and Local Government of additional funding for local community groups to advance neighbourhood plans and development orders, and to assist local authorities in administering the arrangements. Details the amount of funding involved, the period within which it is available, and the role of Planning Aid England in helping communities prepare for neighbourhood planning.

PLANNING

Anne Best v Surrey Heath BC. *J.P.L.* 2015, 2, 264-266.

Comments on the ministerial planning decision in *Best v Surrey Heath BC* on whether a certificate of lawful use or development should be granted to allow two dwellings to be used as a single dwelling, and whether planning permission should have been granted for a change of use from two dwellings to one. Details the assessment of whether conversion from two dwellings to one amounts to a material change of use.



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REAL PROPERTY

Town and village greens: a victory for landowners. *Farm Law 2014, 214, 17-20.*

Analyses the Supreme Court decision in *Paddico (267) Ltd v Kirklees Metropolitan Council* on whether it was "just" for the court to rectify, under the Commons Registration Act 1965 s.14, the incorrect registration of land as a town and village green where there had been a significant passage of time between the registration and the rectification.

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