



Public Sector Legal News Update

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01 December 2016

Cases

HOUSING

Birmingham City Council v Wilson. [2016] EWCA Civ 1137. Court of Appeal (Civil Division) (CA (Civ Div)). Black LJ; Beatson LJ; Sales LJ. November 17, 2016

The court considered the extent of the local authority's duty of inquiry, in light of the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 s.149, into whether the children of a homeless mother were disabled.

Appeal allowed

Legislation

PLANNING

The Hirwaun Generating Station (Amendment) Order 2016. SI 2016/1087

This Order amends the Hirwaun Generating Station Order 2015, a development consent order under the Planning Act 2008, following an application made in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 for a non-material change under the Planning Act 2008 Sch.6 para.2.

[Read full text here](#)

In Force: 12 November 2016

Made under Planning Act 2008 Sch.6 para.2(1)(9)

Legislation amended: Hirwaun Generating Station Order 2015 (SI 2015/1574)

Regulatory Development

HOUSING.

Paying for supported housing - Briefing Paper. Issued by House of Commons Library. 6080 29 November 2016

A House of Commons Library Briefing Paper explains the impact of the Government's policy of requiring rent reductions, and also the application of local housing allowance (LHA) caps, on the supported housing sector. On 15 September 2016 the Government announced that LHA caps will apply in 2019/20.

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News

SOCIAL WELFARE.

Virgin Care wins £700m NHS care services contract. *Times*, 11 November 2016, 2. By Nadeem Badshah.

Virgin Care has been awarded a £700 million contract to run more than 200 NHS services in Bath and North East Somerset. The decision marks the first time a business will deliver a local authority's social care for adults. Preparations will begin for adult social care, continuing healthcare, and children's community health to be transferred to Virgin Care on 1 April 2017 in a seven-year contract.

Companies referred: Virgin Care

Further Reading

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT.

All change. *P. & O.J. 2016, Nov/Dec, 4-5.* By Simon Jones.

Considers how to draft contracts for outsourcing the delivery of digital services in the public sector, focusing on an agile approach which aims for flexibility and will allow developers to create systems appropriate for current requirements not historic specifications.