



# Public Sector Legal News Update

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## Cases

### PLANNING

**Oakley v South Cambridgeshire DC.** [2017] EWCA Civ 71. Court of Appeal (Civil Division) (CA (Civ Div)). Elias LJ; Patten LJ; Sales LJ. February 15, 2017

There were strong reasons for saying that the common law should require reasons to be given for planning decisions unless it was clear from the relevant publicly available materials how the decision must have been reached.

Appeal allowed

## Legislation

### TRANSPORT

**High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017. c.7**

An Act to make provision for a railway between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre in Staffordshire, with a spur from Old Oak Common in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to a junction with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link at York Way in the London Borough of Islington and a spur from Water Orton in Warwickshire to Curzon Street in Birmingham; and for connected purposes.

Royal Assent: 23/2/2017

## Regulatory Development

### TRANSPORT

**Law change demands equal treatment for disabled taxi users.** By Department for Transport. 7 February 2017

From 6 April 2017 it will be illegal for taxi drivers and private hire vehicle drivers to discriminate against wheelchair users. They will be obliged by law to: transport wheelchair users in their wheelchair; provide passengers in wheelchairs with appropriate assistance; and charge wheelchair users the same as non-wheelchair users. If they refuse to comply with the law they face a fine of up to £1,000.

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## News

### HOUSING

**Housing white paper due.** *Times*, 6 February 2017, 2. By Lucy Fisher. Also Reported in Independent, 6 February 2017 (Online edition); Guardian, 6 February 2017, 4; Daily Telegraph, 6 February 2017, 1,2

Under a housing policy white paper to be published on 7 February 2017, measures aim to help more over-55s to move from large, under-occupied homes as their children move out, including more sheltered accommodation and the provision of more flats and bungalows. The paper will also set out measures related to woodland and the greenbelt.

## Further Reading

### LEGAL ADVICE AND FUNDING

**First time buyers.** *CILEx J.* 2017, Jan, 18. By Kathryn Stone.

Looks at how legal service providers can assist customers in respect of the legal issues that arise when purchasing a house. Refers to the key role that providers can play.