

## Leonie Hirst



Call: 2006

Email: [l.hirst@doughtystreet.co.uk](mailto:l.hirst@doughtystreet.co.uk)

### Profile

Leonie has a broad-based civil practice covering a range of areas including public law, immigration, Court of Protection, prison law, inquests, mental health, community care, and discrimination law. Her work has a particular focus on deprivation of liberty, mental capacity and equality issues. She is a strong technical lawyer noted for her oral and written advocacy and client skills.

She is on the Equality and Human Rights Commission 'B' panel of counsel, and is ranked as a leading junior by Chambers & Partners in Court of Protection, Immigration, and Civil Liberties, and by the Legal 500 in Civil Liberties.

### What the directories say

*"She is one of the cleverest juniors around, and her pleadings are always concise and robust."* - Chambers and Partners 2023

*"An excellent advocate. Her drafting is very persuasive and thorough. Able to see the big picture and get things done."* - Legal 500 2023

"Has a really good tactical brain and is a real team player. She has real attention to detail and produces excellent legal analysis. She has a very collaborative approach too." - Chambers and Partners 2022

*"Leonie is a persuasive and powerful advocate with gravitas. Her legal mind is second to none. She accepts instructions at short notice and gets through vast amounts of paperwork at speed."* - Legal 500 2022

*"A really excellent technical lawyer who is extremely pleasant to work with and very experienced."* - Chambers and Partners 2020

*"She gets to the heart of the case very quickly."* - Chambers and Partners 2020

*"She's extremely effective on her feet and drafts concise, compelling pleadings."* - Chambers and Partners 2020

### **Related practice areas**

Court of Protection & Mental Health

Administrative & Public Law

Immigration

Community Care and Health

Anti-Trafficking

Children's Rights Group

Discrimination

Immigration Detention Group

Mediation

Inquests and Public Inquiries

### **Key cases**

- **R (on the application of McCourt) v Parole Board & Ors** [2020] EWHC 2320 (Admin): Key case on the standing of family members in parole proceedings
- **Hafeez v SSHD** [2020] EWCA Civ 406: Deportation appeal involving the interpretation of 'imperative grounds' protection
- **R (Hafeez) v SSHD** [2020] EWHC 437 (Admin): Successful challenge to the legality of certification under Regulation 33 EEA Regulations

- **R (MK) v SSHD** [2019] EWHC 3573 (Admin): Challenge to delay in decision making for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- **R (ASK and MDA) v SSHD** [2019] EWCA Civ 1239: Challenge to detention practice and procedure in two linked appeals involving detainees lacking mental capacity
- **R (W) v SSHD** [2019] EWHC 254 (Admin): Successful challenge to the application of the restricted leave policy
- **R (Slade and Anor) v HM Attorney General** [2018] EWHC 3573: Challenge to the refusal to review criminal cases following collapse of a high-profile murder trial
- **R (VI) v London Borough of Lewisham** [2018] EWHC 2180 (Admin): Challenge to a Care Act assessment of needs and subsequent provision for severely disabled woman
- **R (MS) v SSHD** [2017] EWHC 2797: Successful challenge to detention of a victim of trafficking with mental health needs
- **ARF v Home Office** [2017] EWHC 10 (QB): Successful unlawful detention claim in which detention of a mentally ill victim of trafficking was found to breach Article 3 ECHR
- **R (X) v SSHD** [2016] EWHC 1997 (Admin): Successful challenge to detention for an EU national subject to certification
- **R (Gomes) v SSHD** [2016] EWCA Civ 373: Successful challenge to detention of an EU national
- **R (Weddle) v Secretary of State for Justice** [2016] EWCA Civ 38: Challenge to the failure to provide offending behavior work for a life-sentenced prisoner with amnesia
- **R (JM & Ors) v SSHD** [2015] EWHC 2331 (Admin): Challenge to the operation of the Detained Fast Track in relation to vulnerable detainees
- **SSHD v MG** [2014] EUECJ C-400/12: Reference to the CJEU on protection from deportation under the Citizens Directive
- **R (McIntyre) v Parole Board** [2013] EWHC 1969 (Admin): Successful challenge to Parole Board procedure which resulted in the requirement for panel chairs to keep a record of proceedings
- **R (D) v SSHD** [2012] EWHC 2501 (Admin): Successful challenge to unlawful detention in which immigration detention was found to breach Article 3 ECHR

- **KK v STCC** [2012] EWCOP 2136: Successful challenge to deprivation of liberty on grounds of capacity; leading authority on the approach to be taken to assessing capacity