

**PRIVACY POLICY OF:**

**Christopher Johnston KC**

**Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 85 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AE**

**ICO Registration Number: Z4668441**

**1 September 2021**

**Policy became operational on: 1 September 2021 Next**

**review date: 5 January 2026**

## Privacy Policy

*In order to provide legal advice and representation, I need to collect and hold personal information. This may be your personal data or information relating to other parties involved in the matter. I will take all possible steps to protect personal information. I will ensure that I do not do anything that may infringe your rights or undermine your trust. This privacy notice describes the information I collect about you, how it is used and shared, and your rights regarding it.*

### **Data controller**

*I, Christopher Johnston KC, am a member of Serjeants' Inn Chambers. I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as a Data Controller for the personal data that I hold and process as a barrister. My registered address is 85 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AE and my ICO registration number is Z4668441. If you need to contact me about your data or this privacy notice, you can reach me at [cjohnstonqc@serjeantsinn.com](mailto:cjohnstonqc@serjeantsinn.com).*

### **Data collection**

*[All] or [The vast majority] of the information that I hold about you is provided to, or gathered by, me in the course of your case and/or proceedings. Your solicitor and/or I will tell you why we need the information and how we will use it. In addition to the information you may provide to me or your solicitor, I also obtain information from other sources as follows:*

- *Information that is available publicly in registers, searches or in the media*
- *Other legal professionals including solicitors and barristers and their associates, trainees and staff*
- *Chambers staff*
- *Expert witnesses*
- *Prosecution bodies*
- *Regulatory, public or administrative bodies*
- *Court staff & officials*
- *Clients*
- *References*

### **What data do I process about you?**

Depending on the type of work, I collect and process both personal data and special categories of personal data as defined in the UK GDPR. This may include:

- Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Address

- Payment or bank details
- Date of birth
- Next of kin details
- Details pertaining to education and employment
- Information on your background & current circumstances
- Financial information.
- Prior or current litigation in particular involving compensation claims or anything related to your earnings

Where relevant, I may also need to process special category personal data that reveals your:

- Racial or ethnic origin
- Political opinions
- Religious and philosophical beliefs
- Trade union membership
- Genetic data
- Biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person
- Extensive data concerning health and all aspects of your medical background both in the past and current
- Applications for state support or personnel files relating to health issues at work
- Applications for insurance claims related to employment compensation or your health
- Claims for ill-health benefits, pensions or equivalent
- Prior or current litigation in particular involving compensation claims or anything related to your health
- Sex life and sexual orientation.

On occasion, I may also process personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences.

### **My lawful basis for processing your information**

In order that I can provide legal services and representation for you, I must process your personal data. The UK General Data Protection Regulation (the UK GDPR) requires that where I process personal data, I must have a lawful basis for doing so. The lawful bases identified in the UK GDPR that I seek to rely upon are as follows:

- **Consent of the data subject** – where this required, I will ensure that I have your specific consent for processing your data for the specified purposes. You will also have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. Where you do so this will not affect the legality of data processing which had taken place prior to your withdrawal of consent.
- **Performance of a contract with the data subject, or to take steps to enter into a contract.**

- **Compliance with a legal obligation** – to comply with various regulatory and professional obligations, e.g. filing tax returns with HMRC.
- **The legitimate interests of my business or a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests, rights or freedoms of the data subject.**

Examples of legitimate interests include, but are not limited to:

- Provision of legal services and advice.
- For purposes of practice management, accounting and debt recovery.
- For completion of professional regulatory requirements.
- Processing for direct marketing purposes, or to prevent fraud.
- Reporting threats to public security.
- Such other purposes as set out below.

### **Special category processing**

The UK GDPR specifies that where I process special category data, I must rely upon certain exemptions in order to do so lawfully. The following exemptions are applicable in my practice

1. I have your explicit consent to do so; or
2. It is necessary for the exercise or defence of legal claims or judicial acts.

### **Criminal data processing**

On occasion, I process data relating to criminal offences where it is necessary for:

- The purpose of, or in connection with, any legal proceedings;
- The purpose of obtaining legal advice; or
- The purposes of establishing, exercising or defending legal rights
- Where I have your explicit consent to do so.

### **Purposes:**

**I use your personal information for the following purposes:**

- Provide legal advice and representation;
- Assist in training pupils and mini pupils;
- Investigate and address your concerns;
- Communicate with you about news, updates and events;
- Investigate or address legal proceedings relating to your use of my services, or as otherwise allowed by applicable law;
- Assist in any tendering or panel membership applications;
- Assist in any other applications for the purpose of professional development or career progression;

- Communicate legal updates and judgments to other legal professionals;
- For marketing purposes.
- For the management and administration of my practice
- To recover debt
- To manage complaints with regulators
- Communications with regulators
- Where relevant to conduct anti money laundering, terrorist financing or conflict of interest checks

**In the course of processing your information to provide legal services to you, I may share your personal data with:**

- Instructing solicitors or other lawyers involved in your case;
- A pupil or mini pupil, under my training;
- Opposing counsel, for the purposes of resolving the case;
- Court Officials, including the Judiciary;
- Opposing lay clients
- My chambers' management and staff who provide administrative services for my practice;
- Expert witnesses and other witnesses;
- My regulator or legal advisors in the event of a dispute, complaint or other legal matter;
- Head of Chambers or complaints committee within my chambers, in the event of a complaint;
- Law enforcement officials, government authorities, or other third parties, to meet any legal obligations;
- Legal directories, for the purpose of professional development;
- Any relevant panel or tendering committee, for the purpose of professional development;
- Accountants and banking officials;
- Regulators or arbitrators, where complaints or disputes arise;
- Any other party where I ask you for consent, and you consent, to the sharing.
- I may also be required to disclose your information to the Police or Intelligence services where required by law or pursuant to a court order

### **Transfers to third countries and international organisations**

I do not transfer any personal data to third countries or international organisations.

This privacy notice is of general application and as such it is not possible to state whether it will be necessary to transfer your information out of the UK for any particular purpose. However, if you reside outside the UK or that purpose involves persons or organisations or courts and tribunals outside the UK then it may be necessary to transfer some of your personal information out of the UK for that purpose. If you are in a country outside the UK or if any instructions that you provide come from outside the UK then it is inevitable that

information will be transferred out of the UK. If this applies to you and you wish additional precautions to be taken in respect of your information you must notify us at the earliest opportunity.

Some countries and organisations outside the UK have been assessed by the European Commission and their data protection laws and procedures have been found to provide adequate protection for your information. However, most do not. If your information has to be transferred outside the UK, then it may not have the same protection as it would and you may not have the same rights as you would within the UK.

We may transfer your personal information to the following which are located outside the United Kingdom (UK):

- cloud data storage services based in the USA who have agreed to comply with the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield, in order to enable us to store your personal information and/or backup copies of it so that we may access it when we need to. The USA does not have the same data protection laws as the UK/EU but the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield has been recognised by the European Commission as providing adequate protection, which I am content also meets UK requirements. To obtain further details of that protection click [here](#).
- cloud data storage services based in Switzerland, in order to enable us to store your personal information and/or backup copies of it so that we may access it when we need to. Switzerland does not have the same data protection laws as the UK/EU but has been recognised by the European Commission as providing adequate protection, which I am content also meets UK requirements; see further details [here](#).

If we decide to publish a judgment or other decision of a court or tribunal containing your personal information, then this will be published to the whole world.

We will not transfer personal information outside the EEA except as necessary for providing legal services or for any legal proceedings.

If you require any further information, you should use the contact me by email at [cjohnstonqc@serjeantsinn.com](mailto:cjohnstonqc@serjeantsinn.com).

**I retain your personal data** while you remain a client unless you ask me to delete it. I will delete or anonymise your information at your request unless:

- There is an unresolved issue, such as a claim or dispute;
- I am legally required to; or
- There are overriding legitimate business interests to do so.

*I will typically retain case files for a period of 15 years following the conclusion of a case/matter or receipt of final payment, whichever is the latest. This reflects the period required by the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund relating to potential limitation periods. However for persons under a disability there is no limitation period so I may retain case files for longer in respect of such clients.*

Where various pleadings and documents have been drafted, they may be retained for learning purposes and legal research. Where this is the case, I will anonymise the personal information/redact information which may identify an individual/risk assess the continued retention of the documents.

## Your rights

The UK GDPR gives you specific rights in terms of your personal data. For example, you have the right of access to the information I hold and what I use it for; you can ask for a copy of the personal information I hold about you.

You can ask me to correct any inaccuracies with the personal data I hold, and you can ask me to stop sending you direct mail or emails or, in some circumstances, ask me to stop processing your details.

Finally, if I do something irregular or improper with your personal data, you can complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how I have processed your information or dealt with your query. You may also seek compensation for any distress you are caused or loss you have incurred.

You can find out more information from the ICO's website:

[http://ico.org.uk/for\\_the\\_public/personal\\_information](http://ico.org.uk/for_the_public/personal_information)

## Accessing and correcting your information

You may request access to, correction of, or a copy of your information by contacting me at [cjohnstonqc@serjeantsinn.com](mailto:cjohnstonqc@serjeantsinn.com).

## Marketing opt-outs

You may opt out of receiving emails and other messages from my practice by following the instructions in those messages.

**I will occasionally update my privacy notice.** When I make significant changes, I will publish the updated notice on chambers' website profile.

