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BIOGRAPHY

Chris Bryant is a partner in the Antitrust & Competition and International Trade teams, based in the London and Brussels offices. His area of practice covers UK & EU competition law, state aid, public procurement, EU regulatory law, WTO and international trade law, economic sanctions, export controls and trade remedies. Chris heads the firm's Brexit taskforce.

Chris has advised in some of the European Commission's largest competition and trade investigations, including the cartel investigation relating to automotive parts and the anti-dumping / anti-subsidy investigation into Chinese solar panel imports.

Chris frequently advises public and private sector bodies on the state aid and public procurement rules. Chris has an extremely busy public procurement and subsidy control practice, advising on all

aspects of the procurement process for some of the largest “big ticket” matters in the market. He has acted on a number of high-profile procurements for clients such as a bidder the Fourth National Lottery Licence (the largest UK public procurement in 25 years); Homes England’s redevelopment of York Town Centre; HS2; and the London Stadium. He advises both private sector organisations, including KBR, AEW Europe and Mace, as well as public sector bodies, including Homes England and the Greater London Authority. He has represented clients in some of the biggest procurement challenges to come before the courts in recent years, including Northern & Shell’s challenge to the National Lottery Licence award. He has been involved in some of the UK’s most complex and high-profile projects, including many of the Olympics infrastructure projects. He advises businesses on compliance with EU/UK regulatory regimes and single market rules, with significant experience in relation to cosmetics, medical devices, pressure equipment, toys, electrical equipment and chemicals.

Chris has extensive litigation experience. He has represented companies in several appeals before the EU General Court and in a number of significant cartel damages actions. Chris has also advised in some of the UK’s leading public procurement and state aid High Court cases.

Chris also advises clients frequently on the application of UK/EU sanctions and on the UK export control regime. He has represented several clients in obtaining the necessary licences.

In his role as head of the firm’s Brexit taskforce, Chris has advised clients across almost every sector of the economy on Brexit, including retail, financial services, energy, chemicals, automotive and healthcare. He has advised extensively on WTO and other international trade issues, including GATT/GATS rules, free trade agreements and trade remedies investigations.

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EXPERIENCE

- **The New Lottery Company Limited and Northern & Shell PLC v The Gambling Commission** – Representing the claimants, The New Lottery Company (TNLC) and Northern & Shell PLC (N&S) in one of The Lawyer's 'Top 20 Cases of 2025' on the public procurement challenge against The Gambling Commission with an 8-weeks trial commencing in October 2025.
- **National Grid v ABB and others** - Advised National Grid on its ground-breaking damages claim against members of the gas insulated switchgear cartel, including in related cases in the EU General Court.
- **Automotive wire harnesses** - Advised a major Japanese supplier on the European Commission and UK investigations into the automotive wire harness cartel. This formed part of one of the largest ever global cartel investigations.
- **Olympic Delivery Authority** - Advised on the application of the EU State aid and public procurement rules to several of the major infrastructure projects connected with the London 2012 Games, including the Olympic Village.
- **Oil & gas industry** - Advised oil & gas clients on the application of EU sanctions imposed in relation to Russia.

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The EU's Foreign Subsidies Regulation Goes Live as the European Commission Finalises the Notification Requirements for Businesses

The EU's Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR) entered into force on 12 July 2023. Its M&A and public procurement notification regimes will go live on 12 October 2023. On 10 July 2023, the European Commission (Commission) adopted its final version of the FSR's Implementing Regulation alongside the template notification forms. This gives further information on how the FSR regime works in practice, and specifies the information that must be included for mandatory M&A and public procurement notifications. We have written previously about the FSR regime at the beginning of 2023. This article looks at the new FSR regime, and what this means in practice for those doing business within the EU.

Insights

Jul 05, 2023

What's the deadline? Timely guidance for procurement challenges in Altiatech Ltd v Birmingham City Council [2023]

A recent Technology & Construction Court's judgment considers the procedural time limits that apply in procurement litigation. The question of timing in bringing a claim in procurement challenges is not straightforward, requiring close examination of the interplay between the procurement regulations and the Civil Procedure Rules, by reference to the nature of the claims available. Failure to understand and comply with the requisite timelines can often result in claims being limited or excluded altogether. This case is a timely examination of the rules surrounding time limits.

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Bids, scores, and brand new laws? A review of the Government's Procurement Bill 2022

On 11 May 2022, the keenly awaited Procurement Bill (announced in the Queen's Speech) was formally introduced to the House of Lords and received its first reading. Running to 122 pages (and comprising 116 sections across 13 Parts, and 11 Schedules) in its current form, the Bill is one of the Prime Minister's so-called "Brexit bonanza" bills focused on further decoupling the UK from the EU. Post-Brexit, the government views this as an opportunity for the UK to develop and implement a procurement regime unburdened by the current complex regime that derives almost entirely from EU law. Indeed, the intention is to repeal the public contracts, defence, utilities and concessions procurement regimes, and replace these with a single piece of procurement legislation that extends to contracting authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has opted not to implement the new UK procurement r...