

James Robinson

Employed King's Counsel or junior over 7 years in practice

About Me, My Practice and Professional Activities

After studying Law at university, I was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1991 and have been a civil service lawyer for over 25 years, working in several departments. I am currently a Senior Civil Servant and the General Counsel of the Food Standards Agency, where I head the legal team which provides advice and litigation services across the organisation, dealing principally with food law in a regulatory/public law context. I have also worked as a lawyer at the Law Commission on law reform, and at Defra and Ofgem, advising on a range of public law issues, drafting legislation and working on Bills. Before joining the civil service, I taught on the Bar Vocational Course following extended pupillage on the Western Circuit. I was a member of the Bar Council on a 1-year casual vacancy in 2025 and remain a member of the Employed Barristers Committee. I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the Bar further.

What I Can Offer the Bar Council

I can offer many years' experience of working as an employed barrister in the public sector, the largest sector of the employed bar, and an awareness of the issues facing this constituency. I offer a commitment to engage actively as a member of the Bar Council in support of the employed bar, and will seek to continue to serve as a member of the Employed Barristers Committee, having done so for the past two years.

Motivation for Standing

I have had a successful career as an employed barrister and would like to give something back to the profession by continuing to engage in the work of the Bar Council. I have served on the Council in the past and am currently still a member of the Employed Barristers Committee. I have engaged in wider activities to support the Bar, by volunteering at the Inner Temple and in the past serving as a member of the Joint Academic Stage Board (a joint BSB/SRA committee). I would like to continue to serve.