



Your Key Contacts - Leisure Team



Malcolm Ireland, Head of Licensing

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Malcolm is the head of Naphthens' Licensing Department, which is one of a small number of teams in the Country dedicated to this specialist area. He has extensive experience in all areas of the Licensing Act 2003 and an in-depth knowledge of the leisure sector, allowing him to provide commercially aware, independent advice to ensure clients comply with the law whilst effectively managing risks and achieving their business goals.

His clients range from small brewers who supply only their own public houses right the way through to one of the top ten independent breweries in the UK. Malcolm successfully dealt with a judicial review in 2008 which resulted in the High Court delivering what is believed to be the first authority of its kind under the Licensing Act.



James Allison, Corporate & Commercial Partner

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An experienced litigator, James has particular expertise in the licensed trade sector and is lead advisor to pub management services company, Publicana.

Managing a wide range of corporate and commercial clients, James works with an elite team at Naphthens to provide advice to businesses that experience rapid growth in emerging markets and businesses who wish to prepare for sale or prepare for expansion or procure funding.

James is particularly responsible for managing client relationships for Naphthens' Corporate Division. A large proportion of his time is spent with clients to understand their business objectives and to support their business needs from a legal perspective, with the aim of increasing shareholder value. James acts for many clients in the Leisure industry as well as in the Construction, Property Development and Manufacturing sectors.



Richard Clithero, Commercial Property Solicitor

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Richard is based in our Blackburn office and handles a wide range of commercial property matters including commercial leases, the acquisition and sale of commercial properties, secured lending and corporate support work. Richard's clients range from large companies and national operators to private individuals and sole traders. He works across a variety of industry sectors, but has particular interest and expertise in property matters relating to the leisure industry and licensed trade.



Chris Boyle, Head of Employment

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Chris is one of the Leisure Team's Employment experts and provides advice on all areas of HR and employment Law. He advises HR managers, directors and other decision makers on a day to day basis and takes a proactive approach to resolving disputes.

Chris also represent Employers at Tribunal if necessary. In order that clients are up to date with current changes in the Law he also provides regular e-updates and presents a series of seminars each year. He has particular experience in acting for clients in the leisure, hotel, catering and entertainment sectors.