

## Public matters: July 2025

31 July 2025

### Merton-compliant age assessments: Social worker guidance

Age assessments can be complex, and differ case by case. We offer guidance on the challenges for social workers in deciding whether a comprehensive assessment is necessary.

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### Analysis: National audit on group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse (June 2025)

The National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse led by Baroness Casey is a landmark review with profound implications, not only for central government and statutory agencies but for the entire public sector.

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### Subsidy control cases coming into land

The Welsh Government has received notice that the decision to award a £205m subsidy to Cardiff Airport would be challenged by Bristol Airport. We analyse the potential impact on future subsidy decisions.

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### The Employment Rights Bill: Is it here yet?

Back in October, the government unveiled its Employment Rights Bill. In this article, we provide an overview of the current status of the Bill, its next steps, and the key issues that employers need to know.

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### Legal project management: A cornerstone in operational delivery of inquiries

In light of the recent government initiative to pilot locally-led inquiries into child grooming gangs, the role of legal project management (LPM) becomes increasingly important in supporting the delivery of public inquiries.

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# Independent Water Commission (IWC) report: Understanding key recommendations

The IWC has published its final report following a comprehensive review of the water sector. We set out a selection of the recommendations from the IWC report to help readers appreciate the breadth and potential impact.

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## Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill

In this article, we cover the key reforms proposed by the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation Bill to tackle the housing crisis in Wales. We look closer at the key provisions, and potential funding and implementation challenges.

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## Key contact



Tim Edds

Partner

[tim.edds@brownejacobson.com](mailto:tim.edds@brownejacobson.com)

+44 (0)330 045 2721

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