

Why Join EM LawShare?

What We Offer



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||| *The biggest consortium
of its kind in the country* |||

Deborah Eaton, EMLS Coordinator

An Introduction

What Is It?

EMLS is a consortium of public bodies whose primary purpose is to procure legal services from specialist firms (see; "Who are the Partner Firms") at discounted rates through a framework contract. The current contract runs from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2026.

Who Is In It?

Launched in 2006 with thirteen members, EMLS is now the largest such consortium in the country with over 200 members. Originally based in the east midlands, EMLS now has a membership that stretches from Durham in the north to Cornwall in the south, the Brecon Beacons in the west to Suffolk in the east.

It includes some of the largest local authorities in the country, such as , Birmingham, Leeds, Bristol, Nottingham and Sheffield city councils and Cornwall, Kent, Somerset, Derbyshire ,Oxfordshire and North Yorkshire county councils.

Most of its members are local authorities; county, unitary & district. However, the membership also includes fire & rescue authorities, universities, national parks, NHS trusts, government agencies and town and parish councils.

Who Can Join?

Any local authority in England & Wales can join EMLS & we will also consider applications from other public bodies as defined by the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (See; "How You Can Join").

How It Works

Nottinghamshire County Council are the lead authority for the consortium and enters into a framework agreement with each of the partner firms. Each member must, before joining, sign a memorandum of understanding with Nottinghamshire.

After joining any authorised officer from a member organisation can then directly approach & instruct any of the partner firms or hold a mini competition with all or some of them.

More advice on how to do so is in the "Welcome to EMLS" document which you can request from the EMLS Co-Ordinator Deborah Eaton (see page 12).

What Are The Benefits?

There are several significant benefits to becoming a member of EM LawShare.

Value Added

The partner firms provide extensive added value services to members, including;

- Training programme of over 70 free courses delivered by webinars
- Conference with key note speakers at a major venue every two years
- Free telephone help lines
- Quarterly newsletter, "ConsortEM"
- Website with various information including training material and the ability to advertise posts
- Two sponsored places on the Law Society's Local Government diploma course
- An annual leadership & management course for 16 people
- Help with recruiting, retaining and developing staff under our Development Network initiative
- Dedicated EM Lawshare website which all staff of a member can register and gain access to
- Use of the firms meeting rooms

Main Benefits

Competitive Hourly Rates

Fixed until March 2026

No Need To Tender

The partner firms have been selected after a fully compliant EU procurement exercise

Non Exclusivity

You remain free to use any other law firm

Added Value

The ten partner firms offer significant added value to members

No Joining Or Annual Subscription Fee



The 10 Areas

- 1 Administrative & Corporate Governance
- 2 Adult Social Services
- 3 Civil Litigation (including Personal Injury)
- 4 Contract, Commercial & Procurement
- 5 Conveyancing & Property
- 6 Criminal Litigation
- 7 Education
- 8 Employment
- 9 Housing
- 10 Planning, Highways & Environmental

What Areas Of Law Are Covered?

There are ten categories of work covered by the framework agreement.

In practice they include every major area of law dealt with by local authorities except childcare.

The Partner Firms

After an extensive procurement exercise in 2021/22 EMLS appointed the ten “partner” firms opposite to the new four-year framework contract that started on 1 April 2022. All ten have extensive public sector knowledge & experience.

Details of each firm’s key contacts are on our website under each partner firm’s entry, which also includes details of each partner firm’s free phone helpline offer and their meeting rooms you can use.

Hourly Rates

The hourly rates for each partner firm are available in a members’ only part of the website and are confidential. However, organisations considering joining can obtain them from the EMLS Coordinator (see “More Information”) on signing a non-disclosure undertaking.



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Who Runs It?

All the major decisions regarding the consortium are taken by the management board who are, except for the Chair, and Coordinator, all drawn from member organisations.

Board members also sit, with partner firm representatives, on several specialist groups dealing with such issues as the website, annual training programme and biennial conference.



||| *Members can instruct expert firms
at significantly discounted rates* |||

Deborah Eaton, EMLS Coordinator

**To join, or
for more
information:**

Deborah Eaton
(EM Lawshare
Co-ordinator)
deborah.eaton@
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How To Join

Joining EMLS is straightforward. There is a standard request form on our website emlawshare.co.uk under the title "Join Us". Alternatively, you can send an email request to the EMLS Co-ordinator, Deborah Eaton, with a request to join. This must come from the chief legal officer, or equivalent, and include the names, titles and email addresses of those officers who are authorised to give instructions to the partner firms. If and when you are notified that your request has been accepted, you will be sent a Memorandum of Understanding from Nottinghamshire County Council to sign and return (see "How it Works").

All authorised officers will be sent details on how to register onto the website which will enable them to see, amongst other things:

- details of each partner firm including their lead contact
- the fixed hourly rates charged by each firm
- the framework contract, specification and contract and award notices
- training materials, including previous webinars
- precedents
- a list of other members and their contact details
- a place to advertise job vacancies
- case studies of the development network initiative

Each authorised officer will also be sent the EMLS training programme for that year.



General Queries -

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