

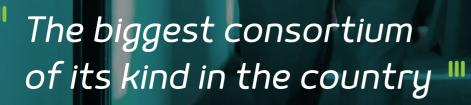
Why Join EM LawShare? What We Offer

Anthony Collins	Bevan Brittan 🚯
brownejacobson Iaw, less ordinary	Capsticks
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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.

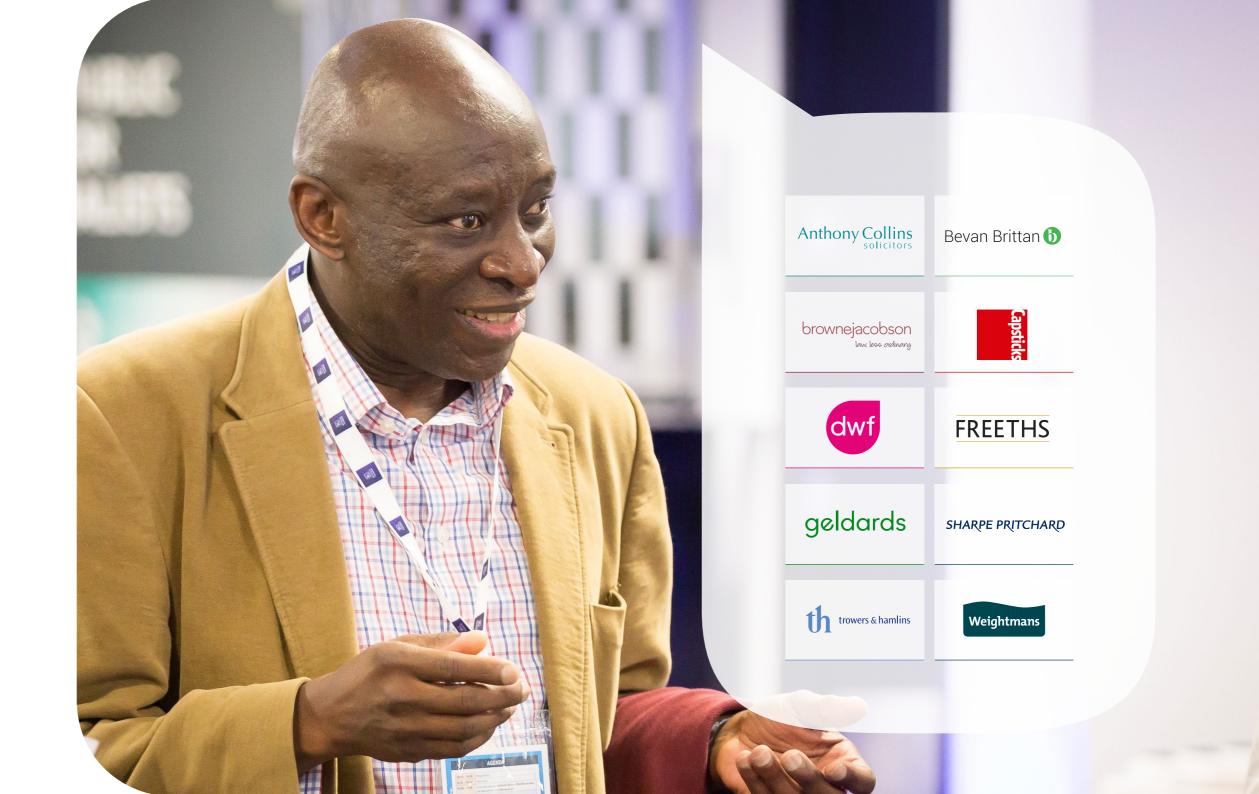
The Partner Firms

After an extensive procurement exercise in 2021/22 EMLS appointed the ten "partner" firms opposite to the new fouryear 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.



Heather Dickinson

EMLS Chair

heather.dickinson(∂ nottscc.gov.uk





Elizabeth

Warhurst

EMLS Vice Chair

Elizabeth.Warhurst@

Deborah Eaton EMLS Coordinator

deborah.eaton@ nottscc.gov.uk



Kevin Carter Sheffield CC

Kevin.carter@ sheffield.gov.uk

Sarah Hall Mansfield BC

shall@ Mansfield.gov.uk





John

Oakley

Hertfordshire CC

Sorriya Richeux Nottingham CC

sorriya.richeux(a nottscc.gov.uk



Gerard Rogers Chesterfield BC

gerard.rogers@ chesterfield.gov.uk



Mona Sachdeva Nottingham City Homes

Mona.Sachdeva@ nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk



Kieran Stockley ^{Melton BC}

Kstockley@ melton.gov.uk



Francesca Whyley Geding BC

francesca.whyley@ gedling.gov.uk





TWoodhams@ somerset.gov.uk

Christopher Parry

Stoke-on-Trent CC

Christopher.parry@ stoke.gov.uk

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



To join, or for more information:

Deborah Eaton

(EM Lawshare Co-ordinator) deborah.eaton@ nottscc.gov.uk

How To Join

Joining EMLS is straightforward. There is a standard request form on our website <u>emlawshare.co.uk</u> 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.



Law Share

General Queries -

Deborah Eaton EM Lawshare Co-Ordinator deborah.eaton@nottscc.gov.uk

Anthony Collins

Key contact -

Matthew Gregson Partner 0121 214 7430 07811 326 071 Matthew.Gregson(Banthonycollins.com

Bevan Brittan 🚯

Key contact -

David Hutton Partner 0370 194 8927 07867 976 835 david.hutton@bevanbrittan.com brownejacobson law, less ordinary

Key contact -

Richard Barlow Partner 0115 976 6208 Richard.Barlow(@brownejacobson.com

geldards

Key contact -

0115 983 3757

07976 272 171

david.williams@geldards.com

Chairman

David Williams



Key contact -

Mary Mundy Partner 0113 322 5566 07423 000 016 mary.mundy@capsticks.com

dwf

Key contact -

Jonathan Branton Head of Government and Public Sector 07736 563202 Jonathan.Branton@dwf.law

FREETHS

Key contact -

Philippa Dempster Partner 0845 274 6901 07768 894614 philippa.dempster@freeths.co.uk

Weightmans

Key contact -

John Riddell Partner 0116 242 8925 07790 746927 John.riddell@weightmans.com

SHARPE PRITCHARD

Key contact -

Rachel Murray-Smith Partner 020 7405 4600 07467 957 957 RMurray-Smith@sharpepritchard.co.uk

trowers & hamlins

Key contact -

Amardeep Gill Partner 0121 214 8838 agill@trowers.com ppa.dempster(dfreeths.c