

The ability to **operate vehicles safely and lawfully** is central to those in the **road transport** sector where Barker Gotelee has a **long established practice**. The law in this field has become very complex meaning that **operators and drivers** alike have to wrestle with many types of **regulation covering drivers' hours (tachograph or domestic rules), dangerous goods, road transport working time, health and safety, animal transport, waste and operator licensing** to name but a few. Common to them all is the need for operators to have systems in place which are robust and constantly monitor compliance levels within the business, to ensure safety, avoid prosecution and ensure the operator's licence is retained.

We believe we can offer our clients a dedicated service though our understanding of the current and future issues in this area of law. We believe we understand operator and driver concerns - as a client of this firm we trust you will feel we appreciate the specific issues which affect you.

Our work covers both goods and passenger sectors (LGV, HGV, PCV, PSV and taxi/private hire).

What services do we offer?

Interviews: advice and assistance at interviews conducted by police or VOSA against operators or drivers

Court advocacy and representation in the Magistrates and Crown courts: to defend prosecutions whether brought by VOSA, police, Environment Agency, councils or other bodies

Operator licensing advice: applications and variations, operating centre issues, financial standing advice

Public inquiries: advocacy before Traffic Commissioners

Advice on acquisition or sale of transport businesses (including property): whether share or asset purchase

Contractual issues: carriage of goods and contractual disputes

Employment issues: driver's contracts, road transport working time, disciplinary procedures and redundancy, TUPE

Drivers: HGV and PSV licence issues - medical issues and licensing appeals

Private hire and taxi licensing: including Council committee hearings

We regularly contribute to the **commercial press** and to **legal journals** on topical legal issues; we lobby the Department of Transport and VOSA on planned initiatives, such as the **new graduated fixed penalty scheme** being brought into operation in 2009.

For further information or advice contact:

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