

## Research Fellow in Rule of Law Monitoring of Coronavirus Legislation

Salary: £35,000 p.a. pro rata  
Location: Russell Square  
Term: One year Fixed Term  
Hours: 4 days per week

### Overview

1. The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law is looking to appoint a Research Fellow to help it scrutinise Coronavirus legislation for compatibility with the Rule of Law and to report its analysis to Parliament and the public.
2. The Bingham Centre's Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation Project aims to systematically scrutinise Government Bills against recognised Rule of Law standards, and to report on Bills which have significant Rule of Law implications. The goal is to provide independent, high quality Rule of Law analysis to assist both Houses of Parliament with their scrutiny of legislation, and to provide resources empowering civil society to engage directly with Parliament.
3. The Coronavirus pandemic has generated a huge volume of primary and secondary legislation. Thanks to funding from the Baring Foundation, we are now able to expand the Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation Project by appointing a Research Fellow to assist specifically with the monitoring of this Coronavirus legislation for compatibility with Rule of Law standards, including to ensure that it does not have a differential impact on disadvantaged communities, and the process by which it is made.

### The Role

4. The main responsibilities of the role include the following:
  - Identifying new primary and secondary legislation, including emergency economic measures, dealing directly with the Coronavirus or its impact on society;
  - Determining which Coronavirus laws raise significant Rule of Law issues and therefore require further scrutiny;
  - Analysing those laws against recognised Rule of Law standards;
  - Monitoring the process by which Coronavirus laws are made against Rule of Law standards on democratic law-making;
  - Writing clear and accessible reports and other outputs (eg blogs) setting out this Rule of Law analysis;
  - Engaging with parliamentarians, Government, academics, the media civil society and the broader public to disseminate and explain the outcome of this analysis;
  - Keeping abreast of political and legal developments in the field of emergency legislation on Coronavirus in the UK and abroad;

- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Monitoring Project's outputs concerning Coronavirus legislation.

## Person Specification

5. The successful applicant will have the following mix of experience, skills and attributes:

### Essential

- A degree in law;
- Good knowledge and understanding of the process for making primary and secondary legislation in the UK;
- Good knowledge and understanding of the form, structure and content of primary and secondary legislation in the UK, and of statutory interpretation;
- A sound grasp of the meaning and content of the Rule of Law, as set out in Tom Bingham's book *The Rule of Law*, and elaborated in the Venice Commission Checklist on the Rule of Law;
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with different audiences (including Parliamentarians, policymakers, civil society, the media and the general public);
- Ability to be self-starting and self-sufficient, taking the initiative and prioritising work;
- Ability and willingness to work collaboratively and collegially with colleagues.

### Desirable

- A PhD or equivalent research experience in law or professional qualification as a lawyer;
- Experience in drafting legislation or working with legislation;
- Experience in working in or with Government or Parliament;
- Experience in primary and secondary legislation in devolved legislatures.

6. The Research Fellow in Rule of Law Monitoring of Coronavirus Legislation will report to and work closely with Dr Ronan Cormacain, Senior Research Fellow, who leads the Centre's Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation Project.
7. The full time salary for the role is **£35,000 p.a., pro rated**. The post is offered at 0.8 fte, so the salary for 4 days a week will be **£28,000 p.a.**
8. This is a fixed term post for **12 months**, starting as soon as possible. Secondments for this period may also be considered.
9. The post will be based in London. However, flexible arrangements can be considered including some remote working and with regard to distribution of hours.

## About the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law

10. The Bingham Centre exists to advance the Rule of Law in the UK and worldwide. A part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), the Centre was established in 2010 to take forward the life's work of Tom Bingham, the former Senior Law Lord and author of the most celebrated English language account of the meaning of the Rule of Law.
11. The Centre's overarching strategic aim is "democratising the Rule of Law": mainstreaming it into policy making, law making and decision making in all relevant sectors and explaining its meaning and importance clearly to all relevant audiences, including the public. We also work to embed the Rule of Law in democratic institutions, by helping to develop the necessary institutional machinery, processes and procedures to give it practical effect.
12. The Bingham Centre's research, events and activities on the Rule of Law are documented on our [website](#).

## How to apply

13. Informal enquiries about this post may be addressed to Dr. Ronan Cormacain [R.Cormacain@binghamcentre.biicl.org](mailto:R.Cormacain@binghamcentre.biicl.org)
14. Applicants should send the following by email to [jobs@biicl.org](mailto:jobs@biicl.org) by **Sunday 1st November 2020 at 23.59**:
  - The BIICL application cover form (available at [www.biicl.org/vacancies](http://www.biicl.org/vacancies)) including the names and addresses of three referees (two of whom can be contacted prior to interview)
  - Your full CV
  - A covering letter (maximum 2 pages) setting out your reasons for applying and how you consider that you meet the person specification for this post.

**Please ensure that you put the full title of the role you are applying for in the email subject line.**

15. Interviews are expected to take place during the week beginning **9th November 2020** and will take place by Zoom.
16. To be considered for this role, all applicants must currently have the right to work in the UK or will have the right to work in the UK by the date of commencement of employment.
17. We particularly welcome applications from under-represented groups.