

Project Lead, Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation

Salary: £43,000 - £47,000 p.a. pro rata
Location: Russell Square
Term: Two year fixed term
Hours: 4 days (0.8fte) per week

Overview

1. The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law is looking to appoint a dynamic legal researcher with an interest in parliamentary affairs to be the Project Lead for a new phase of the Centre's Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation Project.
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 Project undertook analysis of a wide range of UK legislation during the period 2020-2022, as documented on the project webpage: <https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/projects/the-rule-of-law-monitoring-of-legislation-project>. The new phase of the Project builds on successes achieved during this period.

The Role

4. The main responsibilities of the role include the following:
 - Identifying Bills before the UK Parliament, and draft Bills published for public consultation, that raise significant Rule of Law issues and therefore require further scrutiny;
 - Analysing the content of Bills against recognised Rule of Law standards - leading this work in some cases and working in conjunction with Bingham Centre colleagues or external experts in other cases;
 - Monitoring the process by which legislation is made with reference to Rule of Law standards on democratic law-making;
 - Carrying out similar analysis, on a case-by-case basis and subject to capacity, of selected pieces of secondary legislation and legislation introduced in the legislatures of the UK's devolved jurisdictions
 - Writing clear and accessible reports and other outputs (eg blogs) setting out this Rule of Law analysis;
 - Working with Bingham Centre colleagues to contribute to meetings of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law, for which the Bingham Centre provides the secretariat.
 - Engaging with parliamentarians, Government, academics, the media, civil society and the broader public to disseminate and explain the outcome of this analysis;
 - Monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Project's outputs.

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 draft under time pressure and to coordinate between multiple contributors;
- Ability to identify, track and assess the impact of our work after it has been published, including through online searches, interviews and other methods;
- 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, Master's 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;
- Experience with the monitoring and evaluation of research with a focus on law, policy or parliamentary processes.

6. The Project Lead will work closely with senior members of the Bingham Centre, including the Director, Deputy Director and Director of Research.
7. The full time salary for the role will be in the range **£43,000 - £47,000 p.a., pro-rated**, depending on qualifications and experience. The post is offered at 0.8 fte, so the salary for 4 days a week will be in the range £34,400 - £37,600. **It may become possible on a future date, if additional project funding is secured, to offer the role at full-time level.**
8. This is a fixed term post for **24 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 Jan van Zyl Smit, Deputy Director, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law.
14. Applicants should send the following by email to jobs@biicl.org by **Sunday 23 July 2023 at 23.59**:
- The BIICL application cover form (available at www.biicl.org/vacancies) including the names and addresses of three referees (two of whom should be available to 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 in late July or early August.
16. BIICL and the Bingham Centre welcome applications regardless of race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age. We particularly encourage applications from individuals whose backgrounds are currently under-represented in law and politics.
17. In order to be considered for this role, applicants must currently have the right to work in the UK or be in a position to secure the right to work in the UK by the date of commencement of employment.