

THE CLAIMANT COMMITTEE

As set out in the CFA, where there is a large group action with thousands of claimants it is necessary to appoint a Claimant Committee. The Claimant Committee in the Mercedes-Benz emissions claim is made up of 5 representatives whose role it is to make decisions and provide instructions on behalf of all the claimants.

Our relationship to the Claimant Committee is governed by the Litigation Management Agreement. The individuals below are currently members of the Claimant Committee.

1. Mr William David Lee

David was first admitted as a Solicitor in December 1967, after reading Law at Sheffield University, and after 10 years as a Partner in a general practice in Bolton, Greater Manchester, he joined the then Westland Helicopter Group, in Somerset, as an in-house lawyer, in 1980.

He remained with the Company, which ultimately became Augusta Westland Limited, until retiring from the position as International Group General Counsel and Company Secretary at the end of 2015.

Over this period, he gained extensive experience in, inter alia, high value commercial matters, competition law, contractual disputes and Litigation and Arbitration (largely conducted by external law firms).

For 10 years, until September 2019, David was the Legal Director and Company Secretary of a professional Football Club from which he stepped down when the Club was taken over.

2. Mr Upali De Soyza

Upali is a retired solicitor who had his own practice in London. He is also a qualified accountant with membership to two Chartered Accountancy bodies. Prior to setting up his legal practice he held senior accountancy appointments with FTSE 100 Companies dealing with financial, accountancy and legal (commercial) matters, mainly customer related.

Upon setting up his solicitors practice he dealt with commercial law matters, selling/ buying disputes and further managing, with other employed solicitors, three legal aid franchises in three different areas of law.

3. Mr Richard Barnes

Richard has had a long career in Local Government. Having first been elected as a Councillor in the London Borough of Hillingdon in 1982. Richard was elected leader of the Conservative Group in 1991 retaining that position until July 2000. He also served, for two periods, as the Leader of the Council, London Borough of Hillingdon.

In May 2002 Richard was elected Greater London Assembly Member for Ealing and Hillingdon. He was elected Leader of the Conservative Group on the London Assembly in 2005 following the successful election of Boris Johnson as the Mayor of London in 2008. Richard was appointed the Statutory Deputy Mayor of London by Mr. Johnson and served in that capacity until the elections of 2012.

Richard served a Deputy Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority, as a Member of the Service Authority (National Crime Squad and National Criminal Intelligence Service) together with responsibilities as a Member of the London Assembly.

As Chair of the “London Bombings:7/7 Review Committee”, he conducted the only public inquiry and examination of post event issues related to resilience, business recovery and continuity in London.

Richard acted as Chairman of the London 2012 Equality and Diversity Forum which contributed to the preparation and delivery of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Richard retired from the GLA in 2012 and from the Council in 2014. In retirement he acts as both a Non-Executive Director and Consultant to a number of organisations.

4. Mr Adam Kamenetzky

Adam Kamenetzky is a Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the UK's largest public funder of health and social care research. His work explores how public investment in research generates long-term societal impact and value, and how evaluation can inform NIHR's own policies and working practices, acting as a custodian of taxpayers' investments in research.

In parallel Adam is a visiting fellow at the Policy Institute at King's College London, with a particular research interest in improving the social value and accountability of science to wider society. Before joining King's in 2016, he was Chief Executive Officer of the Good Governance Foundation, a not-for-profit consultancy organisation that supported international NGOs working in challenging global environments. Former roles include research advisory, communications and management positions at charities including Médecins Sans Frontières and Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

Adam has an MSc in Science Communication from Imperial College London and a BSc in Developmental Biology from the University of Edinburgh. He is currently in the early stages of a practice-oriented PhD focussing on organisational approaches to research impact and its assessment.

5. Mr Martin Usher

Martin is a solicitor, who works for Moore Barlow LLP and Aspire Law and represents people who have sustained serious injuries including traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries. He has extensive litigation experience and has supported clients in high profile cases, including, The Westminster Terror Attack and the 2011 M5 motorway crash. He is a Committee member for the Major Trauma Group, a not for profit community interest company, to assist major trauma victims. Martin has also been a Trustee for Headway Southampton, a charity that supports people who sustained acquired brain injury, for over 6 years, including 3 terms as Chair of Headway Southampton.

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