



## Christopher Katkowski QC

Call: 1982    Silk: 1999

Email: [ckatkowski@landmarkchambers.co.uk](mailto:ckatkowski@landmarkchambers.co.uk)

### Practice Manager

#### Bill King

Email: [bking@landmarkchambers.co.uk](mailto:bking@landmarkchambers.co.uk)

Phone: **0207 421 1350**

#### Michael Gooch

Email: [mgooch@landmarkchambers.co.uk](mailto:mgooch@landmarkchambers.co.uk)

Phone: **0207 421 1305**

---

## Expertise

Planning, Environment

---

## Overview

Chris Katkowski QC specialises in planning work in the main either preparing for and appearing at planning inquiries or acting in judicial reviews of planning decisions. The majority of his clients are from the private and corporate sectors together with a number of local planning authorities. Prior to taking silk Chris was a member of what is now the "A" Panel of Treasury Counsel as a result of which he has appeared in many court cases and continues to do so. He completed his term of office as Head of Chambers in May 2009.

Chris is consistently recognised in UK legal directories and in Planning magazine's annual survey of planning lawyers as one of the foremost leaders in planning work in the country.

Chambers UK Bar Guide 2020 says of Chris: *"Universally regarded as a leading silk, Christopher Katkowski QC is a planning*

*specialist with a remarkable track record of success at inquiry or in judicial review. Clients and peers, who speak warmly and at length of his creativity, sound judgement and concise advice, assert that he remains a leader at the Bar for complex planning cases. Remains the top choice for inquiry work due to his ability to simplify matters down to the crucial points and charm inspectors.” “The leading planning inquiry advocate. He’s seen it all and done it all.”*

The Legal 500 UK Bar Guide 2020 ranks Chris in the top tier of planning silks and says: *“He deserves his reputation as one of the top planning barristers.”*

The 2020 Planning Law Survey ranks Chris as the top planning QC. Chris has topped the poll 11 times. He has been ranked the number 1 planning silk more times than anyone else in the history of the survey. Planning magazine says of Chris that he *“combines huge intellect with an unrivalled work ethic and a keen sense of humour”* he has *“the utmost charm”* and *“commands the highest respect of judges, inspectors, his peers, clients and even third parties”* being *“popular, approachable and successful”*.

Chris’ eye-catching successes have changed the face of London.

In his book *“The Shard”* Howard Watson reports that the late *“Irvine Sellar said...”I’m a genius at picking geniuses:... the best QC in Christopher Katkowski.” “As a tough and critical man with extraordinarily high expectations of others, Sellar rarely hands out compliments, but his view of Christopher Katkowski remains undimmed by time: he describes the QC’s closing as “poetry”. “During the lengthy inquiry... the Queens’s Counsel himself was the pivotal figure in carrying the arguments in favour of the ...scheme. The transcripts reveal Katkowski’s point-by-point dismantling of the counter-arguments and several masterstrokes.”*

In his book *“Leading from the Front”* Gerald Ronson describes Chris as *“a brilliant QC”* having won the inquiry for the Heron Tower in the City.

Chris’ caseload is diverse. As *Planning Magazine* says *“he has seen it all [and] done it all”*.

He has appeared at hundreds of planning inquiries and court cases.

A good deal of his work involves advising clients how to avoid planning applications ending up at planning inquiries or being challenged in court.

Chris was appointed by the DCLG as an advisor to the Local Plans Expert Group in 2016 and by MHCLG as an advisor to the Rosewell Review in 2018; he was a keynote speaker at the Planning Inspectorate’s Annual Training Event in 2018. Chris was the planning lawyer appointed by the Government to the Task Force which drew up the proposals for sweeping changes to the planning system set out in the Planning for the Future White Paper published by the Government in August 2020.

Chris is down to earth and approachable and enjoys team working. He must be the only planning QC to have been awarded a gold disc (by MTV to celebrate the successful planning appeal for a new studio). His cases have appeared in episodes of the Archers and Judge John Deed.

---

## Qualifications

Chris graduated from Cambridge with a BA (Law) in 1978, an LLB (First Class) in 1979 and MA in 1982.

He is a Bencher of Gray’s Inn.

**Wonderfully succinct, wholly commercial and very client-friendly**

Legal 500

---

## Inquiries

---

22 Jan 2020	Secretary of State grants planning permission for 1300 new homes in London and awards Appellant full costs.
28 Jun 2019	Spurs regeneration scheme approved

---

---

## **Publications**

---

04 Dec 2017	The proposed approach to calculating housing need
05 Jun 2009	PPS4 - The Role and Need of Town Centre Uses
01 Jan 2009	Draft PP4: Town Centre uses and Other Material Considerations
01 Jan 2009	Retail Planning - Current Issues
01 Jan 2009	Reach for the Sky
01 Jan 2009	Has Retail Planning Delivered the Goods?

---