

PRE-LEGAL SERVICE



HELPING
ORGANISATIONS
EXPLORE LEGAL
AND COMPLEX
CORPORATE
ISSUES

OVERVIEW

Do-Well's pre-legal service is designed to help organisations explore legal and complex corporate issues before seeking advice from lawyers.

Issues can be difficult to identify as their effects can hide their true cause.

Working out precisely what the problem is first allows you to address some of the issues, including policy decisions, and then make an informed decision about whether legal advice is required. In particular, this can help you determine what specific legal advice could help you make the right decision to resolve the issue, saving time and legal fees.

Lawyers are trained to answer the questions posed of them, which can mean that they rarely think beyond the questions asked.

This service aims to help you formulate the right questions to ask to help you get the best advice from your lawyers.



THE SERVICE

LEGAL TRIAGE

Addressing legal issues can take up a great deal of management time and deflect attention off the core business, and so tackling them quickly and efficiently is vital.

Getting a preliminary view of an issue can save time and money - a form of legal triage.

Using a person from outside your organisation, who does not have any preconceived views to diagnose the issue and propose potential solutions can be hugely beneficial - a role we call the “trusted advisor”.

A trusted advisor can also be used to support the legal functions within your organisation and provide a second opinion, as well as providing someone to discuss problems through with to give you confidence that you are on the right track.

This can also make a real difference in cases where there is conflicting legal advice.



DO-WELL IS
PROUD TO HAVE
STUART IRONS
IN OUR BAND

CHOOSING YOUR LAWYER

If legal advice is needed, choosing a lawyer with the relevant specialist advice is essential, but knowing who that lawyer might be can be difficult.

Do-Well is proud to have Stuart Irons in our band.

As someone who has worked in the profession for over 30 years, he can recommend experts in the relevant areas of the law and/or know what questions to ask to draw up a short list of appropriately qualified lawyers.

Having assisted in determining the questions, Stuart can draft the instructions to obtain bespoke answers that are relevant to your organisation and if necessary, question or challenge any advice given from a position of knowledge.

He can also negotiate the fee to be charged for each piece of work.

HELPING ORGANISATIONS DEVELOP AND GROW

Once you've sought legal advice, it then needs to be applied to the problem to achieve a workable solution and then implemented. Stuart can help you with this too.

Another challenge is around how to manage and disseminate any legal advice that a business has built up over time to the relevant people internally to avoid duplication and create a valuable resource that can save time and money in the future.

Collating this advice and explaining it in easily understandable terms is where Stuart's legal knowledge and expertise can really help in making this more user friendly and ensuring that it is available and accessible for teams to use when they need it.

We also understand that some larger organisations have legal frameworks in place to help with their external legal requirements of their standard legal work. Our service does not detract from this because it is designed to address the non-standard novel questions that arise.

It also lends itself to helping organisations develop and grow, enabling new ideas to be explored and tested by an independent person to assess their viability before developing a programme to make any changes within your organisation.

SO, WHO IS STUART IRONS AND HOW COULD HE BE USEFUL TO YOU?

Stuart is a qualified Commercial Solicitor with over 30 years' experience in private practice advising a variety of clients including public bodies, local authorities, housing associations, charities and faith-based organisations, insurance companies, public and private companies and individuals.

He is well versed in corporate, commercial and property related issues.

He has a wealth of experience in helping management teams make decisions by analysing the facts of a situation, determining the essential questions or issues and then devising a way to address them.

He is also a longstanding Trustee of Woodlands Animal Sanctuary and is experienced in issues affecting charities from setting them up, governance, grant applications and day to day management.

STUART HAS A
WEALTH OF
EXPERIENCE IN
CORPORATE,
COMMERCIAL
AND PROPERTY
RELATED ISSUES

EXPERIENCE

PROPERTY ISSUES

Stuart has acted for many major commercial property-owning companies and high net worth individuals in retail, manufacturing and industrial sectors and addressing their property requirements arising from management, lease breaches, acquisitions, disposals and dilapidations.

He is experienced in advising housing associations, private landlords, major land owners, faith-based organisations and charitable organisations in relation to their land-owning rights, obligations to others and how to protect and preserve their rights whether in the commercial, residential or agricultural land spheres.

He has also worked to assist managing agent with the management and improvement of estates.

A great many land owners not only required advice as to their legal position, but also wish to be provided with practical advice as to how to resolve issues as amicably as possible and with a minimum prospect of causing reputational issues.

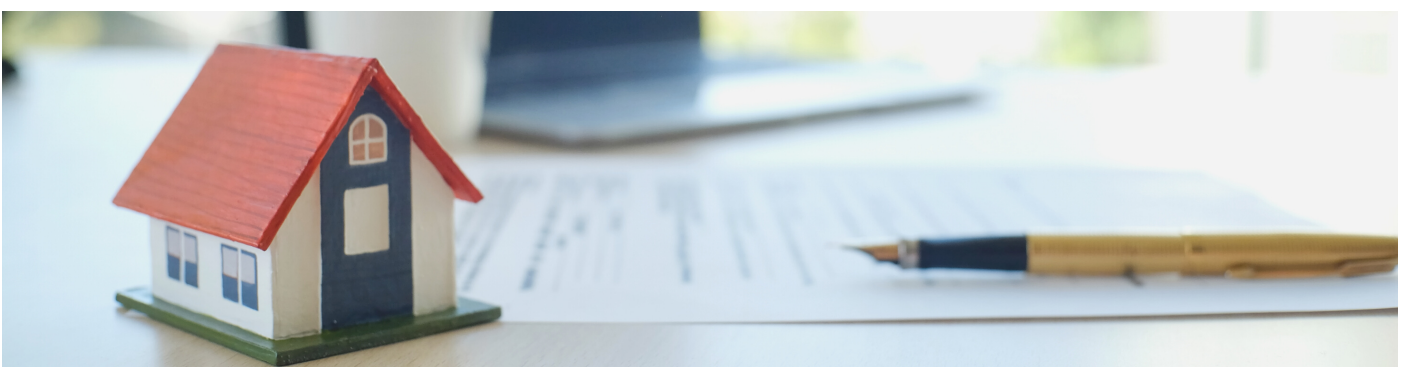
RISK ASSESSMENTS AND POLICIES OF INSURANCE

Stuart worked for insurance companies addressing the claims brought against their policyholders for many years. This involved a detailed consideration of the terms and conditions of the policies of insurance.

He is trained to identify risk and how claims can be avoided, and, in the event of claims being made, assist in defending them.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Stuart is familiar with drafting policies and protocols to address business processes. Adopting and implementing these to your insurers satisfaction reduces risk and this can, in some cases, result in reduced insurance premiums.



EXPERIENCE

CONTRACTS

Stuart has considerable experience advising clients on commercial contracts - drafting them, reviewing them and negotiating or amending them to achieve the best outcome and reduce any potential liability.

He has regularly advised on how to break free of contracts.

As contracts are the main stay of business, understanding their terms and how they operate is essential to avoiding costly breaches..

INSTRUCTING LAWYERS

Instructing solicitors or barristers can be a time-consuming and ultimately expensive process.

Our pre-legal service can review any situation, help you manage the position and, if it requires the services of lawyers, to identify the questions to be answered and advice needed, as well as helping to select an appropriate lawyer with the necessary expertise. We can also help with negotiating an appropriate fee for the work and, if necessary, drafting the instructions.

Stuart can manage the whole process and then report back.

PROJECTS

Unfortunately, some cases will become the subject of legal proceedings, whether to prosecute them or defend them. This can be disruptive to the management of the business as it ties up staff and resources that are better deployed elsewhere.

Stuart can manage this process for you. He is passionate about fighting for what is right and fair and will ensure the business is getting the best from its lawyers and at a pre-determined budget.



EXPERIENCE

PRELIMINARY APPRAISALS OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES

Problems occur during the normal course of business.

Most cases are decided on what happens before legal advice is obtained, so it is imperative to avoid inappropriate actions or correspondence at this stage to avoid compromising the organisation's position and damaging the prospects of a favourable outcome.

Some cases cry out to be settled without the need for proceedings, some on their merits and others because of reputational issues.

Being able to identify them early in the process can save a great deal of management time and cost, as there is nothing worse than having to take a case through the legal process, only to end up with the same result that an early settlement would have achieved but having incurred a whole host of legal fees. In those cases, only the lawyers win!

Reducing the spend on legal fees is invariably a better option, thereby allowing business resources to be better employed in pursuing its primary mission.

TRUSTED LEGAL ADVISOR

Stuart fulfils the valuable role of trusted adviser to the management of businesses large and small and to individuals to guide them when problems occur and help them formulate or negotiate solutions.

Being the leader of an organisation can be tough, stressful and lonely place when difficult decisions have to be made.

Stuart is someone you can trust to discuss in total confidence any issues or challenges you are facing - he will advise you on the potential consequences of any proposed actions and work with you to identify the best solutions.



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