



Speaker Biographies – Friday 3rd July

Richard Kimblin, No5 Chambers

Richard Kimblin is Chair of UKELA's Council. He is a barrister who practices environmental and planning law. He has appeared in many of the leading cases in the High Court and Court of Appeal on EIA, permitting and Habitats Regulations issues.

Richard has a long-standing interest in the water environment: he started out working on the impacts of gold mining operations in Victoria (Australia, not SW1); completed a PhD on the Thames Water artificial groundwater recharge project in the Lee Valley, and; undertook the comparative study of European legal systems which informed the drafting of the Water Framework Directive. He appeared for the Environment Agency in one of the very few Section 43 Water Resources Act 1991 inquiries in respect of refusal of a groundwater abstraction licence, on the issue of habitat protection.

In the planning arena, he often appears in respect of infrastructure and energy proposals which give rise to complex environmental issues, including the longest such inquiry in recent times: the Mid-Wales Co-joined Windfarm Inquiry. He has, likewise, long experience of substantive appeals on permitting decisions and a variety of environmental notices. He has recently been engaged in the only two High Court cases on the Water Framework Directive and the Environmental Liability Directive.

Prof. John R. Mullin, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Dr. John R. Mullin is a Professor of Urban Planning in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning and Associate Director of the Center for Economic Development at the University of Massachusetts (UMass). Between September 2001 and August 2012 he served as Vice Chancellor/Vice Provost for Outreach and Dean of the Graduate School. His research interests focus upon industrial revitalization, port development and downtown revitalization. Dr. Mullin has written or edited over 100 book chapters, book reviews, technical reports, journal articles and conference proceedings. He is a Fulbright Scholar, charter member of the Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners and the recipient of the Chancellor's Medal, the highest honor bestowed to faculty at UMass Amherst. He is a retired, federally recognized, Brigadier General from the Army National Guard.

Dr Nicola Notaro, Deputy Head of Water Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

Dr Nicola Notaro is a qualified Italian lawyer and holds an LL.M in European law (Bruges) and a PhD in environmental law (London). He is Deputy Head of the Water Unit in DG Environment at the European Commission (EC) and visiting Professor of European Environmental Law at the College of Europe in Bruges. He has previously worked as Legal Adviser and then Team Leader for the international climate negotiations in DG Environment. He has published and lectured (in EN, FR, IT) in the field of environmental law at the Universities of Maastricht, London, College of Europe Bruges, Montreal, Aarhus, Lille, Milano, VUB Brussels, etc.

Gordon McCreath, Pinsent Masons LLP

Gordon specialises in consenting major projects and environmental law. He has had a particular specialism in water related issues since advising on transposition and implementation of the Water Framework Directive while working at SEPA and the then Scottish Executive. After returning to private practice in 2004, Gordon led advice to Northern Ireland Water on reform of the water industry in Northern Ireland, and has advised clients including Scottish Water, United Utilities, Severn Trent Water and Water UK on issues including definition of waste JRs, statutory nuisance and licence appeals, enforcement action and prosecution, legislative reform and the Scottish water services retail market. Most recently Gordon advised London Borough of Southwark throughout the examination of the Thames Tideway Tunnel DCO application and is currently advising SSE and Repsol on the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm and E.ON on Humber Gateway, Rampion and Hornsea Project 2.

James Burton, Thirty Nine Essex Chambers

James Burton is a barrister in private practice at Thirty Nine Essex Chambers. He specialises in environmental and planning law and is ranked by Chambers and Partners in both areas. James' work covers a full range, from inquiries before planning inspectors and appearances before the magistrates on environmental offences to judicial review in the High Court and appellate practice before the Court of Appeal. His clients include water companies, environmental permit holders, developers, local authorities and national agencies such as Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation as well as private individuals. Very recent cases with a watery feel include R (Health & Hampstead Society) v City of London [2015] Env. L.R.11, which concerned the ponds on London's Hampstead Heath, the Reservoirs Act 1975 and flood risk, and Grafton Group UK v Secretary of State for Transport[2015] EWHC 1083 (Admin), a (successful) challenge to a compulsory purchase order of a Thames safeguarded wharf intended to promote modal shift to water. James is a UKELA trustee with particular responsibility for Young UKELA. He is also a founder member of the Recyclists, UKELA's informal cycling club.