

## Launch of LegalHelpnet offering advice to members and SCALA Red Book users

Following the launch of the SCALA Red Book for the appointment of consultants at the Study Day in May sales of this best selling document have exceeded expectations. Feedback has shown that users would value help and advice to gain maximum value from this flexible document and this has been extended to include issues of a legal nature concerning the Red Book, procurement methods, construction contracts and on-site problems.

All of this is now available to SCALA members and users of the Red Book. The initial enquiry will be by e-mail and if it is a simple matter or point of clarification the response will also be by e-mail. If the matter is more complex and with legal implications then the enquirer will have the option to take the matter further subject to agreement and any costs involved.

Although SCALA is facilitating this service it is being supplied by Tony Blackler who, together with myself, was responsible for reviewing and re-drafting the previous edition of the Red Book. Tony can be reached at [LegalHelpnet@blacklerlaw.co.uk](mailto:LegalHelpnet@blacklerlaw.co.uk).

If the query can be answered relatively quickly Tony will respond within 48 hours - unless he is on holiday or otherwise unavailable - in which case you will be informed about his next availability.

If the problem requires additional professional input - for example the opinion of a quantity surveyor on a matter of valuation - Tony will liaise with myself with a view to locating an individual of the relevant discipline who can respond on a similar basis as outlined above.

Information on Tony's career as a construction lawyer follows this article.

The purpose of the service is to provide a quick and easy route for specialist advice. If the enquiry is simple it will remove what can be a frustrating information logjam and save valuable time. If more complex, with legal implications, it can swiftly identify an area of potential future conflict which can be nipped in the bud with focused specialist advice.

Information from this service can quickly be fed to the membership or into the Red Book, which in its new digital format can be easily updated to ensure it remains at the cutting edge in appointing consultants and ensuring the best possible service to our clients. The new Legal Base at [www.publicarchitecture.co.uk](http://www.publicarchitecture.co.uk) will be the main point of reference for this new service.

Please use the LegalHelpnet to help us to help you.

SCALA welcomes feedback on this and any of its activities to [policy@scala.org.uk](mailto:policy@scala.org.uk).



**Rob Tate**

E: [rob.tate@ntlworld.com](mailto:rob.tate@ntlworld.com)

**Rob Tate** is an architect, a Past President of SCALA and a former Head of Property Services at the LB of Enfield. He is a construction consultant, expert witness and a member of the President's Panel of Adjudicators of both the RICS and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Rob, author of the SCALA and LGTF 'Guide to Standard Forms of Construction Contracts', has offered to share his experience and expertise with you and looks forward to hearing from readers.





**Tony Blackler**

E: LegalHelpnet@blacklerlaw.co.uk

### Experience

I have practised construction law as a solicitor in a city law environment for over 30 years, acquiring an unrivalled knowledge of the workings of the construction industry. Now referred to as an “elder statesman” by the law directories, I have represented organisations from all sides of the industry in transactional and disputes work. I have advised professional bodies including the RIBA, CIC, and ACA as well as SCALA, and been a member of

the NEC Panel which recently introduced the latest edition of the New Engineering Contract to the market.

### My offering

Now a sole practitioner I provide a personal service specialising in contract negotiation, and advice designed to prevent difficulties from turning into disputes. As an experienced mediator I offer mediation services where appropriate, and conduct adjudications where this is unavoidable. I also undertake in-house legal training and workshops.

### Fees

Fees at out of town rates are proportionate to the task in hand and accounts are agreed with clients before being rendered. The practice is supported by professional indemnity insurance. ■

See the new  
Legal Base on the  
website for more  
information.

[www.publicarchitecture.co.uk](http://www.publicarchitecture.co.uk)

information and technology for construction & architecture in the public sector

# The SCALA REDBOOK

FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

“There is a responsibility upon those providing for the construction and maintenance of buildings and their environment to ensure that such works are undertaken in an efficient, effective and economic manner consistent with good design, quality and sound workmanship... This document has been prepared to assist and guide local authorities and others undertaking construction or maintenance works who commission external consultants”.

The latest version of this best selling document is now available in downloadable digital format at [www.publicarchitecture.co.uk](http://www.publicarchitecture.co.uk) or [www.scala.org.uk/publications.htm](http://www.scala.org.uk/publications.htm)



### Price:

**£60** for single use  
(£50 SCALA and ACA Members)

**£500** for multiple use  
for one year