McCormicks

Briefing

Spring 2026

New employment rules
Team building
Driving reforms

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Welcome

Welcome to what is to be the last edition of our Briefing newsletter in its current format.

As always, we share some legal insights along with news of what our team has been up to this Spring.

Because we are aware that time is short for many, we will be sharing our future news in an updated and briefer format so that you can choose what to read.

We very much hope that you will continue to benefit from our legal expertise, as well as enjoying our general news.

Helping out

Our Private Client team has been using its expertise to lend a hand to two local charities.

Elaine Lighfoot and Victoria Fawcett participated in two free Will schemes in March – one for Saint Michael's Hospice in Harrogate and the other for Martin House, the children's hospice in Boston Spa.

Under the schemes, clients can make free Wills, with them then either making a direct immediate gift to the charity or opting to leave a legacy in their Will.

McCormicks has supported both charities through these schemes for some years.

Elaine said: *"These are both very valuable charities to local people and we are pleased that we can make this contribution to their on-going needs."*

Victoria Fawcett

Elaine Lightfoot

Two senior promotions have got 2026 off to a positive start.

Senior solicitors step up

Brian Nuttney, part of the Crime and Fraud team, becomes a Partner.

Brian specialises in all aspects of Crime. Before joining the firm he was a successful journalist and worked as deputy editor for a number of regional newspapers. He qualified as a solicitor in 2018 and has become a mainstay of the department, appearing regularly in the Magistrates' Courts and at police stations across North Yorkshire and further afield, representing clients across a wide range of criminal offences, including serious sexual offences, violence, drugs, fraud, and motoring offences.

He is a qualified police station representative and holds Duty Solicitor status.

Partner Peter Minnikin who heads the Crime Department said: *"Brian's diligence and analytical approach have proved a real asset to the department and he has wide-ranging expertise, both in representing clients himself and in preparing cases for the higher courts."*

Partner Brian Nuttney, left, and Senior Associate Solicitor David Leuchars

David Leuchars has been made a Senior Associate Solicitor.

David plays a key role in the Corporate and Commercial Department, acting for individuals and companies on corporate transactions for the sale or purchase of businesses or shares; reviewing and advising on company and business structure including drafting partnership and shareholders' agreements and articles of association. He assists with incorporations, re-structuring and general company administration; negotiating and reviewing a wide range of commercial contracts, including agency and sub-contractor agreements; and updating terms and conditions and privacy policies.

He won recognition in the latest edition of the UK Legal 500, a leading guide to the legal profession.

The Head of Corporate and Commercial, Partner James Towler, said: *"David works extremely hard to understand the needs of our clients and to ensure the best possible outcomes for them. His promotion recognises his value to both the practice and our clients."*

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Another award

McCormicks has been named "Best Full Service Law Firm in North Yorkshire" in the SME magazine UK Legal Awards 2026.

The online magazine has more than 144,000 web users and its digital newsletter has 28,000 subscribers.

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Simon says

More than 30 guests gathered at the West Park Hotel in Harrogate for our latest speaker event.

Simon Theakston of Theakston's Brewery delivered an insightful and engaging talk about succession in a family business.

His stories and perspectives made for a truly memorable session and sparked some great conversations around the room.

One attendee, Tina Hutchinson from Grace and Morris Architects, said: *"Curated, low key, high impact is how I would describe the McCormick Speaker Lunch."*

We are already looking at future events.

Speaker Simon Theakston with Peter McCormick.

Simon shares his business story.

Guests also enjoyed a sandwich lunch.

Max Marsden

Going the extra mile

Trainee Solicitor Max Marsden is taking on a new challenge this summer to raise funds for the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation.

Max, part of our Crime and Fraud team, took up running only this year but has already signed up to do the Ilkley Half Marathon in July.

He said: *"I've decided to take this on because I wanted a challenge that would push me out of my comfort zone and give me something meaningful to work towards. I am not naturally a runner so it is going to take some will power to get me ready.*

"I am doing it for the Yorkshire Young Achievers Foundation because the charity's work is incredible. It supports young people at a point in their lives when opportunities, confidence and stability can make a huge difference."

Anyone who wants to support Max can sponsor him at through his **Just Giving** page.

If you also want to cheer him on, the event starts at 10.30am on Sunday 12 July at West Holmes Fields, Middleton Avenue, Ilkley, LS29 0AD.

New role for Lana

Trainee Solicitor Lana Wilks is the new President of Harrogate and North Yorkshire Junior Lawyers Division.

The division will deliver a full calendar of events including networking opportunities, skills workshops, charitable functions, and educational events to host professional development and contributions for local professionals. Mixed into these structured events are more casual meets designed to foster connections in a more relaxed atmosphere

Lana is part of our Commercial Litigation Department.

Lana Wilks

We have welcomed four new faces to the McCormicks team in recent weeks.

Team building

Senior Associate Solicitor
Michelle Stewart

Solicitor Apprentice
Charlotte Davison

Solicitor Apprentice
Aisling McAuley

Paralegal Aliyah Ricketts

We have strengthened our Crime and Fraud team with two new appointments, along with new appointments to our Employment and Commercial Litigation departments.

Michelle Stewart joins as Senior Associate Solicitor, bringing extensive experience of handling cases in the Police Station, Magistrates' Court, Youth Court and Crown Court.

She has conducted a wide range of criminal and fraud cases, including dishonesty, serious violent crime including murder, sexual offences, firearms matters and drug offences.

Michelle has a reputation for empathising with clients who have no experience of the criminal justice system which has been particularly important when working with youths. She is known as a formidable trial advocate in the Magistrates' Court.

She is a qualified duty Solicitor which allows her to advise those interviewed at the police station for the most serious offences and represent them at any subsequent court appearance.

She also has substantial experience representing individuals under investigation by other bodies, such as the Department for Work and Pensions, HMRC and the Environment Agency.

Charlotte Davison is a fifth-year Solicitor Apprentice.

Over the course of her five years of training, Charlotte has developed a wide-ranging and comprehensive legal background, with experience in housing, personal injury, civil litigation, prison law, and Crown Court litigation.

Charlotte is also a qualified Police Station Representative and regularly attends police stations to advise and represent individuals who have been arrested for a wide range of criminal offences.

Partner Peter Minnikin who heads the Crime and Fraud department said: *"These appointments bring our team up to ten, reflecting the busy case load this department handles, and I am delighted to have Michelle and Charlotte on board."*

Aisling McAuley has joined as a Solicitor Apprentice in the Employment Department. She assists Partner Iain Jenkins with all aspects of the firm's Employment work.

Aisling has completed a Cilex Paralegal qualification and is currently studying for her law degree with BPP University.

Having joined a trade union law firm upon completion of her Cilex qualification, Aisling has experience assisting with the day-to-day management of both contentious and non-contentious cases, working within a busy employment department. As well as her experience in employment law, she has also worked in personal injury, dispute resolution and family.

In her free time, Aisling is a big sports fan, particularly football, which is suited to our specialisms and reputation within the industry.

Iain Jenkins said: *"Aisling has been a great signing and has already shown a great feel for and affinity with employment law and the needs of our clients. She has a bright future."*

Aliyah Ricketts becomes a Paralegal in the Commercial Litigation Department, where she supports Partner David Birks on a broad range of dispute resolution and sports litigation matters. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with Honours in Law and Criminal Justice.

Before joining McCormicks, Aliyah spent two years at a leading international law firm in Manchester.

As part of the Antitrust, Competition and Trade team, she worked on several high profile merger clearance matters and antitrust investigations, collaborating with colleagues in Brussels, Asia, and the United States.

David Birks said: *"Aliyah brings extensive experience and a strong skillset to the firm. Her appointment is a significant addition to the team, and there is every confidence that she will prove to be an invaluable member of the team while helping us continue to deliver an excellent service to our clients."*

The Government has launched a major consultation on reforming driving laws, signaling what could become the biggest overhaul of road traffic penalties in decades.

All change on the roads

Solicitor Apprentice Charlotte Davison from our Crime and Fraud team takes a look at the potential changes.

The proposals aim to modernise laws that largely date back to the late 1980s and strengthen deterrence against dangerous and reckless driving which puts other road users at risk.

Key areas under review:

1. Drink and drug driving

New powers to seize vehicles from drivers arrested for drink or drug driving could be introduced. This would mirror existing powers used in uninsured driving cases, where a registered keeper must pay recovery and storage fees to reclaim their vehicle.

More roadside testing and the introduction of immediate licence suspension are also under consideration. Drivers could face immediate suspension once charged, pending the outcome of court action. Currently, drivers can continue driving after being charged until they are convicted.

There are also proposals to cut the legal alcohol limit in England by more than a third, bringing it in line with Scotland and proposed changes in Northern Ireland. The current limit of 80mg per 100ml of blood or 35µg per 100ml of breath could be reduced to 50mg and 22µg respectively.

Meanwhile, novice drivers could face near zero-tolerance alcohol limits under the new plans.

Charlotte Davison is a fifth-year Solicitor Apprentice in our Crime and Fraud Department.

She has developed a wide-ranging and comprehensive legal background, with experience in housing, personal injury, civil litigation, prison law, and Crown Court litigation before joining McCormicks Solicitors to focus exclusively on criminal law. This breadth of experience enables Charlotte to take a practical and client-focused approach, having supported individuals facing a wide range of legal and personal challenges.

Charlotte is a qualified Police Station Representative and regularly attends police stations to advise and represent individuals who have been arrested for a wide range of criminal offences.

2. Tougher penalties for serious offences

Repeat offenders may face tougher penalties, including longer driving bans, and quicker disqualification as the Government looks at ways to better target those who pose the greatest risk on the roads.

3. Expansion of penalty points and enforcement powers

Penalty points could be applied to offences that currently carry limited consequences. And drivers could also face increased use of roadside penalties.

Repeat offenders could face a higher risk of licence disqualification, reinforcing a stricter approach to dangerous driving.

And anyone not wearing a seatbelt could end up with three penalty points on their licence. Failing to make sure a child is properly restrained could also result in three penalty points. Currently you can only be fined for these offences.

4. New and strengthened offences

There are also plans to beef up penalties for some offences in response to concerns from police and road safety groups that the current punishments are too soft. This could mean:

- Increased penalties for driving without a current MOT;
- Stronger sanctions for failing to properly register a vehicle;
- Tougher penalties for the use of incorrect, altered, or false number plates

The proposed reforms signal a shift towards stricter and more consistent enforcement of motoring laws. With increased use of penalty points and roadside penalties, more drivers are likely to face immediate consequences for offences. Coupled with tougher penalties, it is more important than ever to understand the risks and consequences of unsafe driving

At McCormicks, our specialist criminal law team is available around the clock and has extensive experience in handling road traffic offences. We provide support, guidance, and representation for anyone under investigation or facing charges.

Can you find out what data is held about you?

Rights to your data

Trainee Solicitor Lana Wilks of our Commercial Litigation team gives an overview of what subject access requests are, and when organisations can partially or wholly refuse a request.

Lana Wilks is a Trainee Solicitor in the Commercial Litigation Department and was recently made an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

She works closely with Partner David Birks on a broad range of dispute resolution and sports litigation matters and is a published legal writer, contributing articles on a range of emerging and topical legal issues.

A subject access request, often referred to as a "SAR" or "DSAR", is a statutory right that enables an individual to obtain access to their personal data held by an organisation, so that they can understand what information is held about them and why. This right arises under the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, as amended, including by the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 where relevant.

What is a subject access request?

A subject access request is an application, usually made in writing, by an individual for access to the personal data an organisation holds about them. A valid application does not need to refer expressly to data protection legislation, nor does it need to use any particular wording, and this, therefore, makes it simple for most individuals to submit a SAR.

In this context, "personal data" means any information relating to an identifiable individual. This includes information which identifies the person directly, such as their name, address, date of birth, or an identification number used by the organisation. It also includes information which may identify them indirectly, such as IP addresses, location data, cookies, or other online identifiers, where that information can be linked back to the individual. Personal data can also include opinions about a person, internal comments concerning them, and assessments or inferences drawn from other information held.

In practice, this means that organisations often hold more personal data than an individual may expect. Information generated through website use, online tracking, account activity, and internal correspondence may all fall within the scope of a SAR.

What duties does an organisation have upon receipt of a subject access request?

An organisation must ordinarily respond to a SAR without undue delay and, in any event, within one month of receipt.

There are, however, circumstances in which an organisation may require further information before it is obliged to provide a substantive response. For example, it may request:

- proof of the requester's identity, where this is reasonably necessary;
- clarification of the scope of the request, particularly where the request is broad or unclear; and/or
- further information needed to locate the relevant personal data, especially where the organisation processes a large volume of information relating to the requester.

Where the organisation reasonably requires further information of this kind, the time for responding may be paused until that information is provided.

The one-month time limit may also be extended by up to a further two months where the request is complex or where a number of requests have been made by the same individual. This commonly arises where the material requested is extensive, where there is mixed personal data relating to other individuals, or where careful review and redaction are required. If the organisation intends to extend time, it must notify the requester within the initial one-month period and explain why the extension is necessary.

In complying with a SAR, organisations must generally provide a copy of the requester's personal data, together with certain supplementary information. This may include details of the purposes for which the data is being processed and the recipients, or categories of recipient, with whom the data has been shared, along with other requirements in accordance with the requestor's rights.

What can be disclosed?

Organisations do not necessarily have to provide every document in full simply because it contains the requester's personal data. The right of access is to the requester's personal data, not automatically to complete, unredacted copies of all underlying documents.

Whilst SARs may be made by another person on an individual's behalf, they cannot properly be made without authority to do so. Where authority is in doubt, the organisation is entitled to seek evidence that the representative is authorised to act.

Where documents contain mixed personal data, meaning the requester's personal data is intertwined with that of another individual, the organisation may need to redact third-party information or, in some cases, withhold the relevant document altogether. The organisation must balance the requester's right of access against the rights and freedoms of others.

Organisations may also be entitled to withhold some or all personal data by relying on one or more statutory exemption. Where an exemption is relied upon to refuse a request in whole or in part, the organisation should explain the basis of the refusal and inform the requester of the avenues available to challenge that decision. In some circumstances, an organisation may also be entitled neither to confirm nor deny whether it holds the requested information.

There are a number of exemptions available to organisations such as:

- Crime and taxation
- Legal professional privilege
- Regulatory functions and functions designed to protect the public
- Judicial appointments, judicial independence and judicial proceedings
- Journalism, academia, art and literature
- Research and statistics
- Archiving in the public interest
- Health, education and social work information
- Child abuse information
- Management information
- Negotiations with the requester
- Confidential references
- Exam scripts and exam marks

The information provided in this article is broad and non-specific and does not amount to legal advice. McCormicks welcomes new instructions in relation to subject access requests and has a wealth of experience on the topic including making requests on an individual's behalf, advising on or responding to a request received, and dealing with refusals of requests.

- Manifestly unfounded or excessive requests
- Information about other people

The most common exemptions which are not specific to particular industries or organisations, are legal professional privilege, information about other people and manifestly unfounded or excessive requests. These are set out below in more information:

Legal professional privilege

If a requester's personal data is contained in confidential communications between the organisation and its legal advisers, that information is usually exempt from disclosure as privileged communications are confidential even where they contain the personal data of the requester.

Information about other people

Responding to a SAR may involve documents that contain personal data relating both to the requester and to other individuals.

Organisations must respect the requester's right of access, but they must also protect the rights of third parties. As a result, if another person's information appears within the requested material, the organisation may redact that information before disclosure. In some cases, if redaction is not possible or would not adequately protect the third party, the organisation may refuse to disclose that part of the information altogether.

Manifestly unfounded requests

A request may be considered 'manifestly unfounded' where the organisation is of the view that the individual is not genuinely seeking to exercise their right of access but is instead using the request for an improper purpose, such as to harass the organisation, cause disruption, or pursue a collateral objective in a plainly abusive manner.

Excessive requests

This is one of the more difficult exemptions to apply and, as with the exemptions above, its availability is highly fact-sensitive. Relevant considerations include whether the requester has made previous requests, whether the new request substantially overlaps with information already provided, how broad the request is, whether the organisation has already asked the requester to narrow its scope, and whether the burden of compliance is proportionate in the circumstances.

This exemption is often raised where there is ongoing litigation or an active dispute, particularly where a SAR appears to be used as a means of harassment, duplication, or as a tool to obtain material for a separate purpose outside the proper scope of the right of access. However, organisations should exercise caution: neither litigation nor a contentious background will, without more evidence, justify refusal. Any decision to rely on this exemption must be reasoned, evidence-based, and defensible on the facts.

CLIENT PROFILE

Redline Specialist Cars

Based in Knaresborough, Redline Specialist Cars was founded in 1997 and sells luxury cars nationwide, offering prestige brands such as Aston Martin, Rolls-Royce, Bentley, BMW, Range Rover and Land Rover, along with supercars such as Porsche, Lamborghini, Ferrari and McLaren.

In 2025, Redline merged with Leeds-based AMT which offers rental, leasing, subscription and insurance. Both continue to operate under their own names from their respective locations but joined forces to offer a complete package.

Please tell us about your business in 40 words.

Redline Specialist Cars is the largest independent prestige and supercar dealer in the UK selling 2,500 cars a year nationally. Established nearly 30 years, the business is built on reputation and customer care. Redline merged with the AMT Group in June 2025 to create the complete the car journey for consumers and businesses.

What has been your biggest business success?

Business success is maintaining your reputation and standards over 30 years amidst challenges in the marketplace.

Where is your business going now and how are you going to get there?

Redline Specialist Cars' aim is to continue doing what we do whilst complementing the offering of the AMT Group and strengthening their position in the marketplace.

How long have you worked with McCormicks?

We have worked with McCormicks for more than 10 years.

What do we do for you?

McCormicks has offered our business advice on acquisition, property purchase and employment law.

Who do you work with from our team?

James Towler (Head of the Corporate and Commercial department) Claire Baker-Kemp (Head of Commercial Property), David Leuchars (Senior Associate in Corporate and Commercial) and Iain Jenkins (Head of Employment).

What do you like most about working with us?

You have the resources to meet our needs across a range of legal disciplines and you take our business as seriously as we do, while retaining the ability to make the process more enjoyable than it might otherwise be.

Rob Milner of Redline, Neil McGawley of AMT and John Graeme of Redline.

Redline Specialist Cars

REDLINE

The long-anticipated Employment Rights Bill has now become law after receiving Royal Assent on 18 December 2025.

Unprecedented employment law changes

There will be a gradual implementation in its provisions across the next few years. Solicitor Apprentice Aisling McAuley, part of our Employment team, takes a look at the changes.

There are some significant changes which have been debated. The key ones are:

1. Statutory Sick Pay from Day One: The current three-day waiting period and the lower earnings thresholds no longer apply, effective from 6 April 2026.
2. Flexible and Family-Friendly Working from Day One: Requests for flexible working arrangements become a day-one right. Paternity leave and unpaid parental leave will also shift to a right from a worker's first day.
3. The controversial 'fire and rehire' practice will become an automatically unfair dismissal, taking effect from 1 January 2027.
4. Tighter regulation of zero-hours work: Employers using zero-hours contracts or agency/umbrella-company staff will face new obligations. This includes rights for regular hours, notice requirements for shifts, compensation for cancelled shifts and more rigorous agency work oversight. These changes are expected to come into force in 2027.
5. Stronger duties on equality, harassment prevention and transparency: A greater duty of care on employers including a stronger requirement to prevent sexual harassment (came into effect in October 2024), expand protections for pregnancy/maternity (expected in 2027) and more transparency.
6. Heightened record-keeping and reporting obligations: Employers will now be under an obligation to keep detailed records of holiday entitlement and pay. For larger businesses (250+ staff), there will be new gender-pay-gap action plans, menopause support and various other equality initiatives.

The scale and breadth of these changes are unprecedented. Some immediate concerns include an increase in administration, potential rises in payroll costs and the complexity of managing compliance across a diverse workforce.

Aisling McAuley is a Solicitor Apprentice in the Employment Department and assists Iain Jenkins with all aspects of the firm's Employment work.

Aisling has completed a Cilex Paralegal qualification and is currently studying for her law degree with BPP University.

Having joined a trade union law firm upon completion of her Cilex qualification, Aisling has experience assisting with the day-to-day management of both contentious and non-contentious cases, working within a busy employment department. As well as her experience in employment law, she has also worked in personal injury, dispute resolution and family.

A strength of Aisling's is her client-focused approach, taking care to understand each client's circumstances and provide both clear and practical support. Aisling is committed to building a variety of legal skills as she progresses towards qualification.

The legislation may also be seen as an opportunity to modernise – to recast working practices. The shift towards transparency, flexibility and clarity around workers' rights may enhance worker engagement and productivity. Only time will tell.

There are various ways that employers should prepare:

- Update or draft workplace policies: harassment, flexible working, parental leave and whistleblowing procedures, for example.
- Audit existing contracts: especially zero-hours and agency arrangements.
- Begin thinking about equality action plans, reporting frameworks and employee welfare initiatives (e.g: menopause support).
- Review payroll systems ensuring they can support changes to SSP and the new rules on shift cancellation/ compensation.

The legislation represents a huge shift in UK labour law. For employers, it brings additional responsibilities but also a chance to reset organisational practices in a rapidly changing world of work. Secondary legislation is expected throughout 2026 which will provide us with detail on how these changes will operate in practice. However, businesses that approach the changes pragmatically, start preparing early and react in a positive way to emerge stronger with a more engaged and productive workforce.

If you would like more information on the changes, Aisling can be contacted on 01423 530630 or by email at a.mcauley@mccormicks-solicitors.com.

Will the Government's plan to end some jury trials be effective in reducing the court backlog?

Curtailing jury trials

Senior Associate Solicitor of our Crime and Fraud team Michelle Stewart shares her thoughts on the move.

The Government's plan to abolish some jury trials is not the answer to the issues faced by the criminal justice system.

The proposal to replace juries in England and Wales with a single judge in cases where a convicted defendant would be jailed for three years or less has attracted widespread criticism from many lawyers, myself included.

There is no dispute that there are many problems with the system at the moment, with a backlog of cases at the Crown Court reaching record levels of 80,000 and some defendants charged this year who may not face trial for four years. But research by the Institute of Government shows that the time saved by making this change will only amount to two per cent of court time.

Given that the Ministry of Justice has said more than 90 per cent of criminal cases are already heard fairly without a jury, such as at the Magistrates' Courts, it is hard to see where a major time saving would be achieved.

There are other issues which also need to be addressed to reduce the backlog, such as a chronic under-investment in court buildings, leading to restrictions on sitting days, and a huge shortage of judges, court staff, prosecuting and defence lawyers.

We frequently see prisoners not being delivered to court in time and courtrooms sitting empty and addressing this would also be a major step forward, particularly in an area like North Yorkshire where attending court can involve time-consuming and costly travel for complainants and witnesses, as well as lawyers, especially when often repeated.

The right to trial by jury can trace its origins back to the 12th century in England, has long been a tenet of the criminal justice system and has a unique place in constitutional history. It has been a long-standing safeguard against the concentration of power in the hands of the state.

I believe that ending jury trials as suggested will also break the links with the communities affected by the very cases being heard. Not only are juries made up of diverse individuals, thanks to the selection procedure, but they are also comprised of people who have an inherent interest in how crime and criminality are dealt with at all stages in their communities.

Michelle Stewart is a Senior Associate Solicitor in our Crime and Fraud team with extensive experience of handling cases in the Police Station, Magistrates' Court, Youth Court and Crown Court.

She has conducted a wide range of criminal and fraud cases, including dishonesty, serious violent crime including murder, sexual offences, firearms matters and drug offences.

She has a reputation for empathising with clients who have no experience of the criminal justice system which has been particularly important when working with youths.

Michelle has excellent organisational and communications skills and offers a strong focus on client care, achieving positive results.

She is an accredited police station representative which allows her not only to advise those interviewed at the police station for the most serious offences but also those interviewed by other bodies, such as the Department for Work and Pensions, HMRC or the Environment Agency.

A major independent review was carried out by former senior judge Sir Brian Leveson. He also called for jury trials to be restricted but his proposal included volunteer magistrates deciding affected cases alongside a professional judge in order to keep a link to communities.

I am not alone in my opinions. More than 3,200 lawyers, including barristers and retired judges, have written to the Prime Minister asking him to drop the plan because they believe there is no evidence it will solve the delays in criminal courts.

The letter organised by the Bar Council, which represents all barristers in England and Wales, says the plan is an attempt *"to force through an unpopular, untested and poorly evidenced change to our jury system"*.

In common with them, I do not believe using juries has caused the crisis in the system.

I also join their call not to rush through this legislation which unnecessarily removes jury trials from thousands of people.

Out of hours

Reena Patel is our Accounts and Credit Control Manager, working alongside Finance Manager Hayley Firth to ensure the smooth running of the Accounts Department. When she is not hard at work, she has a close relationship with nature and loves spending time in the great outdoors.

Reena Patel

What is the most important thing in your life away from work?

First most important thing in my life away from work is my family and my two beautiful daughters whom I adore and love very much.

Then comes my allotment which I share with my friend Jess. This is where I escape to forget all my worries and stresses and re-charge my batteries. We love to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables and enjoy being in nature. Being at the allotment and growing and nurturing plants gives me a sense of satisfaction and pleasure.

Where is your favourite place in Yorkshire and why?

I love walking. We are spoilt for choice here in Yorkshire for places to visit. But Bolton Abbey is my favourite place in Yorkshire for woodland walks by the river and listing to the birds and sound of running water all year round. And it is not too far to drive either.

Blooming lovely

Some of Reena's produce

If you could choose your last meal in advance, what would it be?

This has to be any traditional Gujarati food my mum cooks. Particularly prawn curry with sorghum flour chapattis cooked on the woodfire, yum! It has that taste which you could never get enough of.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?

The best advice I have received is: "Keep yourself happy and content, because if you are, then you can give people around you the same."

What do you do to wind down after a busy day in the office?

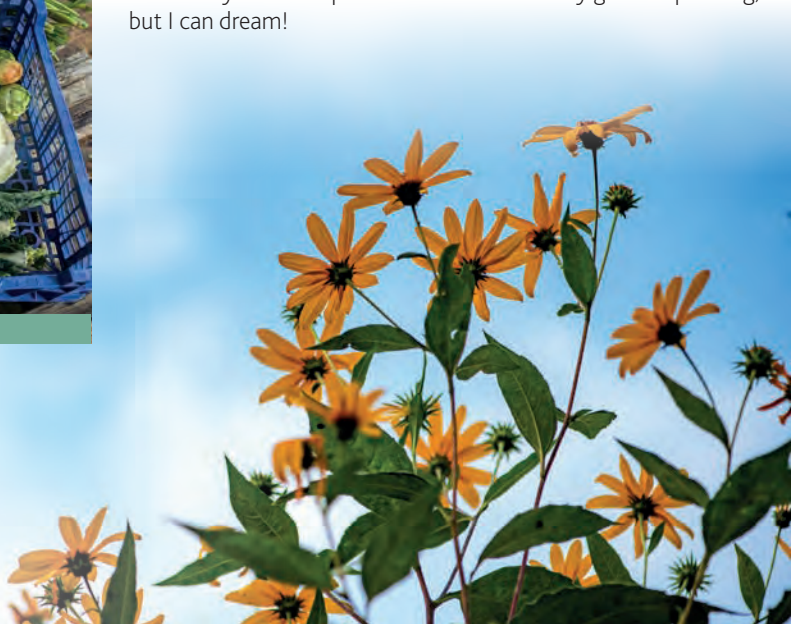
In summer I like to spend time after work at the allotment to take my mind off things and be in a peaceful environment. In winter nothing beats a good book and comfy clothes with some nibbles on the side. I also enjoy going to the theatre to watch plays, shows and musicals etc.

If you could visit anywhere, where would you choose?

I would love to visit the Grand Canyon one day to admire nature's creation in vast proportions and Lake Manasarovar in Tibet – the highest freshwater lake in the world – in the foothills of Himalayan Mountains.

If you wanted to be famous, what would it be for?

I would like to be famous for being a landscape painter to capture the beauty of all the places I visit. I am not very good at painting, but I can dream!



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OUR EXPERTISE

McCormicks offers the full portfolio of legal services to all forms of organisation including businesses, charities and sporting bodies, together with private individuals. The firm offers expertise in all areas of corporate and commercial work whilst maintaining a commitment to the personal client in areas such as rural property, tax, Trusts, probate and crime.

Charities & Community
- Charities
- Not For Profit

Corporate & Commercial
- Acquisitions and Disposals
- Banking and Finance
- Commercial Agreements
- Competition and EU Law
- Corporate Crime, Fraud and Risk
- IT and Data Protection
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy
- Intellectual Property
- Partnership and Company Law
- Regulatory and Disciplinary

Crime
- General Crime
- Corporate Crime, Fraud and Risk

Dispute Resolution and Litigation
- Commercial Disputes
- Mediation and Arbitration
- Partner/Shareholder Disputes
- Property and Construction
- Reputation Management

Employment

Insolvency & Bankruptcy

Mediation & Arbitration

Property
- Agriculture and Estates
- Commercial Property
- Development and Regeneration
- Residential Property

Sport, Media & Entertainment
- Employment
- IT and Data Protection
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy
- Intellectual Property
- Media and Entertainment
- Mediation and Arbitration
- Regulatory and Disciplinary
- Reputation Management
- Sponsorship
- Sport

Tax, Trusts, Wills & Estates
- Agriculture & Estates
- Care of the Elderly
- Tax and Trusts Disputes
- Trust and Tax Planning
- Wills and Probate

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