

SPECIALIST HEALTHCARE ADVICE

HEALTHCARE

Your trusted
legal partner



Our specialist team is dedicated to providing comprehensive legal advice and guidance to health and social care providers.

We understand the pressures, opportunities and innovations shaping the healthcare sector, and we are here to help you navigate the ever-changing landscape.

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TAILORED LEGAL SOLUTIONS

We are a full service law firm offering a wide range of legal services to meet your specific needs. Our expertise covers areas such as:

- buying, selling, re-organising and re-financing healthcare businesses
- assisting with collaborations and mergers between parties
- governance (rules relating to the ownership and management of the business)
- succession planning (how you will eventually exit the business)
- challenging CQC inspection reports, ratings, reviews and decisions
- buying and selling property
- construction, development and planning
- recruitment including advising on sponsorship licences and right to work checks
- employment & HR including drafting contracts and dealing with tricky staff issues
- data protection, cybersecurity, intellectual property, going digital and brand protection
- commercial agreements and procurement advice
- disputes including property and contractual
- HSE investigations and prosecutions
- inquests and coroner's investigations
- occupational health and safety, fire safety and wider premises safety



UNMATCHED EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT

Our team consists of approachable experts who are well-versed in the challenges faced by healthcare providers. Whether you are a care home owner, supported living operator, specialist or children's care provider, hospice, GP practice, primary care network (PCN), health tech company, pharmacy, dental practice, NHS Trust, social enterprise or any other healthcare service provider, we have the knowledge and experience to assist you.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Our team has a wealth of experience in the healthcare sector. Some highlights of our work include:

- acting for Phoenix Learning & Care Group on a major refinancing project and various acquisitions
- advising on a £16 million sale of a care portfolio (including a care home and supported living units). The sale involved support from corporate, property, employment, litigation and IP teams
- advising Stonehaven Healthcare in its acquisition of Woodhayes Nursing Home in St Leonards, Exeter
- providing legal support to Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust on property, employment, commercial contracts, and charity law matters
- assisting an NHS Trust with senior exits
- advising primary care out-of-hours service providers on governance and commercial matters
- providing legal support to St Monica Trust on a range of regulatory, property and commercial matters
- acting in connection with HSE prosecutions brought against NHS Trusts and Care Homes arising from serious and fatal incidents

We have also successfully handled GP practice mergers, guided PCNs on network agreements and structure, collaborated with health tech start-ups on agreements and brand protection, and facilitated acquisitions and sales for care home groups, veterinary practices, dental practices, and pharmacies. In addition, we have advised on the scope of CQC registration requirements, challenged CQC inspection reports and fines on behalf of clients and advised hospices on commercial agreements, branding and data protection issues.

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

Here's what some of our clients have to say about working with us:

“ We have just completed the sale of our two care homes and would like to thank the team at Stephens Scown for their knowledge, understanding and support during the complex 18 month process. Jade Kent led the project brilliantly with Jen Short-Martin, Helen Wallwork, Laura McFadyen and Toby Pool providing a level of support that was fundamental to achieving a positive outcome. After appointing Stephens Scown as our legal representatives, it soon became very clear that we had made the right choice, the level of expertise gave us reassurance and the team were unwavering with their support. During the process we reached out to the wider resources at Stephens Scown and were guided on employment, commercial property, IP, regulatory and the healthcare sector. The communication hit the right tone at every point and the team were always approachable, responsive and efficient. We would absolutely recommend Stephens Scown and would use their services again in the future. ”

Ben Smallridge

“ I have just completed the sale of my care home and Ltd company through Stephens Scown Solicitors Exeter office and I cannot recommend them highly enough. From the outset to the final exchange and completion, they demonstrated an exceptional level of professionalism, expertise in all fields and dedication to the job in hand. Their attention to detail and ability to navigate complex legal issues gave me complete peace of mind during what could have been a very stressful experience. They were always available to answer my questions whether it was a phone call or an email, providing clear and practical advice at every stage. Thanks to their hard work and diligence, the sale was smooth, efficient and successful. The whole process was completed in just under 6 months. I am truly grateful for their support and would not hesitate to use their services again in the future. ”

Mike Covell

“ We really value the relationship we have with Stephens Scown. We know we can discuss any issue with them. ”

Paula Martin, Chief Executive of Cornwall Air Ambulance

“ On receiving a buyer for our Care Home, we required a confidential solicitor to facilitate the sale. Not having any knowledge who to engage we approached our accountant who recommended Stephens Scown of Exeter. Jade Kent was assigned to be our lead solicitor. She along with Laura McFadyen whose focus was employment issues, other solicitors in the practice with needed skills and expertise all supported us and steered us through the sale from the beginning, to exchange and finally completion. What we appreciated was as a team they had a total understanding of the care field, worked brilliantly as a team, demonstrating not only excellent legal advice but always showed us a human side. During the complex process which could at times be stressful Jade remained calm, clear, approachable, and available throughout. We put our complete trust in her as she worked and negotiated to ensure our deal was successful and we achieved the best result. ”

Gina Kerler-Lovegrove, Manor Lodge Care Home

PASSIONATE PEOPLE, NATIONWIDE COVERAGE

As a team, we are passionate about healthcare and strive to make a positive impact.

Though based in the South West, we serve clients nationwide. Our flexible and innovative approach allows us to offer top-notch legal expertise regardless of your location.

Helen Wallwork

Partner and Head of Healthcare

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With over 20 years' experience in the healthcare sector, Helen has a deep specialism in this area. She regularly advises clients on:

- sales & acquisitions
- governance including shareholders agreements
- succession planning
- group reorganisations

Helen is also currently a trustee of Rowcroft Hospice.

"Helen is knowledgeable and reliable and knows our industry well and keeps up to date with changes. This gives her insights that other solicitors we have dealt with do not have."

Legal 500 (2025)

Jade Kent

Partner

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Jade is a key member of our Healthcare team, and a Championing Social Care Ambassador. She regularly advises clients on:

- sales & acquisitions
- governance including shareholders agreements
- succession planning
- group reorganisations

"We very much appreciated Jade's overall leadership, availability and clear explanations"

Barry Shears, Denise Shears (former owners) and Joanna Foulstone (former director), Hillbrow Residential Care Home Ltd

Steve Panton

Partner

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With over 20 years' experience in regulatory enforcement and compliance, Steve's practice includes specialist healthcare advice including:

- HSE and Local Authority investigations and prosecutions
- CQC inspections, ratings reviews and enforcement
- safeguarding
- complaints
- inquests and coroner's investigations
- compliance and risk management
- occupational health, premises safety and fire safety

"What sets him apart is not just his legal expertise, but his ability to make you feel supported and understood, even under pressure. His communication is always clear, direct and solution-focused."

Chambers & Partners 2026

Lisa Mulholland

Partner

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Lisa is head of our Immigration team, specialising in all aspects of UK immigration and nationality law including:

- sponsor licences and certificates of sponsorship
- supporting sponsors in meeting their ongoing duties
- audits of sponsor systems, processes and records to meet compliance duties
- training HR professionals/managers on compliant right to work checks and recruiting international employees
- advising employers subject to sanctions for employing illegal workers, and responding to Home Office requests

"The high standard of professionalism, diligent preparation, understanding of the present law and atmosphere were supported by warmth and appreciation of X's dreadful situation"

Stephens Scown client (2025)

Laura McFadyen

Partner

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Laura specialises in HR and employment law including:

- employment disputes, disciplinaries and grievances
- contracts of employment, staff policies and procedures
- whistle-blowing
- restructuring and redundancies
- TUPE transfers of staff
- employment advice on buying and selling businesses

"Laura's advice and guidance on employment law was extremely helpful throughout the process, particularly when dealing with some complex issues."

Barry Shears, Denise Shears (former owners) and Joanna Foulstone (former director), Hillbrow Residential Care Home Ltd

Tim Lane

Senior Associate

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As a commercial lawyer, Tim supports healthcare sector clients in respect of a number of matters including the following:

- Primary Care Network Agreements
- commissioning and funding arrangements involving the public sector
- commercial contracts in respect of the supply of goods and services

Legal 500 2025 - Leading Associate

Toby Pool

Partner

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Toby has over 25 years' experience in the property sector and advises clients on a wide range of non-contentious commercial property related matters. His experience includes:

- preparing and negotiating leases and licences
- property incorporations
- commercial sales, purchases & leases
- asset transfers
- investment in commercial real estate

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Ben Smallridge

Amy Ralston

Associate

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Amy is an Associate in Stephens Scown's Intellectual Property, Data Protection and Technology team, with a practice that spans the full innovation cycle – from identification through to protection and commercialisation. She advises on:

- technology, commercialisation, and contracts
- AI, legal frameworks, and governance
- intellectual property, audits, safeguarding, and strategic partnerships
- talent management, brand endorsement, and influencers

"Amy Ralston in particular has been exceptional. We have worked on various IP client work together and her manner is always clear, concise but with a great depth of knowledge."

Legal 500 (2025)

BALANCING PEOPLE, PLANET, AND PROFIT

As the first large UK law firm to become employee-owned, we have built a dynamic and innovative business dedicated to delivering exceptional service while fostering a supportive workplace. At Stephens Scown, we are committed to a sustainable future. We are proud to be the first B Corp™ law firm in the South West, demonstrating our commitment to high standards of social and environmental impact. By balancing people, planet, purpose, and profit, we contribute to positive change within the legal industry.

WHY STEPHENS SCOWN?

When it comes to healthcare related legal matters, Stephens Scown is your trusted partner. Let us help you navigate the complexities of the healthcare landscape while achieving your strategic goals. Contact us today to benefit from our in-depth sector knowledge, personalized solutions, and client-focused approach.

"The team are very competent in everything they do to assist. They have specialists in every department." Legal 500 (2026)

CONTACT US

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www.stephens-scown.co.uk/business/specialist-sectors/healthcare

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