



Neutral Citation Number: [2023] EWHC 374 (Admin)

Case No: CO/41/2023

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**KING'S BENCH DIVISION**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE COURT**  
**SITTING IN MANCHESTER**

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Date of Hand Down: Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Before:**

**MR JUSTICE FORDHAM**

**Between:**

**THE KING (on the application of  
DARRYL CLEUGH)**

**Claimant**

**- and -**

**NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL**

**Defendant**

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The **Claimant** in person  
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**Determination as to Venue**

I direct that no official shorthand note shall be taken of this Judgment and that copies of this version as handed down may be treated as authentic.

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THE HON. MR JUSTICE FORDHAM

**MR JUSTICE FORDHAM:**

1. This is a judicial determination on the papers, but where it is, in my judgment, appropriate to give reasons by way of a short judgment. This is a claim for judicial review in which a minded to transfer order (“MTTO”) to the Administrative Court in Leeds (the North-Eastern region) was made, stamped on 30 January 2023. The Claimant had filed the claim in the Administrative Court in Manchester (the North-Western region) and had answered “no” to the question in Form N461: “Have you issued this claim in the region with which the claim is most closely connected?” His stated “reasons” were:

*Bias and prejudice in a previous hearing whether the local court found in favour of a perpetrator following undue influence from [the] local authority.*

2. The MTTO gave reasons for a transfer to Manchester and gave the parties 7 days to file representations objecting to that course. The Defendant has filed no objections to the transfer. I have read the Claimant’s objections to the transfer, contained in an email dated 6 February 2023. In essence, he puts forward as objections to transfer are: (1) that he is the victim of harassment and data protection breaches; (2) that he would like to call Manchester-based witnesses to give evidence at the judicial review hearing; and (3) that he would find it difficult to travel to Leeds.
3. The claim for judicial review (filed on 6 January 2023) is a challenge to a homelessness decision letter dated 24 October 2022. The Court is not at this stage dealing with permission for judicial review. The Court is only dealing with Venue.
4. It is, in my judgment, clear that the region with which the claim is most closely connected is the North-Eastern region (Leeds). The Claimant was right to recognise in his Form N461 that the North-Western region (Manchester) was not. In my judgment, it is also clear that the case should be dealt with in Leeds. The High Court in Leeds will be able to deal with any and all relevant issues. I cannot accept that what is now, and belatedly, said about Manchester-based witnesses or difficulty in travelling to Leeds constitutes any good or convincing reason where the case should not be dealt with from that Court, which is where it belongs. I will make the transfer order.