

Chris Hughes OBE

Christopher Hughes is a UK qualified lawyer and biologist.

He devotes his professional time to a range of part-time public and judicial appointments in the UK.

In his judicial capacity he chairs tribunals dealing with the compulsory detention and treatment in hospital of patients with psychiatric conditions, allegations of misconduct concerning local councillors, disputes about access to information held by public bodies (Freedom of Information) and he will shortly be hearing cases concerning environmental law.

His other public roles include acting as Independent Chair of the National DNA Database Ethics Group – advising Government and Police on the ethical issues raised by the forensic use of DNA profiles – and Independent Chair of the UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum – bringing together all the stakeholders of the UK Chemical Industry (including NGOs, academic societies, trade unions, representatives of civil society and the industry) to advise Ministers on policy.

He has served as a board member of a number of health and local authorities and on regulatory boards dealing with the professions. He was for many years the Chief Legal Adviser to the British Medical Association and prior to that a lawyer in local government service.

He holds degrees from Cambridge, London and the Open Universities.