



Payne Hicks Beach further bolsters its Landed Estates and Agriculture Team with Partner hire

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Leading London law firm, Payne Hicks Beach, is pleased to announce the expansion of its Landed Estates and Agriculture Team with the appointment of Simon Blackburn as a Partner. Simon joins the firm from Macfarlanes LLP; his appointment is effective immediately.

Simon's practice encompasses a wealth of transactional and land management matters, including advising UK and overseas buyers on the sale and purchase of farms and estates and on all aspects of their management and diversification. Furthermore, Simon has particular expertise in matrimonial conveyancing of rural and residential property – alongside advising on issues arising under Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and unregistered land. Simon is also an active member of the Agricultural Law Association and sits on their inter-professional committee.

Both leading legal directories, Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, have identified Simon as a next generation lawyer to watch having described him as “very thorough, knowledgeable and patient”, with “a very creative way of thinking and approaching matters”. Simon's expertise will complement the firm's Partner-led Landed Estates and Agriculture offering – working closely with the Property and Private Client departments to provide a seamless service to landowners and their families.

Commenting on his appointment, Simon Blackburn, Partner at Payne Hicks Beach, says:

“In a polarizing market for rural clients looking to place their work in the capital, I am quite delighted to be joining a firm that is so unequivocally committed to Landed Estates and Agriculture. Having spent a career doing everything from ending an agricultural tenancy where the client's estranged husband set fire to part of the farmhouse to buying sporting estates for international clients, I am looking forward to doing all of that (and more) within a market leading practice .”

Alastair Murdie, Senior Partner at Payne Hicks Beach, states:

“On behalf of the firm, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Simon. His significant expertise will be an asset to the Landed Estates and Agriculture Team. Simon's appointment reflects the firm's continued commitment to providing clients with the highest calibre of expertise.”