



The Royal Academy  
of Engineering

Briefing

# The interface between law and engineering

Chair:

Sir Vivian Ramsey

Judge in charge of Technology and Construction Court

Venue:

The Royal Academy of Engineering

3 Carlton House Terrace

London SW1Y 5DG

Wednesday 19 May 2010

4.30pm for 5pm



## The interface between law and engineering

**Like all elements of society, engineering operates within the framework of the law. As part of their work, engineers routinely interact with the legal profession, in a whole spectrum of resulting issues including contract disputes, product liability, environmental legislation, health and safety and, potentially, corporate manslaughter.**

This meeting will examine these issues, explore attitudes of both the legal and engineering profession and consider what engineers need to know about the law and the consequences of failure.

The meeting will be an open forum discussion, the output of which will be used by the Academy to inform its future work at the interface of law and engineering and to further develop current workstreams.

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### Programme:

- 5pm**      **Opening comments from the chair**  
Sir Vivian Ramsey, Judge in charge of Technology and Construction Court
- 5.05pm**   **What should engineers be taught about the law?**  
Dr Peter Fenn
- 5.20pm**   **20 years of engineering and law at Kings College, London**  
Professor John Uff CBE QC FEng
- 5.35pm**   **What lawyers think of engineers and what engineers think of lawyers**  
Dr Chris Elliott FEng
- 5.50pm**   **Open forum discussion Topics inter alia:**  
safety; law and disputes; engineering inquiries; professional liability; corporate manslaughter; can a robot commit a war crime?
- 6.45pm**   **Summary and Conclusion**  
Peter Fenn
- 6.55pm**   **Closing comments**  
Sir Vivian Ramsey
- 7pm**      **Reception and drinks**

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Registration Form

I wish to reserve  place(s) for the event

Title  First name

Surname  Honours

Position

Organisation

Address

Postcode

Telephone  Email

### Guest 1

Title  First name

Surname  Honours

Position

Organisation  Email

### Guest 2

Title  First name

Surname  Honours

Position

Organisation  Email

### Please return to:

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Please detach and return booking form only

# The Royal Academy of Engineering

As Britain's national academy for engineering, we bring together the country's most eminent engineers from all disciplines to promote excellence in the science, art and practice of engineering. Our strategic priorities are to enhance the UK's engineering capabilities, to celebrate excellence and inspire the next generation, and to lead debate by guiding informed thinking and influencing public policy.

The Academy's work programmes are driven by three strategic priorities, each of which provides a key contribution to a strong and vibrant engineering sector and to the health and wealth of society.

## Enhancing national capabilities

As a priority, we encourage, support and facilitate links between academia and industry. Through targeted national and international programmes, we enhance – and reflect abroad – the UK's performance in the application of science, technology transfer, and the promotion and exploitation of innovation. We support high quality engineering research, encourage an interdisciplinary ethos, facilitate international exchange and provide a means of determining and disseminating best practice. In particular, our activities focus on complex and multidisciplinary areas of rapid development.

## Recognising excellence and inspiring the next generation

Excellence breeds excellence. We celebrate engineering excellence and use it to inspire, support and challenge tomorrow's engineering leaders. We focus our initiatives to develop excellence and, through creative and collaborative activity, we demonstrate to the young, and those who influence them, the relevance of engineering to society.

## Leading debate

Using the leadership and expertise of our Fellowship, we guide informed thinking, influence public policy making, provide a forum for the mutual exchange of ideas, and pursue effective engagement with society on matters within our competence. The Academy advocates progressive, forward-looking solutions based on impartial advice and quality foundations, and works to enhance appreciation of the positive role of engineering and its contribution to the economic strength of the nation.



The Royal Academy of Engineering promotes excellence in the science, art and practice of engineering.

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