This is the 23rd edition of the Planning Law Survey. As in recent years, only those working in roles that could involve them in commissioning or instructing a law firm or barrister were eligible to vote. The voting group for the law firm categories was made up of consultants, developers and infrastructure promoters, as well as public sector lawyers and planners.

Once again, only individuals invited by Planning were eligible to vote. This measure was introduced to ensure that the survey results could not be skewed by disproportionately high levels of responses from single organisations. To the same end, we took steps to ensure that the number of individuals that we invited to vote from individual consultants and law firms was proportionate to the number of chartered town planners, or specialist lawyers, at the firms.

More than 200 respondents completed the survey. Around 44 per cent of respondents are solicitors, 40 per cent are consultants, with the remainder split between developers and local authorities.

Plenty has changed in our annual review of the UK’s top-rated planning law firms, but not the identity of the firm that tops the table.

Town Legal celebrates its second year as our highest-rated law firm. The company has grown its roster of planning solicitors by 50 per cent in the past year, establishing a team of lawyers described by one client as “well respected and widely acknowledged as being experts”. Key appointments include Duncan Field, Louise Samuel and Michael Gallimore, who previously served as the respective heads of planning at Norton Rose Fulbright, Linklaters and Hogan Lovells. Instructions include acting on the restoration of the Parliamentary Estate, advising on plans for One Undershaft, intended to be the City of London’s tallest tower, and representing landowners affected by the High Speed 2 rail link. One consultant praised the firm’s