

**City of London Law Society
Energy Law Committee
Minutes of Meeting held 4 December 2024**

Attendees:

Munir Hassan (*Chair*), CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

Hywel Davies (*Vice-Chair*), Slaughter and May

Edward Longden (*Secretary*), CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

Iain Elder, DLA Piper UK LLP

Phillip Thomson, Baker & McKenzie LLP

Juliet Stradling (*observer*), TLT LLP

Kevin Hart (*observer*), Legal Policy Analyst – City of London Law Society

Iman Hassoun Fernandez (*observer*), CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

1. Actions

No.	Action/Point	Responsibility
<i>Immediate actions</i>		
1.	Circulate list of: - Firms currently represented - Firms (and/or lawyers) who we may wish to be represented - Energy companies (and/or specific lawyers at those companies) based in the City that we may wish to invite	Secretary to circulate by email
2.	Propose dates for quarterly meetings in 2025 and diarise accordingly	Secretary to propose dates by email
<i>Medium-term or recurring actions</i>		
3.	Compile a list of potential guest speakers, including individuals from other committees, regulatory bodies, or industry thought leaders	Chair / Vice-Chair / Secretary to prepare initial list and circulate to Committee members for their input
4.	Share with Committee significant developments in the energy sector, which the Committee might wish to discuss or comment on	Chair / Committee at next meeting
5.	Invite and appoint 5 new Committee members	Chair / Committee

No.	Action/Point	Responsibility
6.	Liaise with Government representatives to explore potential collaborative opportunities for the Committee	Legal Policy Analyst / Chair / Vice-Chair

2. Introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The attendees introduced themselves, with each member discussing their primary practice areas, the law firms they work for, and their general work.

The meeting commenced with a recap of the previous meeting's discussions, held on 12 September 2024. The Chair highlighted the Vice Chair's appointment to attendees who had not been present at the previous meeting.

3. Membership and Identity of the Committee

The Chair explained that the first action point following the last meeting was to analyse the membership structure and composition of the Committee, as well as to focus on increasing membership.

The members first discussed whether proxies or junior members should be allowed to attend meetings. It was generally agreed that proxies would be permitted, as would junior members under the "plus one policy" introduced in the previous meeting. The Legal Policy Analyst noted that any new member of the Committee must comply with the eligibility criterion requiring Committee members to be based within a one-mile radius of the City of London.

The Secretary then presented, and the Committee discussed, an analysis of the Committee's composition, focusing on members' backgrounds, practice areas, and sectors to ensure broad representation.

Gaps in organisations

The Committee considered the balance between private practice and in-house lawyers, noting that the current composition includes 20% in-house representation. It was agreed that the percentage split between in-house and private practice was generally desirable. The Chair emphasised the importance of attracting in-house lawyers specialising in power and renewables, as well as those from the investment and financial advisory sectors, as they would provide valuable insight from which the Committee might benefit.

It was suggested that a mapping exercise might help identify potential candidates, and the Secretary committed to compiling, with the assistance of Committee members, a list of names who we may wish to encourage to participate, particularly focusing on power and project financing roles.

Gaps in practice areas

The Secretary highlighted good representation in M&A and transactional work but identified gaps in property, planning, and disputes. Disputes practitioners were highlighted as a priority, given their increasing relevance in the energy sector. Other areas, such as trade, competition, and antitrust, were also noted as important, but more likely to be covered within the regulatory

practices of existing Committee members. The Committee agreed to examine the profiles of existing regulatory practitioners to identify further opportunities for diversification.

While the Committee is well-represented in traditional oil and gas and renewables, there is less coverage in the power sector. The Chair proposed focusing on candidates with specific energy transition expertise to ensure greater breadth in the Committee's expertise.

Finally, the Chair proposed reviewing the representation of law firms on the Committee. The group agreed to evaluate each current member to determine their continued representation and to compile a list of suggested firms for inclusion in the 2025 refresh. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate a list of represented firms for further input before action is taken.

4. The Committee's engagement with policy in the energy sector

Following on from previous discussions in the last meeting, the Committee discussed its ability to engage in policy matters, focusing on how it could contribute effectively as a body of lawyers.

The Committee reviewed and briefly discussed recent developments in the energy sector that it could potentially engage with:

- Clean Power by 2030 and Labour's plans to position the UK as a "Clean Energy Superpower."
- The Review of Electricity Market Arrangements (REMA).
- Public consultations on:
 - Scope 3 emissions
 - Non-pipeline and cross-border CO₂ transportation
 - Judicial reviews of NSIPs
 - Competition in onshore transmission projects

It was noted that the Committee had previously responded successfully to a consultation. However, there was consensus that the majority of the Committee members' clients form their own view on consultations and other key policy developments, making it challenging for the Committee to comment on these matters without risking conflicts of interest. Despite this, members recognised opportunities to influence policy in areas where clearer legislation could reduce disputes and improve efficiency, such as interventions in the grid connections regime and appeals processes.

The Chair suggested sharing a weekly list of consultations amongst the Committee to help identify relevant topics and promote wider engagement where appropriate.

The Legal Policy Analyst noted that other CLLS Committees occasionally engage directly with ministers, MPs, and members of the House of Lords to advocate for legislative changes relevant to their sectors, such as resurrecting important bills. It was suggested that the Energy Committee could similarly leverage its expertise to respond to ministers' questions and provide meaningful input on key issues. The Chair emphasised the importance of focusing on high-level matters and offering constructive input on draft legislation to pre-empt potential challenges. Additionally, the group agreed that evaluating the impact of broader legislative changes on the energy sector would

be a more strategic use of the Committee's resources than attempting to respond to every consultation.

The Legal Policy Analyst highlighted the need for engaging with Government representatives to better understand their priorities and identify areas where the Committee could offer valuable contributions. He proposed reaching out to key figures in Government committees and policymakers to demonstrate the Committee's value. The Committee recognised that building credibility would require showcasing the Committee's past achievements and presenting concrete examples of its impact.

Finally, the Committee discussed the potential for publishing high-level thought pieces on the implications of significant legislation, both within and outside the energy sector. These contributions would enhance the Committee's visibility and influence, while also demonstrating its expertise in shaping effective policies, and the Chair proposed that this be kept under consideration.

5. Guest speakers at future meetings of the Committee

The Committee discussed inviting guest speakers to future meetings to provide insights and support discussions on key topics. Potential speakers could include lawyers, industry experts, and thought leaders in the energy sector, focusing on broad and relevant topics to ensure engagement from the breadth of Committee membership. Suggestions from the Committee included representatives from organisations such as Ofgem, DESNZ, or other prominent bodies.

Collaborations with other committees, such as those in relation to AI or ESG, were also considered to co-host events or share speakers. Guest speaker sessions could be organised as events open to lawyers from member firms, providing a platform to showcase the Committee's expertise and engage external stakeholders.

The Committee agreed that future meetings should balance focused working sessions with guest speaker events. An annual event was proposed as a long-term goal to celebrate achievements and engage a wider audience. In the immediate term, the next meeting will aim to include a guest speaker to initiate this approach and set the tone for future engagement.

6. Summary of actions

The Committee reviewed the current schedule of quarterly meetings, noting that the next meeting would be held at the end of February 2025. Members expressed general satisfaction with the quarterly format and agreed to continue with this arrangement. Discussions focused on optimising

meeting logistics, including location and timing, to ensure maximum attendance, with the next meeting to be held at the offices of Slaughter and May and a guest speaker to be invited.

The Committee confirmed its aim to onboard five new members by this meeting, using a rolling recruitment process where the first five confirmations will be accepted.

The Legal Policy Analyst will liaise with Government representatives to explore potential collaborative opportunities for the Committee, noting that substantive engagement with Government might take longer and would likely occur after February.

The Secretary confirmed that he would seek to diarise meeting dates for 2025.

7. Any other business

The discussion then moved on to various topics affecting the energy sector, following which the Chair thanked the members for their participation and closed the meeting.