

Minutes of CLLS Energy Committee Meeting
12 September 2024

Attendees:

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

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

Stephen Jurgenson, Savannah Energy

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

Kevin Hart, Legal Policy Analyst – City of London Law Society

Iman Hassoun Fernandez, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

1. Actions/Points Agreed at Meeting

No.	Action/Point	Lead(s)
1.	Circulate formal agenda prior to the next meeting	Chair / Secretary
2.	Send email to reinvigorate participation	Chair / Secretary
3.	Share information on the City of London Solicitors' Company livery membership	Legal Policy Analyst
4.	Propose a speaker for the first 2025 meeting	Committee at next meeting
5.	Cover significant developments in the energy sector on which the Committee might wish to comment publicly	Chair / Committee at next meeting
6.	Organise hosting of future meetings	Chair / Committee at next meeting
7.	Perform gaps analysis on members	Chair / Secretary
8.	Share the CLLS procedure guide	Legal Policy Analyst
9.	Invite and appoint new Committee members	Chair / Committee

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.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair

The Legal Policy Analyst held an election for the appointment of Hywel Davies as Vice-Chair of the Committee. A vote was conducted, including proxy votes, and Hywel Davies was unanimously appointed as Vice-Chair. The Legal Policy Analyst agreed to circulate the CLLS procedure guide to the Committee at the next meeting.

4. Aims of the Committee

The Chair outlined the agenda for the meeting, which focused on revitalising the Committee, as it had not convened since April 2020. He discussed the role of the Committee, emphasising its primary objectives of engaging with public matters and policy development. The Chair stressed the importance of offering practical, industry-specific insights to policymakers to help shape clear and effective legislation.

The Chair also addressed the Committee's role in expanding outreach and marketing initiatives to position the City of London as a global hub for energy expertise. He noted that many countries, including Australia and others in Asia, look to the UK as a model for energy law and regulation and that the City of London continues to play a crucial role in shaping the energy market. The Chair emphasised the importance of maintaining this leadership in the energy sector and stressed that there is still much to learn from the UK.

5. Promoting the City of London

The Committee discussed the proposal from the previous meeting to create a promotional document highlighting the City of London's and the UK's strengths in the energy sector.

The document should emphasise how the City of London advances critical areas within the energy sector, including outreach efforts and key initiative development. Interviews were suggested to showcase the City's expertise, especially in financing and energy development.

The Committee agreed that, from a legal profession perspective, representing the City of London as a key provider of legal services, including attracting interest from international entities and universities, is essential. Committee members were encouraged to advocate for the City of London during international conferences, promoting its role in the energy sector and leadership in energy law. This promotional document would aim to position the City of London as a key player in global energy discussions. It was agreed that this topic would be revisited at a future meeting.

6. Improving the Committee

Increasing Outreach

The discussion shifted to how the Committee could be improved, particularly in terms of how it could engage with international audiences and promote its activities.

The Legal Policy Analyst shared that the CLLS Arbitration and Litigation Committee organises a "London International Disputes Week," which successfully engages international participants and highlights the City of London's role in global legal disputes. He suggested that a similar initiative could be beneficial for the Committee to raise its profile.

The Chair then inquired about CLLS strategies for attracting foreign delegations or international stakeholders, especially in the context of the UK being seen as a model for energy expertise. He noted that there may be opportunities to invite these stakeholders to London to observe practices of member firms.

Kevin agreed, pointing out that the City of London Corporation frequently hosts delegations from other countries, often facilitated by figures like Dame Fiona Woolf, the former Lord Mayor of London. He highlighted that the Committee could play a more prominent role when energy-related topics are part of these discussions.

The Committee also discussed building relationships with relevant departments to better understand the challenges they are facing, positioning the Committee as a contributor to policy discussions. A suggestion was made to invite government officials, including backbenchers and members of the House of Lords, who could raise key issues. It was proposed that a list of contacts could be compiled at the next meeting by Committee members to aid in this effort.

Improving diversity

The Committee also discussed increasing membership diversity as a method to improve its effectiveness. The Legal Policy Analyst mentioned that the Committee could engage younger members of the profession through initiatives such as the “Bridges and Shadows” programme. This initiative allows junior lawyers to observe committee meetings as shadows, giving them insight into the Committee's work. For example, in a committee of 15 members, five junior colleagues could participate for three meetings over a 9-month period before rotating out for a new group. This would help younger professionals understand the CLLS's work and potentially encourage future involvement.

Additionally, the Committee discussed hosting an annual event featuring a guest speaker to create opportunities for both senior and junior members to engage with key figures in the sector. It was suggested that this would be made a regular occurrence. The Legal Policy Analyst noted that other committees, such as the Competition Committee, regularly invite external speakers, and this practice could be adopted by the Energy Committee as well. It was resolved by the Committee that those matters would be given further consideration and discussed with a wider group at the next Committee meeting.

Membership gaps analysis

The Committee discussed the need to initiate a gap analysis to identify areas where the Committee could attract new members, with a particular focus on in-house lawyers and professionals from diverse backgrounds. This would provide a diverse perspective when engaging with government and public authorities. Members emphasised the importance of engaging younger generations and improving diversity within the Committee. The Committee agreed that a proactive approach would help fill gaps left by non-engagement.

It was acknowledged that recent participation has been limited. To address this, the Committee discussed sending an email to confirm continued interest from current members. Those unable to continue to participate would be asked to recommend someone else, to re-invigorate participation. The email would focus on diversifying the Committee's membership, particularly by including more women.

The Chair then outlined the types of lawyers who would be ideal for the Committee, emphasising the importance of including private practice lawyers, in-house lawyers, those working with public bodies, and energy sector experts, particularly those focused on energy transition. The Committee discussed the broad scope of the energy sector and agreed that the Committee's size could be expanded, given the range of expertise required.

The Committee further agreed that expanding its membership would ensure adequate coverage of key disciplines within the energy sector, including property and planning, M&A, project financing, regulatory and contractual works, disputes, competition, and greenwashing. The Chair confirmed he would circulate a list of essential disciplines that the Committee should cover moving forward. The primary sectors identified were oil and gas, traditional power, energy transition and renewables, covering around 5–6 disciplines across 4 industry sectors. The

Secretary was tasked with creating a composition map for the current Committee, to identify the skills/areas already covered and where there are gaps and agreed to circulate this in due course.

The discussion also touched on the Committee's role in addressing climate change issues. While climate change is currently handled by the Energy Committee, there is potential for overlap with the ESG Committee. For now, it was agreed that climate change matters should remain within the Energy Committee's remit, although this may be revisited in the future.

7. Joining the Committee

The Committee discussed ways to streamline and publicise the process for energy practitioners to apply to join the Committee. It was noted that the CLLS is transitioning to a new system, moving from its current unincorporated status to a company limited by guarantee without shareholders by January.

It was proposed that committee membership be limited to 5 or 6 years, with 3-4 year rotations to introduce new members while maintaining continuity. A review of the current members was suggested, with an ideal participation rate of 66-75%. The Committee agreed that a flexible approach would allow for self-regulation and delegation of responsibilities within sub-groups as needed.

8. Frequency and Method of Future Meetings

The Committee proposed holding quarterly meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for early December 2024. It was suggested that meetings should primarily be held in person, with a "plus one" policy allowing members to bring a junior colleague. There was consensus that at least two meetings per year should be in person, with the other two held as hybrid meetings.

It was agreed that in-person meetings foster better engagement and momentum. A more formal process will be followed, with agendas circulated in advance to ensure effective organisation. Post-meeting social gatherings were also discussed to enhance participation.

A question was raised about whether Committee members should also join The City of London Solicitors' Company. The Legal Policy Analyst agreed to circulate more information on this matter.

9. Next Call Action Points

It was discussed that, prior to the next call, a formal agenda would be circulated. The agenda for the next meeting would include setting dates for 2025, and covering major developments in the City of London's energy sector, including updates from COP. At least one topic would focus on the latest energy sector developments, particularly within the City of London.

Additionally, attention will be given to the results of COP29 in November 2024 and the agenda for COP30.

Lastly, the next meeting would propose a speaker for the first 2025 meeting. Different member law firms would host future meetings, starting with CMS.

10. Any Other Business

The next meeting is scheduled for 4th December at 5 pm. The Chair thanked the members for their participation and closed the meeting.