

The Right Honourable Alex Chalk, KC, MP  
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

May 2024

Dear Lord Chancellor

You will be aware that the Arbitration Bill is among those Bills which have fallen in the “wash-up” process following the announcement of the dissolution of Parliament and of the forthcoming general election.

The City of London Law Society (“CLLS”) would therefore ask that the Arbitration Bill be brought back in the King’s Speech in the new Parliament.

As you will be aware from your recent meeting with our Chair, Colin Passmore, the CLLS Arbitration Committee has been involved in the formulation of the Bill following a request by the Law Commission last year to assist in its development. We submitted responses to the Law Commission’s consultations, and earlier this year, the House of Lords Bill Committee asked me to give evidence to them on the Bill.

The CLLS Arbitration Committee has as one of its key roles the support and expansion of London as one of the leading global centres for arbitration. You will be aware that that the City faces many challenges from established and new forums which are seeking to increase their profiles and attract more clients to their jurisdictions: I am thinking particularly of those in the Gulf states and in the Far East. The legal profession here in London is world-leading, both for our clients here in the UK and for those exporting our legal services across the globe; and within the profession, our arbitrators across our law firms and barristers’ chambers are among the best providers of such services.

The Committee has made its position clear on why the legislation is needed and supported the Law Commission as it prepared the legislation for introduction into Parliament. The Arbitration Act 1996, which has proved a model for arbitration services since it was passed, needs to be updated. Those individuals and businesses that are reaching the point of deciding as to the jurisdiction in which to hold arbitration hearings ten or twenty years’ down the line need to know that the legislative framework that supports the use of arbitration will continue to be fit for purpose, certain, not complex, and to give value for money. It must also deal with issues such as confidentiality, impartiality and the role of the courts in any appeals from the arbitration process.

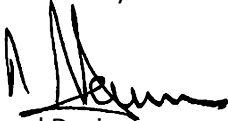
The current Bill supports these principles, and it is vital that it is reintroduced into Parliament at the first available opportunity. It is important that London does not lose its place as a global centre of arbitration for which it has fought so hard, and the resultant attraction of global clients to our businesses here in the UK.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. My e-mail address is [Michael.Davison@hoganlovells.com](mailto:Michael.Davison@hoganlovells.com).

By way of courtesy, I am copying this letter to Shabana Mahmood MP and to The Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Davison', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Davison  
Chair, Arbitration Law Committee  
City of London Law Society