

The Right Honourable Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd,  
House of Lords  
Westminster  
SW1A 0PW

May 2024

Dear Lord Thomas,

### **Arbitration Bill 2024**

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”) has therefore written to the Lord Chancellor asking that the Arbitration Bill be brought back in the King’s Speech in the new Parliament.

I had the great privilege of appearing in front of your committee on 21<sup>st</sup> February when we discussed the Bill in general and in particular whether the issue of clause 1(2) of the Bill (adding new Section 6A to the Arbitration Act 1996) was sufficiently clear in its drafting.

As you will be aware from our submissions to the committee, our responses to the Law Commission, and indeed from evidence of other witnesses appearing before you, we regard it as essential that this Bill is revived as soon as possible.

The CLLS Arbitration Committee, and the CLLS more generally, have as part of their key roles the support and expansion of London as one of the leading global centres for law, and within that role, the support of our arbitration services. The Arbitration Act 1996, which has proved a model for arbitration services since it was passed, needs to be updated. Businesses which are going to use London’s arbitral skill set 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.

Given the fact that the Bill has fallen, and the potential for a new government of a different political party being formed, it is not yet clear if your committee will be revived on the back of the Bill being reintroduced into Parliament, and indeed if you would be asked to chair it. In any event, however, we would be grateful if you and your colleagues

on the committee continue your interest in all matters arbitral and to follow the course of any revived legislation as it makes its way through the House of Lords.

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).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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