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INTRODUCTION TO OUR ENERGY PRACTICE

We have been providing legal services to clients in the energy sector and to energy consumers for over 20 years. We are consistently ranked amongst the leading energy practices in the UK.

"impressive range of expertise"

This sector is becoming increasingly centre stage as we seek to address the greatest challenge to mankind: global warming and the adverse climate changes which will inevitably occur without positive action.

We consider the sector to encompass:

- **Generation** - a mix of renewables, combined heat and power (CHP) and nuclear generation, with fossil fuel fired power stations continuing to play a significant role but having to capture and indefinitely store the carbon produced
- **Transmission and distribution** - power and heat must be delivered to the places it is needed in an efficient and cost effective manner

- **Distributed energy** - the development of smaller independent networks for heat and electricity distribution and the setting up of energy service companies ("ESCOs") to build and operate such networks
- **Consumption** - consumers must become more energy efficient both to keep costs under control and to reduce emissions
- **Suppliers** - the drive to a low carbon economy is helping to revive our manufacturing skills base, with new companies coming to market with products ranging from electric cars to real time "smart" meters
- **Advice** - new and innovative consultancies are coming to the market to help all of the above to meet the challenges they face
- **Regulation** - increased regulation is inevitable as the drive to increase renewables and reduce greenhouse gas emissions gathers pace.

Our Energy Practice comprises lawyers drawn from across the firm's 50 partners and 130 lawyers. Many have acted for energy clients for many years and understand the market, the regulatory framework and the business drivers. They specialise and can assist you in the following areas:

- Licensing and regulatory compliance
- Protection and exploitation of intellectual property rights
- Energy contracts
- Energy projects
- Trading of energy and emissions allowances
- Debt collection and invoice disputes
- Fund raising
- Property and planning.

We are based in Birmingham and London and are members of two thriving and active international referral networks, Multilaw and State Law Resources.

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