

Oil & Gas

Overview

Our Energy & Natural Resources team has grown significantly in recent years and is now unrivalled in the Irish market. We have 12 partners and 15 associates with a diverse range of experience gained in industry and through advising on domestic and international transactions. We understand the technical, commercial and regulatory issues frequently encountered in the development, financing and operation of upstream oil and gas projects.

This experience and specialist industry knowledge can be drawn on to deliver solutions that meet clients' objectives. The team is further supported by specialists in all other relevant areas of law including energy regulation, tax, dispute resolution, planning and environmental law and anti-trust thereby ensuring we offer a full service to our oil and gas clients.

*Dublin, London,
New York & San Francisco*



Notable clients

- T5 Oil & Gas
- Dragon Oil plc
- Valero
- Kuwait Petroleum
- Scotia Oil & Gas
- Gas Networks Ireland

Our Oil & Gas expertise

- Acquisitions and disposals of interests, including farm-in agreements
- Joint operating agreements, drilling contracts and field services arrangements
- Production sharing agreements
- Oil and gas infrastructure development and EPC construction contracts
- Petroleum licensing and regulation, including health and safety
- Oil and gas related disputes, including arbitration and judicial review
- Gas storage and transportation arrangements
- Codes of Operation
- Reserve based lending agreements
- Petroleum taxation
- AIPN and IADC Model Contracts

Representative matters

- **Dragon Oil plc** on its acquisition for £3.6bn by Emirates National Oil Company and on a variety of corporate matters including the prospective takeover of another Irish registered E&P plc
- **Fastnet Oil & Gas plc** on the acquisition of Pathfinder Hydrocarbon Ventures and its oil and gas exploration assets in Morocco
- **T5 Oil & Gas Limited** on the acquisition of oil and gas exploration assets in Senegal
- Various clients on options and farm-in arrangements concerning exploration assets in offshore Ireland and internationally
- **Valero** on the acquisition of the downstream assets in Ireland associated with the acquisition of the Pembroke refinery
- **Kuwait Petroleum** on regulatory aspects of its downstream assets in Ireland
- **Scotia Oil and Gas** on a bid to acquire major interest in the South Celtic Sea

- Advised on various gas shippers on gas sales and trading agreements with upstream producers
- Advised on on-shore and cross-border gas infrastructure development and operation including connected system agreements, transportation service agreements and codes of operation
- Advised on gas trading agreements – NBP Terms, ISDA European Gas Annex and EFET Gas

Individual experience

Our team comprises partners with significant international and industry experience gained prior to joining the firm.

Standout assignments include advising:

- A major UK energy plc on a bid to acquire Marathon's interest in the Corrib Gas Field
- An Irish AIM listed E&P company on a reserves based loan facility for gas assets in Morocco and Egypt
- An Irish AIM listed E&P company on various upstream acquisitions, development, farm-in agreements and production sharing agreements in Ireland, Namibia, Thailand, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia and Egypt
- A European gas utility on LNG contracts with Nigeria NPC, Snovit LNG of Norway and Shell Malaysia
- Lenders on a transnational gas pipeline project from Mozambique to South Africa
- A private equity investor on the disposal of its JV interests in one of Russia's largest oil producers
- A major Russian oil company on restructuring its European oil and gas portfolio and related acquisitions and disposals
- A Russian AIM listed E&P company on a restructuring
- A private equity fund on a investment and subsequent restructuring
- A UK E&P plc on its public takeover by another UK plc
- A UK E&P plc on its proposed disposal of a 40% stake in the Greater Bualuang Area in Thailand and the related joint venture with local JV partner

Key contacts



Frank O'Flynn

Partner, Energy & Natural Resources

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Frank is a corporate partner in the Energy & Natural Resources team with particular experience in oil and gas. He has advised on the development, financing and operation of energy and infrastructure projects and associated contractual arrangements in Ireland and internationally for over twenty years.

Frank previously worked as an energy and projects lawyer with leading UK and US firms. He also completed secondments to

BP Exploration in Aberdeen and to an 'acting general counsel' role at Bord Gáis Éireann (Irish Gas Board). Frank is a member of the board of the National Oil Reserves Agency. He is also a member of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators and the Energy Institute.



Justin McKenna

Partner, Corporate

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Justin is a corporate partner in the Energy & Natural Resources team specialising in corporate finance, mergers & acquisitions and private equity transactions.

He has extensive experience in corporate transactions with particular emphasis on all aspects of offers for, or the acquisition or disposal of, interests in public companies and the regulation of such transactions, public offers of equity securities by Irish and foreign issuers, private enterprise acquisitions and

disposals, private equity investments and investment and acquisition transactions involving management groups.

In the upstream oil and gas sector, Justin has represented Fastnet Oil & Gas plc, Dragon Oil plc and T5 Oil & Gas on a variety of transactions including prospective public takeovers, the take-private of Dragon Oil, fundraisings, IPOs, acquisitions and disposals and farm-in and licencing arrangements.



Graeme Bell

Partner, Corporate

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Graeme is a corporate partner in the Energy & Natural Resources team and Head of our London office. He specialises in cross-border mergers and acquisitions with particular expertise on the energy sector.

Graeme has extensive international experience having advised on numerous high profile transactions in the UK, the US, the Middle East, Asia and across Europe. His clients include private equity funds, hedge funds, global corporates, publicly-listed entities and entrepreneurs.

Graeme joined Mason Hayes & Curran in 2016, having previously practised as a corporate lawyer with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in London and New York and before that with Ashurst in London and Frankfurt.

In the upstream oil and gas sector, Graeme has represented international public and private E&P companies and private equity funds on acquisitions, disposals and restructurings.

What others say about us...

Our Energy & Projects team

"Amongst the top energy firms."

Chambers & Partners Europe, 2016

Our Energy & Projects team

"Always provides clear and contextualised advice."

Legal 500, 2016

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