COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL

CATUG/2026

15 July 2026

MINUTES OF THE COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL USER GROUP MEETING (02/26) WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2026

A meeting of the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) User Group took place on Wednesday 8th July 2026 (1715-1830 hrs) in the Mansfield Room / via MS Teams.

Attendees:	Ben Tidswell	CAT (Chair)	Meeting Chair
	Mrs Justice Bacon	CAT (President)	
	Charles Dhanowa KC (Hon)	CAT (Registrar)	
	Almira Delibegovic-Broome KC*	Axiom Advocates	
	Emily Neill*	Bar Library (Belfast)	
	Tom de la Mare KC*	Blackstone Chambers	
	Sarah Abram KC	Brick Court	
	Hugo Leith*		
	Daniel Barnett	CMA	
	Mark Sansom*	Freshfields	
	Belinda Hollway	Hausfeld	
	Helen Fairhead	Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer	
	Sarina Williams*	Linklaters	
	Lucinda Cunningham	Matrix Chambers	
	Natasha Pearman*	Milberg	
	Rob Williams KC*	Monckton	
	George Peretz KC*		
	Martin Ballantyne*	Ofcom	
	Matt Burton	Department for Business & Trade	
	Russell O'Brien	CAT (Referendaire)	Secretary

* via MS Teams

Apologies:	Peter Freeman	CAT	
	Marie Demetriou KC	Brick Court	
	Stephen Wisking	Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer	
	Jon Turner KC	Monckton	
	Totis Kotsonis	Pinsent Masons	

Item	Record	Action
1 Introduction	Ben Tidswell and the President welcomed all attendees to the meeting.	
2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (18 Mar 26)	The Minutes of the meeting on 18 March 2026 were reviewed and agreed without comments.	

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3 CAT Operational Matters	(a) **Tribunal Website: Notices of Damages Awards and Settlements**. The Registrar updated the User Group on the new section of the Tribunal website titled "Notices of Damages Awards and Settlements", which linked through to active collective action distribution pages. The Registrar asked for any feedback, with attendees saying they had noticed the addition. The Registrar said that he would be issuing a guidance note indicating that Class Representatives should send a copy of the approved notice to the Registry in the exact form in which it would be sent out to the class members (with all dates and other details that may, in the draft notice attached to the order approving the notice, have been left to be finalised nearer to publication). The Registry would then manually stamp the notice and return a PDF of the document to the Class Representative for despatch to class members as the "official" notice. (b) **Listings Process**. The President explained that the Tribunal had attempted a new listing process, which operated through counsel's clerks. However, this had proved to be unsuccessful and led to further delays in listing hearings. The Tribunal has therefore reverted to the previous practice of seeking the parties' availability through parties' solicitors. Attendees were grateful for the Tribunal attempting the new system. (c) **CAT Security**. The President discussed security arrangements and sought feedback for a periodic review.	
4 CAT Rules Update	(a) **Tribunal Update**. The President noted that a copy of the draft Tribunal rules had been shared with a sub-committee of the User Group who had made a number of comments. Once those comments had been analysed, and where appropriate, integrated into the draft, the draft would be sent to the Department of Business and Trade for review, ultimately leading to the production of a statutory instrument enacting the new Tribunal rules. This would likely take the rest of the year to conclude. (b) **Department of Business and Trade Update**. The Department of Business and Trade updated the User Group on its review of the collective proceedings regime, stating that it soon intended to publish a consultation document, which would contain its proposed response to the evidence gathering exercise. The intention was then to include any changes to the regime in the Competition Bill (mentioned in the King's Speech) sometime during the Autumn. The Bill was also likely to contain provisions relating to resourcing of the Tribunal, the transfer of regulatory appeals to the Tribunal and various matters relating to the CMA. The Department stated that at this stage this timing was only indicative and may be subject to change.	**Registrar**
5 Costs Control in Collective	(a) Costs in collective proceedings Practice Direction. Following from the previous meeting, Belinda Hollway and Sarina	

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Proceedings	Williams provided an update regarding their work on a note which would assist the Tribunal in drafting a Practice Direction on costs in collective proceedings. They were taking views from various stakeholders and trying to gather empirical data. There was, however, an issue in gathering costs data from public sources. There was a discussion as to how this information could be gathered, including how anonymisation might assist. The aim is to circulate a note before the next User Group meeting. Within the planned Practice Direction, the President stated that she would think about whether it would be useful or practicable to give an indication of how long the various stages of litigation in collective proceedings should take in a typical case. The President asked whether the note could discuss the costs of preparing economic expert reports and whether there could be a mechanism for scrutinising this source of costs. **Action (02/26-01)**: **Costs note to be circulated in advance of next User Group meeting.**	**Belinda Hollway / Sarina Williams**
6 Confidentiality PD	**Draft Confidentiality Practice Direction**. The Tribunal had circulated a draft Practice Direction on Confidentiality to the User Group prior to the meeting. The President was interested to hear any feedback. The User Group discussed specific points on the draft. The President asked the User Group to provide specific drafting suggestions in relation to the above points for the Tribunal's consideration. If those suggestions were received by 22 July 2026, the Tribunal could then finalise the Practice Direction with the aim of publishing it by the end of Trinity Term. **Action (02/26-02): Drafting suggestions to be sent to the Tribunal by 22 July 2026. Practice Direction to be published by end of Trinity Term.** The User Group raised the possibility of the Tribunal producing a template confidentiality ring order. The group noted that this had previously been attempted. Helen Fairhead stated she would locate the previous template. Natasha Pearman stated that she could then consider and propose a draft of a new template.	**All**

Item	Record	Action
7 Any Other Business	a) **CAT Website**. It was flagged that the version of the Tribunal Rules on the Tribunal's website was the original version from 2015 which did not contain the updates that had been made to the Rules in subsequent legislation. b) **CAT User Group Membership**. The possibility of class representatives being present at the User Group was raised. The Chair said that the User Group's membership was currently limited to legal professionals, and that these professionals would be able to represent the views of those outside the User Group. The President was minded to keep the User Group as it was currently structured. There was a discussion about possibly convening other groups on an ad hoc basis. The President referred to the economic evidence seminar taking place on 29 September 2026. This could act as a framework for other seminars with other groups of stakeholders. The Tribunal would consider this further but noted its resources were limited and the fact that every year it also provided speakers at a wide variety of events where there could be wider stakeholder engagement. c) **Bellamy Lecture 2026**. The next Bellamy Lecture would be held in Edinburgh on 5 November 2026 with Professor Sir David Edward giving the main speech.	
Date of Next Meeting	The date for the next Tribunal User Group meeting would be sometime in October; a calendar invitation will be issued in due course.	

Russell O'Brien
for CAT President