COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL

CATUG/2026

24 November 2026

MINUTES OF THE COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL USER GROUP MEETING (03/26) TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2026

A meeting of the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) User Group took place on Tuesday 10th November 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)	
	Peter Freeman	CAT	
	Almira Delibegovic-Broome KC*	Axiom Advocates	
	Tom de la Mare KC	Blackstone Chambers	
	Hanif Mussa KC		
	Sarah Abram KC	Brick Court	
	Hugo Leith*		
	Paul Stuart	Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton	
	Daniel Barnett	CMA	
	Mark Sansom*	Freshfields	
	David Gallagher	Geradin Partners	
	Belinda Hollway	Hausfeld	
	Helen Fairhead	Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer	
	Sarina Williams	Linklaters	
	Lucinda Cunningham*	Matrix Chambers	
	Natasha Pearman*	Milberg	
	Rob Williams KC*	Monckton	
	Jack Williams		
	Jon Turner KC*		
	George Peretz KC*		
	Totis Kotsonis*	Pinsent Masons	
	Matt Burton*	Department for Business & Trade	
		CAT (Referendaire)	Secretary

* via MS Teams

Apologies:	Micaela Diver	A&L Goodbody	
	Emily Neill	Bar Library (Belfast)	
	Marie Demetriou KC	Brick Court	
	Stephen Wisking	Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer	
	Martin Ballantyne	Ofcom	

Item	Record	Action
1 Introduction	Ben Tidswell and the President welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Ben Tidswell welcomed the new members of the User Group and expressed his gratitude to the long-standing members stepping down from the User Group.	
2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (8 Jul 26)	The Minutes of the meeting on 8 July 2026 were reviewed and agreed without comments.	
3 CAT Operational Matters	(a) **CAT Rules**. Consolidated version of current rules is now on the CAT website. (b) **Competition Reform Bill**. The Registrar noted his understanding that the Bill will not be in the second session but is likely to be in the third session (May 2027). Matthew Burton said this was a result of reprioritisation following the change of Prime Minister. DBIST's work continues in relation to the Bill.	
4 Costs Control in Collective Proceedings	(a) A note on "Costs of Collective Proceedings" prepared by Belinda Hollway, Helen Fairhead and Sarina Williams was circulated in advance of the User Group Meeting. The note had been produced to assist the Tribunal in drafting a Practice Direction on costs in collective proceedings, which will have two model orders attached: (i) model directions up to certification; and (ii) model directions post-certification. User Group members were to indicate any amendments to the model order in due course, as appropriate. (b) Belinda Hollway, Helen Fairhead and Sarina Williams introduced the note recognising that collective proceedings involve complex litigation, but the costs involved had escalated and it was important to consider how costs can be reduced in collective proceedings going forwards. (c) There was a detailed discussion of a number of issues that could go into a Practice Direction, including the case management of carriage disputes, the duration of different stages of the proceedings (including indicative timetables to trial), the form of pleadings, the management of CMCs and the costs incurred at various stages on both sides of cases. The Tribunal was to review the points raised in the note and the discussion, to inform the production of a draft Practice Direction for discussion with the User Group. (d) **Costs budgeting**. The President indicated the Tribunal's intention to require some form of costs budgeting in all collective proceedings going forward. There was a discussion about the most appropriate format for these budget exercises, with reference to precedents H and Z in use in the High Court. A working group was set up comprising David Gallagher and Paul	

Item	Record	Action
	Stuart to look at a suitable template for these costs budgets. **Action (03/26-01): The format for costs budgeting was to be given further consideration. A working group was to be created to report back on a suitable template.**	**David Gallagher / Paul Stuart**
5 Any Other Business	There was no AOB.	
Date of Next Meeting	The date for the next CAT User Group meeting was to be identified; a calendar invitation was to be issued in due course.	

Brian McGivney
for CAT President