



Ministry
of Justice

Sarah Sackman KC MP
Minister for Courts and
Legal Services

David Steward

President of the London Maritime Arbitrators Association
The International Dispute Resolution Centre
1 Paternoster Lane
London
EC4M 7BQ

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24 February 2025

Dear Mr Steward,

ARBITRATION ACT 2025: ROYAL ASSENT

This government has made securing economic growth a key priority. To achieve that growth, we are supporting our services industry at every opportunity, including our world-leading dispute resolution sector. I am therefore delighted to share that the Arbitration Act 2025 has today received Royal Assent.

This Act will enhance the fairness and efficiency of arbitration, attract more international business to the UK, and generate economic growth. By passing it, we are supporting an arbitral sector which resolves thousands of disputes and contributes billions of pounds to the UK economy each year. We are committed to maintaining our position as the world's leading forum for the arbitration of commercial disputes. This legislation is a vital step towards achieving that.

The Act implements Law Commission recommendations for reform to our arbitral framework. I am grateful to the Commission for its excellent work on the original project and subsequent support throughout the legislative process. I am also very grateful for the scrutiny provided by arbitration experts to ensure the Act's drafting is finely-tuned and fit for purpose, including the evidence you gave to the Special Public Bill Committee for last session's Arbitration Bill. It is a testament to all involved that this legislation has enjoyed cross-party support in both Houses of Parliament and has been welcomed across the sector.

The Arbitration Act is just one part of this government's broader plan for supporting the UK legal and dispute resolution sectors. In the coming months and years, we will enhance the UK's reputation as a top destination to settle international disputes by ratifying the Singapore Convention on mediation. We will include legal services in the professional and business services work strand of our industrial strategy: Invest 2035. These actions will have a far-reaching impact by encouraging trade and investment across a range of other sectors.

I look forward to your continued support as the measures of this Act are commenced over the coming months.

SARAH SACKMAN KC MP
Minister Of State