

LAWYERS ARE RESPONSIBLE

25 June 2024

Linklaters, London

Dear Ms Aedamar Comiskey, Senior Partner and Chair,
Mr Paul Lewis, Firmwide Managing Partner,
and all staff at Linklaters

Why take Instructions now to be on the wrong side of history later?

We write further to our letter of 25 September 2023 and to our meeting of 6 Feb 2024. In which we made a request to senior partners as set out in the following paragraph:

We write to request that Linklaters does not accept any further instructions in relation to developing new (or the expansion of existing) fossil fuel infrastructure; and that it terminates the provision of its services to any clients in respect of any current instructions that will lead to developing new (or the expansion of existing) fossil fuel infrastructure.

Despite what was said in our meeting, in the [latest data](#) compiled by Law Students for Climate Accountability, Linklaters are now at number five in the global rankings by reference to the transactional work carried out by law firms. Furthermore Linklaters undertook more fossil fuel transactional work between 2019 and 2023 than between 2018 and 2022.

It will not have failed you to notice what is happening globally, in the 277 days between our last letter and this one. Climate breakdown is [accelerating rapidly](#) and causing severe global harm to life and health. [One in five Americans](#) are currently living under extreme weather alerts; Mexico City, with a population of 22 million, [is set to run out of water this summer](#); huge areas of Brazil's Pantanal region, the world's largest tropical wetland, [are currently an inferno](#).

Fossil fuel transactions, increasing heatwaves and your responsibility

Your continued representation of fossil fuel companies in their transactions for the extraction of fossil fuels is threatening life, this is not a matter of opinion or belief but a [global health](#) scientific consensus. It is also a matter upon which accurate legal advice must now reflect the recent decisions of the [European Court of Human Rights](#), the [International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea](#) and the [UK Supreme Court](#) in relation to downstream emissions. We remind you of the [Law Society's guidance on climate change](#). Furthermore, pursuing new oil and gas is equivalent to [blowing up your own pipeline of talent](#), and suggests you do not seem interested in the concerns and aspirations of your staff. We note recent [pay rises](#) promised to junior staff, which Linklaters argue are for the purposes of bringing magic circle firms in alignment with US firms, but timing is everything, why now?

Over previous months, we have handed out leaflets and engaged in conversation with your employees. Those we spoke with share our concern that Linklaters should not continue to aid fossil fuel extraction.

In our last meeting we discussed providing some seminal training for your staff with global leading experts from the health and science fields. This now feels essential in light of the [updated data](#).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Email us at LawyersAR@protonmail.com to talk freely and confidentially.

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