

# Bill Fowler

## Partner



Partner

Edinburgh

D +44 33 0222 1750

bill.fowler@dentons.com

## Overview

Bill is a partner in our Corporate practice and specializes in renewable energy and corporate real estate M&A, joint venture and development projects. He has more than 25 years' experience, both in private practice and in-house, in a wide range of corporate and commercial work.

Bill also has significant experience in the upstream oil and gas sector both in the UK and internationally, which complements his renewable energy practice, particularly in the offshore marine energy sector.

Bill provides a broad range of corporate and commercial advice to clients in the real estate industry, including corporate/joint venture structuring, acquisitions and disposals via corporate structures (onshore and offshore and through limited companies, LLPs, limited partnerships and community interest companies), joint ventures and corporate governance compliance and risk management. He has a strong track record in large-scale real estate joint ventures and the acquisition and disposal of high-value real estate developments.

Bill has a particular interest in renewable energy projects and has worked with landowners, developers and industrial operators on a range of projects, including the acquisition and disposal of onshore wind developments, anaerobic digestion and biomass, ground and roof mounted solar, energy from waste, and onshore aquaculture and hydroponics projects. He regularly advises on private wire electricity supply, feedstock supply and heat offtake arrangements as well as M&A, equity funding and shareholder/corporate governance arrangements.

## Experience

- **Great British Prawns Limited:** Advising this developer of an innovation sustainable onshore aquaculture facility in Central Scotland on all aspects of its corporate and commercial affairs, including corporate set-up, significant equity fundraising from high net worth individuals and EIS investment by Guinness Asset Management.
- **The European Marine Energy Centre, Orkney:** Advising in relation to the commercial arrangements with Naval Group to deliver the innovative Microsoft Natick underwater data storage project.
- **The European Marine Energy Centre, Orkney:** Advising in relation to multiple commercial matters and wave and tide test berth arrangements with numerous wave and tidal developers using its Orkney facilities,

including Pelamis, E.on, Vattenfall, CorPower, Alstom, ScotRenewables and the DP Ocean Partnership.

- **Onshore wind developer:** Advising a farming business on the development of three single turbine community onshore wind projects, including the set-up of three separate community interest companies to hold each project. Leading a multi-disciplinary team providing real estate, tax and banking support.
- **OpenHydro:** Advising this international tidal energy company in relation to negotiations for the supply and deployment of tidal turbines to US and Canadian utility companies for test projects in the Bay of Fundy and Puget Sound, and other corporate and commercial arrangements in the UK.
- **Peel Environmental:** Advising in relation to its £145 million South Clyde Energy Centre project in Glasgow which would play a pivotal role in the management of up to 250,000 tonnes of waste per year and could help deliver one of Glasgow's aspirational district heating zones, by potentially providing energy to a number of buildings around the site.
- **Ayrshire Power Limited:** Advising in relation to a proposed development of a 1,800MW CCS ready multi-fuel power station at Hunterston, Ayrshire, Scotland. Leading a multi-disciplinary team on commercial, planning, environmental and real estate aspects of one of Scotland's most controversial planning applications ever submitted. Responsible for the negotiation of complex coal handling arrangements and use of the Hunterston Ore Terminal, including novel step in rights to operate the Hunterston Ore Terminal in the event of the insolvency of the operator of the terminal.
- **Strathendrick Biogas:** Advising this developer of a 1.1MW anaerobic digestion facility on all corporate, financing and commercial contract arrangements for the development of the project, including feedstock supply, heat offtake and private wire electricity supply arrangements, finance agreements and associated step-in arrangements.
- **Strathendrick Biogas:** Advising in relation to heat offtake and private electricity supply arrangements with an adjacent onshore aquaculture facility, including drafting and negotiation of the heat and power supply agreement and associated commercial and real estate aspects.
- **Multiple farmers:** Advising a number of independent dairy farmers on the commercial arrangements for the installation and operation of biogas projects on their land, including negotiating the electricity and heat supply agreements with the developer.
- **Buccleuch BioEnergy:** Advising in respect of contractual arrangements to supply, instal, operate and maintain large-scale commercial biomass heating systems and then negotiating the sale of its business and operational projects and associated assets to a competitor.
- **FTSE 100 retailer:** Leading a team advising a well-known FTSE 100 retailer on the implementation of its strategy to generate its own renewable energy as part of its Zero Carbon by 2050 strategy, including advice regarding potential acquisition of wind farms ranging from 10MW to 120MW.
- **Onshore wind developer:** Advising the owner of a portfolio of three separate onshore turbine developments on the sale of the portfolio to German infrastructure investor Aquila Capital.
- **Peel Group:** Advising on the creation of the 20-year, £120 million James Watt Dock joint venture with Riverside Inverclyde for the regeneration of the James Watt Dock area in Greenock, Scotland – one of the largest regeneration projects in Scotland.
- **Leftfield Capital:** Advising on the sale, via the sale of an Isle of Man SPV, of a UK portfolio of industrial properties to Liberty, a US-listed property fund for £111 million.
- **Land Securities:** Advising on the £141 million acquisition of the Overgate Shopping Centre, Dundee from Lend Lease and then on the £125.3 million disposal of Overgate to Legal & General.
- **International office supplies business:** Advising a well-known international office supplies business on the installation of roof-mounted solar PV across its real estate portfolio in England.
- **Espresso Property:** Advising on the development financing by Sir Robert McAlpine in relation to its Park

Quadrant, Glasgow residential property development and the subsequent refinancing and joint venture arrangements with Roundshield and Ambassador Developments.

- **Shopping centres:** Advising purchasers and sellers of multiple high-value shopping/retail assets, often via offshore corporate structures, including in relation to: the Eastgate Shopping Centre, Inverness; the St James Centre, Edinburgh; the Overgate Shopping Centre, Dundee; the Frenchgate Shopping Centre, Doncaster; West One Retail Park, Manchester; and Wester Hailes Plaza, Edinburgh.

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Corporate
- Real Estate

### Industry sectors

- Energy

## Admissions and qualifications

- Solicitor, England and Wales
- Law Society of Scotland, Scotland