

Charles  
Russell  
Speechlys

# Aviation *Airports*

# Introduction

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Airport operators and owners are facing an unprecedented business environment due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our team works with international, regional and private airports to help them address current issues and strategically grow their businesses in the long term. We strive to build strong relationships and become a trusted advisor to airports around the world, enabling us to deliver prompt, strategic, and cost effective solutions.

Staffing and employment issues, together with current vastly reduced passenger numbers, can be of real concern to airports. We work closely with airport operators and their suppliers to help them address a broad range of employment law and HR issues via a dedicated HR professionals team, from the inevitable restructurings and redundancies to the reward and retention of key staff, as well as all aspects of UK immigration and pensions law.

Commercial relationships with airlines and service providers can be complex and subject to frequent renegotiation or disputes. We advise our airport clients throughout the negotiations and have significant experience working on contracts concerning aircraft landing, freight and other charges related to the use of airport infrastructure.

Where airports have an opportunity to grow and develop, we work with them to help expand and modernise the services they offer. We work closely with them to advise on both the procurement and tendering process for services, as well as the drafting of all relevant contracts. We also assist with any contractual disputes that may arise.





They're head and shoulders  
*above the competition.*"

Anonymous Client

## Our relevant experience

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Advising the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the USD1.1bn airport modernisation programme and expansion of Bahrain International Airport. Our work included drafting the complete suite of FIDIC-based construction contracts for the project, advising on procurement strategy and tendering processes, and resolving claims throughout the project.

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Advising a major international airport in the UK in relation to employment claims and various trade union issues with the most recent concerning collective consultation.

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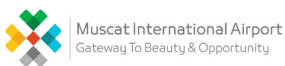
Advising London City Airport in their Employment Appeal Tribunal appeal against an order for interim relief granted to an ex-employee who claimed to have been unfairly dismissed for reasons related to their trade union activities.

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Advising a contractor in relation to claims under FIDIC terms arising out of their package of works at Hamad International Airport (Qatar) project.

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Acting for specialist cladding and HVAC subcontractors Panashco in their claims totalling OR15m to the main contractor on Muscat International Airport (Oman).

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Advising a major independent Middle East F&B operator, Al Hilal Enterprises, in the drafting and negotiating to market of various franchise agreements in relation to their own brand Lumea restaurants at key airport outlets including Bahrain International Airport and Riyadh Airport.

## Our relevant experience (cont)



Instructed to offer contentious and non-contentious advice in respect of the new USD4bn Kuwait International Airport under the umbrella of the Project Manager, Obermeyer GmbH, a leading international engineering consultancy.



Advising Bemco, a Saudi Bin Laden Group subsidiary, in their EPC tender bids for Jeddah Regional Airports Programme including King Abdulaziz International Airport and associated regional airports Al Baha, Taif, Medina and Abha, including front-end procurement and tendering advice, and proposed contract amendments for Preferred Bidder Status negotiations.



Advising Japanese architectural design firm Nikken Sekkei on their consultancy services scope for the proposed architectural redesign of Terminal 1 at Dubai International Airport.

Advised the main MEP subcontractor of Dubai International Airport Terminal 3 in relation to claims against the main contractor under a bespoke (FIDIC modelled) subcontract exceeding AED 1bil in a Dubai International Arbitration Centre arbitration under UAE law.



Advising Mercury Middle East as specialist MEP subcontractor to Arabtec in their joint venture main contracting framework for the Midfield Terminal Project at Abu Dhabi International Airport.



Advising Biggin Hill Airfield on property, construction and litigation matters. We also advised a Middle East company which had an ownership interest in the airfield in relation to CAA ownership regulations.

## Our relevant experience (cont)



Advising CAFCO (Coventry) Limited on the acquisition of Coventry Airport and related airport procurement and supply agreements, employment, regulatory, litigation and planning issues.

*“Very responsive and hardworking team who have a good knowledge of the technical aspects of construction and seek to provide pragmatic and commercial advice to their clients.”*

Legal 500 UK  
2021





Clients really like working with the CRS team. On top of its *undoubted technical abilities*, the lawyers bring a warmth and *strong sense of enjoyment* to the client-solicitor collaboration. They are also highly commercial.”

Chambers UK  
2023

# Our team

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