"BUSINESS AS USUAL" DURING AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME—THE ISSUES OF DATA PROTECTION AND CYBERSECURITY IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Hong-Lin Yu*

"The maxim of the British people is 'business as usual""

Winston Churchill

ABSTRACT

COVID-19 brought the world to a standstill, however arbitration is "business as usual". This is also the expectation of the UK Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) through the High Court's decision in MillChris Developments Ltd v. Waters [2020] 4 WLUK 45. This article highlights the "business as usual" approach adopted by the international arbitration community, in particular, institutional arbitrations carrying out remote hearings and meetings. A review of the Seoul Protocol on Video Conferencing in International Arbitration, the ICCA-NYC Bar-CPR Protocol on Cybersecurity in International Arbitration 2020, and the consultation draft of the ICCA/IBA Joint Task Force's Roadmap on Data Protection in International Arbitration highlights the concerns of cybersecurity and data protection in light of COVID-19 and beyond.

^{*} Dr. Hong-Lin Yu, Reader in Law, Stirling Law School, University of Stirling, UK. The author can be reached at: h.l.yu@stir.ac.uk.

KEYWORDS: international arbitration, remote hearings and meetings, confidentiality, data protection, cybersecurity, the Seoul Protocol, the Cybersecurity Protocol, the ICCA/IBA Joint Task Force's Roadmap on Data Protection, data controller, joint controller, data processor