

# Climate Change in the UK

Perspectives of a High Court Judge

# The Planning Court

- A court list within the Administrative Court (for public law cases)
- Staffed by specialist judges
- Dealing with environmental cases

# The Role of the High Court Judge

- The constitutional role of the judiciary to uphold the rule of law
- Need to respect the law-making role of the legislature
- Need to respect the policy-making role of the executive
- An “error of law” jurisdiction



# Climate Change Act 2008

- Targets set for 2050
- Achieved through a system of carbon budgeting
- The Committee on Climate Change

# Heathrow Airport









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# ClientEarth





# Conclusions

- The proper role of the judge
- Working within the legal framework and established public law principles
- But...
- Is there (beyond the scope of existing law) an appetite for a wider right to a safe and healthy environment?