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Speaker 1

Hello and welcome to this School of Law podcast from the University of Aberdeen. The podcast where we discuss a number of different topics. On the subject of law. My name is Neil Wayman.

00:00:16:15 - 00:00:31:04

Speaker 2

And I'm Lauren Mitchell. In this episode we discuss energy law. We have two distinguished guests with us. We have senior lecturer Doctor Diya Shop of Allover and the head of School of Law, Professor Greg Gordon.

00:00:31:06 - 00:00:43:15

Speaker 1

You know, it was a great chat. We thoroughly enjoyed it. We learned a lot and we're pretty confident that you will too. Sometimes we talk about the energy trilemma because our dilemmas just not bad enough.

00:00:43:17 - 00:00:46:00

Speaker 3

Those emissions do not form part of the project.

00:00:46:02 - 00:00:51:03

Speaker 1

This was a very major and deliberately intended to me, a very major piece of disruption.

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Speaker 3

I know when a climate change act doesn't say you must use less oil and you must use more renewables, it is then up to the government to take these targets and create energy policy.

00:01:02:12 - 00:01:17:08

Speaker 2

All that coming up. Plus we also spoke to one of the students on campus, Abdullah Saleh South, who shared a bit about the new Kings building, a spot that every student visits at some point. And the beauty of Elphinstone Lawn, where students gather to relax.

00:01:17:10 - 00:01:40:18

Speaker 1

More on that later. But first, let's get our main discussion for this episode underway energy law. I started by asking senior lecturer Doctor Diya Shapovalov, could you explain what energy transition entails and why it's such a crucial element in our global strategy against climate change?

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Speaker 3

Energy transition is the transformation of our energy system from fossil fuel based and more centralized system to a system that is based on low carbon sources, such as renewables or nuclear, and that is more decentralized. And that includes a number of processes that all have to happen at the same time. So in terms of generation or production of electricity, we want that to be less based in fossil fuel based sources such as gas and we want it to be more based in renewables such as offshore wind, onshore wind, solar, tidal wave, but also nuclear energy and imports of electricity from countries around us.

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Speaker 3

We also want to make sure that the transportation system is decarbonized. So we use less, petrol based cars and busses and public transportation that we decarbonize, trains and we, use aviation less, including for domestic flights. It's also about decarbonizing our heating. So we rely less on gas, for heating and more on electric sources.

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Speaker 3

In addition to that, once we use more and more electricity for these purposes, we need more infrastructure. So things like pylons, things like grids need to be updated. They all need regular update in general. But now with the energy transition, we do need more and more of this infrastructure. And again, tied into that is this question of, bringing society on board with it.

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Speaker 3

Having a just transition and transition that doesn't leave communities behind, that as we go into energy transition and decarbonization, we have enough energy sources that they still remain affordable to people. And we do not have fuel and energy poverty, but we also pay attention to communities and places that might be particularly affected by energy transition, such as Aberdeen and the north east, where a large proportion of workforce is heavily involved in the oil and gas industry, which is inevitably winding down due to the maturity in production, but also, more and more attention to climate change.

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Speaker 2

So are there any additional factors or emerging trends within the energy transition that you believe are particularly significant and often overlooked?

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Speaker 1

There's a huge amount of investment needs to go into this. It's it takes a certain amount of time to do all of this. You know, you can't just update your electricity, transmission system overnight. So you've got that sort of, complexity there. But there's a there's probably a broader point which is, you know, there's often a lot of focus on the energy transition, and on and on climate change, understandably so, because it's incredibly important, you know, sometimes we talk about the energy trilemma because a dilemma is just not bad enough.

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Speaker 1

You know, you need a trilemma, kind of a three, three cornered problem. You've got the whole question of protecting the environment. And all of the discussion around climate change is absolutely central to that. There's there's also some broader considerations there around you know, localized air quality and, you know, oil spill remediation and all of that kind of stuff.

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Speaker 1

But definitely, the climate change part is, is really central to the whole issue of environmental protection. You've also got the issue of security, of supply, which is which is really important, as we've seen over the last few years, you know, there has been some, you know, because of geopolitical events that have been some, some acute vulnerabilities in terms of security, of supply.

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Speaker 1

The other really important piece is, is the whole question of, of energy, energy poverty and unreliability of supply. And again, we've seen a little bit of this locally, over the last few years, energy prices have ramped up. Everyone will know that energy prices went up as a result of difficulties in in accessing gas. But there's a much broader global question than that all around the world.

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Speaker 1

There are many people living in very, very acute energy poverty, by which I mean, virtually no or very limited access to either gas or electricity, extremely limited, understandably, that are, that are movements, throughout the, throughout the developing world where people want to gain more, right, more regular systematic access to energy. They want to move out of that energy poverty.

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Speaker 1

They want the same benefits that but we have in relation to a reliable, dependable energy supply. So because of that, one can reasonably imagine that the amount of energy used around the world is, is going to go up, the demand is going to go up. So that only adds to the complexity of the whole discussion, because we're trying to decarbonize because of the climate change problem, in circumstances where you want to continue to have a secure supply.

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Speaker 1

And of course, getting rid of the carbon heavy but relatively reliable sources of energy that we've traditionally had. I'm not going to say it makes it impossible, but it certainly makes that that issue more complex, and then compounding it and making it even more complex still is the fact that lots of people just now who don't use a lot of energy want to, and the countries that they live in want to have the opportunity to develop.

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Speaker 1

They want to be able to to develop industry. So there's a an increasing demand for energy, which has an impact on price. But B, just increasing energy use. So it's really quite a complex problem or set of problems given the pivotal role of law and policy. Then how do you see the interaction between national regulations and international agreements playing out?

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Speaker 3

The role of law and policy is absolutely crucial in the process of energy transition. That covers all these three elements that Greg has highlighted. Because, we have the Parliament that passes the laws and we have the government that produces policy and produces regulations, and it all creates, this complex regime of governance that provides the context and the rules for how energy can be developed and used, and how can we protect consumers in this context as well.

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Speaker 3

So we have rules and regulations about how we develop oil and gas offshore. There are rules about how we develop renewables onshore and offshore. There are rules about how networks of electricity and gas must be managed. And of course, there are also legal obligations with regards to climate change. So it is the complex interaction of all these different areas that, makes studying and working in energy law so rewarding and so interesting.

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Speaker 3

And this lack of synergy between how we have been regulating the energy sector and particular oil and gas sector, and how climate change is regulated, is what makes it quite difficult in the UK today, because when we look at the Climate Change Act, which is the main piece of legislation on climate change in the UK, it sets targets that are mandatory.

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Speaker 3

For example, the net zero target for 2050. It sounds more, short term and medium term targets or carbon budgets as well. And it places some obligations for reporting. It creates the independent climate Change Committee that provides advice and provides some, auditing, of what the government is producing. But no, when a climate change act, does it say you must use less oil and you must use more renewables, it is then up to the government to take this targets and create an energy policy that meets the targets that are set out in the law.

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Speaker 1

Have there been any significant shifts in approach or new challenges that have emerged?

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Speaker 3

Yeah. So the, targets themselves have not been substantially changed. There's only been an update, on the final target from 80% to 100% for 2050. So not to reduce it by er, by 80%, but to have 100% or net zero by 2050. So we have the long term goal that is quite fixed in the law. But then we have the carbon budgets, that happen in five yearly periods that have to be agreed about 12 years in advance, which basically makes sure that we are on track for 2050, which makes sure that the governments that we have today do not just play the waiting game and leave net zero to be the problem

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Speaker 3

of the successive governments. So there is some accountability in this process that happens gradually, and we have the carbon budgets that are getting checked by the Parliament, are getting checked by the Climate Change Committee to ensure that we are actually on track for 2050, because they act itself doesn't really provide for sanctions if the final target doesn't, isn't met.

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Speaker 3

And what sanctions could you possibly impose? You're not going to throw a prime minister in jail for not meeting the net zero targets. So this kind of ongoing accountability is very important for the legitimacy and the implementation of our legal climate targets. And this is where the importance of energy policy that is produced by the government comes into force, because the policy can put in place and specific energy targets, like we want 50GW of offshore wind by by 2030.

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Speaker 3

But then we think, do we actually have the legal framework that facilitates that? Do we have the environmental impact assessment planning permissions that facilitate very fast deployment of offshore wind? Do we have subsidies that would be required, such as contracts for difference in the UK that would facilitate that investment here in the UK? And this is where all those interactions really come into play.

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Speaker 1

I think can I think something that's that's really worth remembering is law has got kind of two separate kind of dimensions here. One is the kind of the regulatory side which you can see as either a kind of a stop or proceed with caution or let's make sure you're doing this all you know, the right way. So it's more kind of the the policeman coming in and stopping, you know, slowing things down and stopping it and making sure that things are being done the right way.

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Speaker 1

Now that's read that's really important and it's legitimate. But if you have too much of that in a system, nothing gets done because you're striving for a level of of say, perfection and environmental regulation that actually stops developments that need to happen from happening. The other the other element is, is how do you use structures like contracts for different to actually drive forward development.

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Speaker 1

And that's kind of almost the opposite. So it's like it's like the regulatory side is a red light or sometimes an amber light. Saying that we need to stop. We need to check. We need to verify. You need to go through these processes to make sure that these decisions are robust, or that this isn't going to have, you know, an adverse impact upon some other, environmental regulation that we find very important, such as the Habitats Directive or something like that.

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Speaker 1

The green light is, you know, go, go, go. How do you put in place a, a regulatory or a permissioning framework that pushes forward the types of development, the types of activity that you need to see to actually make some make some progress. So it's really important to, you know, to understand that, that law, sometimes it acts as a brake and sometimes acts as a driver in terms of policy and when you get the balance wrong, you see really acute delays or paralysis.

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Speaker 1

It's it's maybe a slightly atypical example, but, you know, famously the n n g, offshore, wind farm work of some form or another commenced on that project in 2008. It's just about at the point of producing electricity now, 2024. It's an incredibly long process. And, it's been a kind of a convoluted process where there have been some of this is because it's one of the really early pioneering offshore, offshore projects.

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Speaker 1

So that's probably going to take longer than second or third generation one. So that's that's kind of understandable. It would be great if law could find a way of getting all the benefits of the the planning process and the regulatory process kind of distilling loose, while also allowing these projects to move quicker. So that's one of the challenges that law has, that law has going forward.

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Speaker 2

Can you tell us just a little bit more about the Finch case, because it's been described as a potential game changer in environmental law. Could you delve into the specifics of the case and its implications for the future of energy development and environmental impact assessments?

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Speaker 3

The Finch decision is the decision by the Supreme Court, of the UK. In a case, concerning the impact assessment of new oil and gas developments. And it primarily concerns a process called environmental impact assessment or EIA, environmental impact assessment is a procedural requirement, which means, even if potential impacts on the environment are found, it is still up to the regulator and decision maker, in this case, the North Sea Transition Authority, to decide whether they wanted to go ahead or not.

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Speaker 3

But the EIA process makes sure that the regulator is fully informed when they're making that decision. They have a multiple documents in front of them, a few hundred pages where all the potential impacts on the marine environment and the white environment are considered by the developer. So if, a company wants to have a new oil or gas license, they go and conduct an environmental impact assessment.

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Speaker 3

They prepare a statement and they send it off to the regulator. The regulator looks at it, makes it public, allows the public to ask questions and comment on it, and then makes the final decision. Now, in this case, the question was, whether the scope three or downstream emissions should be part of environmental impact assessment, scope three or downstream emissions are emissions that we get from burning the produce products.

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Speaker 3

So if we develop oil and gas, for example, upstream emissions are emissions that happen during the exploration production process. So all of your construction when we are developing oil, usually there's some gas that we need to burn off with a flare.

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Speaker 1

I think that's the easiest way to picture what you're talking of. And it's simplest sense is the flame that's been burnt on the top of a oil installation and in the North Sea.

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Speaker 3

Yeah, absolutely. So that flame is part of operational emissions, upstream emissions, emissions during production that we do already take into account in the EIA process. Now, campaigners here were arguing that we also need to take into account the impacts of burning that produced oil or gas. There is a tricky, demand to make because, in the UK, most of the oil that is produced on the continental shelf is exported overseas, to be refined and sold elsewhere.

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Speaker 3

So you're essentially asking the producers to account for where that oil is going to go and what impact it would have on the climate. And the government's position was that, those emissions do not form part of the project, that the refining and, and the burning, of these products is a completely separate activity that needs to have its own separate EIA and be accounted whatever it is being burned.

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Speaker 3

But the campaigners were saying you cannot really separate the, burning of fossil fuels from production of fossil fuels because, if you, for example, have, something like production of steel or some other raw materials, that steel can then be used in so many different ways. Whereas when we have oil or gas, it's primary purpose is very likely to be for combustion or for burning.

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Speaker 3

So it will have climate impacts one way or another. Yeah.

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Speaker 1

And of course not. Not all oil and gas that's produced does end up being. But some of it goes into the petrochemical industry. Theoretically there is at least the possibility that that if it is burnt, it could be the carbon could be captured and secret stated. But to be honest, the carbon capture and sequestration framework is pretty underdeveloped.

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Speaker 1

Yeah, there are some projects that that, that operate on that. So that would be like a power station where you take gas, you burn the gas, and then instead of just letting the carbon dioxide go into the air, you have a you capture it, you scrub it and then you, you're inject it and store it. There are there are facilities, in the world where this happens, but very few it's a sector.

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Speaker 1

It's a sector of the of the economy and the fuel, the fuel supply chain that that could develop arguably should have developed before now. But it's it's very underdeveloped at the moment, which is probably one of the reasons why it wasn't given much prominence in the decision. It's kind of premature to think about it, at this stage.

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Speaker 3

But these are the kind of things that the environmental impact assessment could actually explain. It could say, yes, this oil or gas will be destined to this place, but in that place there is a carbon capture technology. So actually the final impact will not be so great.

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Speaker 1

Something that perhaps simplified this case a little bit was the fact that council made it made a concession there. So in other words, one of the people appearing in front of the Supreme Court said, look, you know, given this, this field, the destination of this, of this hydrocarbon, you know, it is all going to be burned. So as a matter of fact, it is all going to be.

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Speaker 1

But that wouldn't necessarily be the case with every with every development. So there's a need for some sort of and for some for a fact specific, part of the decision making.

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Speaker 3

And to make it clear, the, the decision does not mean that these downstream emissions will be then calculated towards the UK carbon account for the purposes of a Climate Change Act or the carbon budget that we discussed before, it means that these emissions nearly merely need to be accounted for the purposes of the assessment, and so that the regulator, when they're making a decision on whether to proceed or not proceed with oil or gas development, have the full information in front of them as they're making that decision.

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Speaker 3

And the, the decision was, quite a surprise. I would imagine for, for many lawyers in the form that it took, my expectation was that it would say that in this case, maybe the climate impact assessment should have been conducted, but I, I was surprised to see that, the language was much more general that for all oil and gas developments, that should be the case.

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Speaker 1

I think it's worth it's worth making the point. This isn't the first attempt that's been that's been made to use, you know, litigation as a, as a tool to influence policy. And in fact, in some other jurisdictions, for instance, the Netherlands, there's been considerable success with this, with this before, the Dutch government has had to change, you know, Dutch energy policy, energy law, to, to to take account of those decisions.

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Speaker 1

But in the UK, you know, Greenpeace, other, other organizations have taken a number of cases over the years to try to either stop or slow down particular drilling or particular licensing rights. So there's been a kind of a sequence of these cases over the years. They hadn't really been successful, until we, until we got to Finch.

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Speaker 1

So, so Finch is, you know, to that extent, a game changer. I wasn't sure which way a Finch was was was going to go. I, I, I thought there was a chance that it would be successful, but for me, it was very much hanging in the balance. And of course, the judgment is 32. So if you think of it as a, as a yeah, if you think of Justice's some somewhat like a football game, you know, three two's close.

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Speaker 1

You know, three judges voted in favor, two judges voted against. The two judges who voted against gave or gave lengthy dissent gave a lengthy dissenting judgment setting out why they think this decision is wrong. And there's always the possibility at some point in the future for the Supreme Court to come back and reconsider these questions, at which point some of the arguments raised by the dissenting judgments might be picked up and might be given, might have some added weight given to them.

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Speaker 1

However, for now, you know, the the the result in finches is, you know, it's V2, it's close, but it's still. Yeah, it's it is a it is a binding precedent. So we haven't heard the last of the Finch case then the Finch case. Decides this issue for these litigants in this particular dispute. And it also lays down a precedential authority for, for courts that are beneath it.

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Speaker 1

But what will be interesting is every case, every case or permission that comes out subsequently. There will be some some degree of factual difference between the factual situation that is being considered in that case and the factual situation that was decided. And Finch, that's one of the things that tends to give the courts what you might call a degree of wiggle room.

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Speaker 1

So without necessarily overruling Finch, the the same issue might be re litigated and you might get a you might get a result that's that's different. But but it would be based on the fact that the facts are different. But also as Dahlia kind of alluded to, it might not be necessary to do that because because the EIA is quite a flexible process in itself.

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Speaker 1

So it may well be that that some of the factors that weren't taken into account in Finch, can be integrated into the environmental impact assessment. But the really important thing, I think to to realize with the finches, you know, there's been a lot of kind of hyperbole about the decision. And in both some, some, some campaigners have said, well, this effectively outlaws the, you know, the, the granting of licenses going forward.

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Speaker 1

It as Dahlia said, it absolutely doesn't do that. The industry has said, you know, this is going to make it really difficult to to grant licenses going forward. But it's another reason to disinvest in the UK that remains to be seen as well, that the, you know, we really need to judge the impact of this over a little bit of time.

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Speaker 1

But but certainly that's not to undermine or devalue the the case. It is a landmark because it is the first time that the court has really come in in this way. And certainly my reading of the judgment of the majority is it's quite, you know, it reads as if they really get the importance of the climate change argument and that they really think that this is something that matters and that they have to make a contribution to what is in the past.

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Speaker 1

What you've tended to see is the courts sort of sitting back a bit and leaving policy to be developed more by government, and then trying to step back from this arena a little bit. This looks like more of a willingness to step into this arena and make decisions that potentially ruffle feathers.

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Speaker 3

I personally quite welcome the decision. I have been advancing these arguments in my own work for years now, so it's nice to see it vindicated in a Supreme Court decision. Itself, important thing to note is that the regulations on environmental impact assessment are based on EU law. And within the EU law, the definition of what the project means is actually quite wide.

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Speaker 3

And the impacts that are covered by, that legislation include cumulative impacts, impacts far removed from the project itself. So in my view, that interpretation really, does bode well with the legislation on which the EIA process is based. And it also does tie in with some of the developments abroad. So in Norway, very recently, I think in January this year, early January, there was a case in the Oslo District Court that concerned this specific, issue as well.

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Speaker 3

Previously in Norway, a Supreme Court, had a decision that was dubbed people versus Arctic Oil. And it was about scope three or downstream emissions, environment and oil. Of course, Norway is similar to the UK in that it's a very mature oil producing province, but also a country that has, legally mandated climate targets and presents itself as a as a climate champion.

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Speaker 3

Norway exports most of its, oil and gas abroad, doesn't really use too much, domestically as well. And a lot of domestic campaigners in Norway were unhappy about that and were asking the Norwegian government to not grant so many oil licenses and back in 2020, the Supreme Court said that yes, the climate impacts from burning of fossil fuels produced in Norway do matter.

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Speaker 3

But, in at the moment when we, open up new areas for licensing, it is too speculative to say what the impact is going to be. Whereas this case, early this year was concerning the not opening up new areas for licensing, but granting specific production license and campaigners took it to a lower court, a district court.

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Speaker 3

And the judge has very surprisingly, again, said that the downstream of scope three emissions must be considered before the process goes ahead. And it caught many people by surprise because they thought that the matter was already settled back in 2020 with the Supreme Court. But the judge said, well, these are two different factual issues, and I think that plays into what Greg said.

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Speaker 3

Sometimes you think the matter has settled, but difference and fact that you might not necessarily think about that is not so obvious can really change the interpretation of the law for a judge. Another practical implication of the French decision, is on the cases that were previously suspended to wait for the outcome of the French decision in the Supreme Court.

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Speaker 3

In particular, the cases concerning the licenses for Jackdaw and Rosebank developments had been such suspended cases, which are now likely to be decided to demand the inclusion of downstream or scope three emissions into the environmental impact assessment before it proceeds any further.

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Speaker 1

Now, legal decisions, such as in the French case, clearly have profound impacts and they don't always sway in one direction, especially when it comes to things like the right to protest. Could we explore the legal nuances of this right, particularly in the context of recent protests, related convictions and sentencing? The right to protest is certainly being has certainly been cut in to and abrogated by, by legislation recently.

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Speaker 1

The the M25 case, the Just Stop Oil protesters, they were you know, they were found found guilty essentially of, of of causing interference, causing, causing nuisance, with the, with, with the M25, the sentencing there. I have to say, you know, Dahlia said that she was a bit surprised at the French decision.

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Speaker 1

I was quite surprised by the severity of the sentences that was handed down to those to those protesters. I think it I think it took quite a lot of people by surprise that that people would be getting sentences in the range of 4 or 5 years for, for, for protesting. It's worth saying that these were people who were identified as being essentially the these weren't necessarily rank and file protesters.

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Speaker 1

These were people who were really at the core of this, this activity. But nevertheless, I think that is there is a sense, at least, and part of the community that, that, you know, the right to protest, is important that it that it results in good things, that it results sometimes in positive societal change. So to see these these protests attracting that sort of sentence in some levels is surprising.

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Speaker 1

On the other hand, if you read the the the remarks on sentencing which have been published, you can see this isn't some sort of knee jerk reaction. This is a very carefully considered, judgment where the judge has looked very carefully at the amount of disruption that was caused, the impact that this had on other people's lives.

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Speaker 1

The money that the public money that was wasted in the policing, exercise, the money that was lost by private individuals, as a result of, you know, lost business opportunities or wasted expenses as they were unable to get flights, things like that, and really came to the conclusion that this was a very major and deliberately intended to be a very major piece of disruption.

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Speaker 1

And, you know, what it shows is you don't get a free pass even if you're doing something, that's, that's based that which is sincerely based on your belief that you're doing something that's really important and doing something that's really right. If you breach the law, the court will will look at that and will what will will be led more by, well, what was the impact of what you did rather than what was the societal good that you were pursuing?

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Speaker 1

So, you know, and in a sense, the climate change movement gets a boost with the French case, but you know that the courts have given with one hand and kind of taken away with with the other with these quite stringent sentences.

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Speaker 2

For listeners who are inspired by this discussion today, then, and considering a career in energy law, could you highlight the opportunities that you've got available here at the University of Aberdeen, and what programs have you got to offer those people?

00:32:12:23 - 00:32:37:14

Speaker 3

Depending on where you are with your studies or your career, there are different options that can be, available. So at the undergraduate level, we have an energy law course where students can come and get a taster of what energy law and practice is like, where we cover different topics from oil and gas, the climate

to renewables to consumer protection and bills.

00:32:37:16 - 00:33:20:05

Speaker 3

Then in the postgraduate level, we have a number of programs that are available. If you want to study in person here in Aberdeen, you can come and do degrees in energy transition law or oil and gas law or natural resources law. All have different configurations of courses that you can take. We also have some flexibility, and it's a very unique program feature that we have where you can study in your program either with a dissertation, which is your long research project, or with professional skills, which is a three week long on campus, very intensive practice based program based on negotiation exercises, very real world examples of what energy law, practice is like.

00:33:20:07 - 00:33:46:15

Speaker 3

You can study full time or part time, or you can study online and online. We have a range of offerings, again, in oil and gas and an energy transition law in the regulation of activities such as decommissioning, for example. Well, you can take short courses which you can take in your own time or you can build it up to complete a full postgraduate program, which is a full postgraduate degree and manageable.

00:33:46:17 - 00:34:07:22

Speaker 3

And if you want to do energy law, you really should come to Aberdeen. Aberdeen is the energy capital of Europe. The University of Aberdeen is the place where award winning lecturers and experts, in energy law are. But we also work very closely with experts in other fields, in geology, in geography and social science and economics.

00:34:07:22 - 00:34:20:05

Speaker 3

So we really learn from each other and push the boundaries in our research on what is the role of energy law and policy in delivering energy transition that works for the people and for the environment.

00:34:20:07 - 00:34:35:07

Speaker 1

You are senior lecturer Doctor Diya Shapovalov and along with Head of School of Law Professor Greg Gordon, you've been our guest today. Thank you very, very much. On behalf of Lorna myself, it's been a fascinating chat. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

00:34:35:09 - 00:34:51:20

Speaker 2

Before we go this week we have part of a conversation to play you that we had with Abdullah Saleh Seif, a law student here at the University of Aberdeen. We wanted to hear a little bit more about the unique experience of studying here and some of the iconic spots on the campus.

00:34:51:22 - 00:35:04:18

Speaker 1

I'm on the university grounds and I'm with a student, Abdullah, thank you very much for spending some time with me. This morning, could you tell me whereabouts were stood? Because I'm a newbie here. I know that we're on Elphinstone Lawn, right?

00:35:04:20 - 00:35:35:05

Speaker 4

Yeah, we are on Elphinstone Lawn, but we do. We do a 360. Right now. You'll find that this is the definitive building. And this is the chaplaincy. Behind me is the Elphinstone Hall and then the King's College. But the most interesting part is this building on my right, that's the new King's. I find it very interesting because whatever subject you're studying already, you will have once or twice something to do with that building.

00:35:35:07 - 00:35:36:16

Speaker 1
Really? Why is that?

00:35:36:18 - 00:35:58:11

Speaker 4
Because it's the only building that does not house a department or a faculty or a school. And before you graduate, whatever happens, you will have a lecture or two or even maybe ten in that building. So it's like a point of converge is for almost everyone who comes to Aberdeen.

00:35:58:14 - 00:36:01:15

Speaker 1
Wow. So everybody at some point during their studies.

00:36:01:20 - 00:36:02:13

Speaker 4
Exactly.

00:36:02:17 - 00:36:12:13

Speaker 1
Will have been in that building. Yeah. And that was me just thinking that this other building that the directly opposite from the other side of the, of the lawn, it's the King's College, isn't there?

00:36:12:13 - 00:36:18:23

Speaker 4
Yes. One of the oldest buildings in Aberdeen in general, actually, not just a school, but in general in Aberdeen.

00:36:19:00 - 00:36:23:18

Speaker 1
It's beautiful and next to the lawn with the trees and so on. It's just gorgeous.

00:36:23:18 - 00:36:49:06

Speaker 4
Yeah, it was really a beautiful environment. For example, today is a sunny day and normally if it wasn't like, if it was a after the opening week, you will find people relaxed on this lawn and it's just scenery is just beautiful when you come from the, from the Spittal side of the, of the city. So when you're coming from inside the city, you will use the route called the Spital.

00:36:49:08 - 00:36:58:04

Speaker 4
And the moment you come towards the, King's College building, the lawn is just in front of you with everybody relax on the lawn. It's just beautiful.

00:36:58:04 - 00:37:10:20

Speaker 1
It is. You see people reading, listening to music, having a sandwich, taking a drink and, enjoying the sunshine, hopefully. Yeah. You mentioned the spital. It's a it's a lovely cobbled street, isn't it?

00:37:10:21 - 00:37:28:12

Speaker 4
Yes. It's a cobbled street all the way. And, it's part of the old Aberdeen outside of the university campus. And if you come down from that road, the cold road goes all the way to the to the old town building right at the tip of, High Street.

00:37:28:14 - 00:37:43:20

Speaker 1
You know, I think it's worth saying, Lauren, that on that day when I spoke to Abdullah, there wasn't a cloud

in the sky. It was beautiful on the lawn, you could hear birdsong. And what a great ambassador of the university to talk to. So many thanks to Abdullah Saleh.

00:37:43:22 - 00:37:58:12

Speaker 2

And a big thank you also to our two guests, Doctor Diya, Shop of Allover and Head of School of Law, Professor Greg Gordon. Thank you very much for listening. Don't forget to subscribe and join us next time. Goodbye.

00:37:58:14 - 00:38:06:04

Speaker 1

Goodbye.