

Minutes of the meeting of the CLLS Professional Rules & Regulation Committee (the Committee) held on Tuesday 15 June 2021 at 4:00pm

Location: By video call

Present:

Jonathan Kembery (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP) (Chair) (**JAK**)

Mike Pretty (DLA Piper UK LLP) (**MP**)

Annette Fritze-Shanks (Allen & Overy LLP) (**AFS**)

Jo Riddick (Macfarlanes LLP) (**JR**)

Iain Miller (Kingsley Napley LLP) (**IM**)

Fergal Cathie (Clyde & Co LLP) (**FC**)

Julia Adams (Slaughter and May) (**JA**)

Sonya Foulds (Cleary Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton LLP) (**SF**)

Sarah Boland (Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP) (Committee Secretary) (**SB**)

Apologies:

Clare Wilson (Herbert Smith LLP) (Vice Chair) (**CW**)

Tracey Butcher (Mayer Brown) (**TB**)

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1. Minutes and matters arising

1.1 The previous meeting's minutes were accepted as approved.

2. SRA quarterly meeting

2.1 FC reported that the SRA had undertaken two studies – the first in lawtech considering whether there were any regulatory barriers to the introduction of law tech (the initial results of which were that there were no such barriers), and the second considering the implication of the introduction of the STaRs and whether, in particular, the introduction of freelancers was influencing the market. The latest data on that suggested that there were more freelance solicitors but not an 'explosion' in numbers.

2.2 SF reported that the SRA had also discussed its business plan, but in high level and the SRA's approach to quality assurance with its new independent team.

2.3 The Committee agreed that it would not respond to the SRA's business plan consultation as most of the issues falling to be considered were outside the remit of the Committee.

2.4 **ACTION:** to invite the new head of the independent review team at the SRA to attend a meeting of the Committee.

3. Recognition of professional qualifications

- 3.1 JAK reported the fact that a draft Bill was going through Parliament which addressed in the region of 90 professions. It was unlikely that the reforms would significantly impact the legal profession, which already had a mechanism for mutual recognition, but it did give authority to the SRA to negotiate mutual recognition status agreements. It was acknowledged that the Law Society was working on this topic and, in particular, had flagged to HMG the need to ensure that the reforms could not be seen as infringing on the independence of the legal profession.

4. New members

- 4.1 MP confirmed that there had been two applications for the vacancies – Robin Abraham (General Counsel at Clifford Chance) and Daniel Macaluso (Head of Law and Compliance at Linklaters). Both candidates had been interviewed by MP and CW.
- 4.2 ACTION: The Committee accepted the recommendation of MP and CW that Robin and Daniel be appointed as members of the Committee. JAK to notify the candidates.

5. Chair

- 5.1 JAK confirmed his intention to step down as Chair and leave the Committee after the next meeting of the Committee in September.
- 5.2 ACTION: Committee members were invited to express interest in taking over the position of Chair and to consider the merits of adding a further member to the Committee.

6. AOB

- 6.1 IM reported there were no further updates from the conflicts working group.
- 6.2 ACTION: JAK to send a follow up to Clare Westropp in relation to the response provided on lateral moves.
- 6.3 There being no further business, the Chair brought the meeting to an end.