



COUNCIL

Part 1 Public

Purpose - For noting

President's update: report on the Presidential Year Plan 2017/2018

Remit

This is within my role as President.

Statement of territorial application

This paper applies to England and Wales

Financial, section 51 and resourcing implications

Within existing budgets.

Consultation with Finance

Within existing budgets.

Equality and diversity implications

The equalities implications of my Presidential Year Plan have been considered, and are compatible with the wider aspects of the Society's business plan for 2017-18.

Consultation

This paper has been prepared for noting by Council.

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Date: 23 November 2017

President's update: report on the Presidential Year Plan 2017/2018

This document sets out an update on the implementation of the Presidential Year Plan, approved by Council on May 2017. The Plan supports the delivery of the Law Society's vision to be valued and trusted as a vital partner to represent, promote and support solicitors whilst upholding the rule of law, legal independence, ethical values, and the principle of justice for all.

1. Summary of main metrics and outputs

Some of the main outputs and metrics delivered during the Presidency are:

- 150 quotes in the press including major outlets such as the FT
- Broadcast in 5 media outlets including BBC news
- Hosted 4 dinner discussions on policy issues with senior stakeholders, including one in the House of Commons with legally qualified parliamentarians
- Three high profile speeches delivered on a variety of issues, including the swearing-in ceremony of the Lord Chief Justice and the main address at the Opening of the Legal Year
- 4 intervention letters in support of lawyers at risk in different countries
- An online thought piece on Flexible Operating Hours.

2. Summary of main activities and outputs

2.1 Representing the Society to the new Government and building relationships with external stakeholders, especially regarding Brexit, regulation and access to justice

2.1.1 Political stakeholders

Since the start of the Presidency I have had extensive engagement with political and non-political stakeholders. As part of the Law Society's party conference programme, I attended the Conservative Party Conference and spoke in a series of events on Brexit and access to justice alongside:

- Lord Chancellor, Rt Hon David Lidington MP
- Justice Minister, Dominic Raab MP
- City Minister, Stephen Barclay MP
- Solicitor General, Robert Buckland MP
- Chair of the Treasury Select Committee, Nicky Morgan MP
- Justice Select Committee member, Victoria Prentis MP

During these events we provided a platform for the Justice Ministerial team to make important points on justice and Brexit. The Lord Chancellor outlined his priorities at our event and the Justice Minister announced the principles for court reform at our event.

Ministerial engagement has also been a central part of my year. I held one to one meetings with the Lord Chancellor, the Justice Minister and the Parliamentary Private Secretaries to the Ministry of Justice, Lucy Frazer QC MP and Alan Mak MP. I also recently met with the Housing Minister, Alok Sharma MP, where I presented the Law Society's views on the consultation on the home buying process.

I also met with the following senior parliamentarians:

- Bob Neill MP, Chair of the Justice Select Committee
- Angus MacNeil MP, Chair of the International Trade Select Committee
- Helen Grant MP, Chair of the APPG on Legal Aid
- Bambos Charalambos, MP, solicitor and member of the Justice Select Committee

- Meeting with Hilary Benn MP, Chair of Exiting the EU Committee
- Meeting with Ellie Reeves MP, member of the Justice Select Committee
- Meeting with Nick Thomas-Symonds, shadow Security Minister
- Meeting with Gavin Newlands MP, member of the Justice Select Committee

2.1.2 Engagement with the judiciary

In the past six months, I have supported the Society's relationship with the senior judiciary. I have met the new President of the Supreme Court, Lady Hale, and the new Lord Chief Justice. I was also invited to [speak](#) at his swearing in ceremony where I made points on access to justice, including court fees, criminal legal aid and the court modernisation programme.

I have also been in touch with Mrs Justice Moulder, solicitor, who was appointed to the High Court in September. We will continue to celebrate and promote diversity in the judiciary next year as part of the Solicitor Judges Division.

3. Continuing the "pride in the profession" campaign to promote the contribution of the profession and its value

Promoting pride in the profession has been a central part of my Presidency. I have promoted the key messages of our campaign on the Global Legal Centre to promote the jurisdiction and our profession in the international conferences that I have attended, including at the American Bar Association, the Canadian Bar Association, the International Bar Association and the UIA (Union International des Avocats).

Domestically, I have engaged with members across the country and taken part in the AGMs, events and dinners of local law societies including Rochdale, Manchester, Exeter, the joint 5 and many others. I have hosted a number of roundtables on the next phase of the SRA's consultation on the

handbook and gathered insight and feedback on the proposals which will inform our representations.

As part of this work I also spoke at the Legal Wales Conference and the Local Law Societies Annual Conference and emphasised the barriers to justice and the need to work together to make the argument to Government.

4. Forward view

In the next quarter we will continue to focus on the priority issues for the Society including Brexit, access to justice, regulation and human rights. We will continue to promote the profession as part of the Global Legal Centre campaign and our new access to justice campaign on early legal advice.

I will also continue to support our Brexit work, promote our jurisdiction and the choice of the law of England and Wales in international forums.

Joe Egan

President