



Hello and welcome to the North's new-look Relationship Management monthly report for July 2016.

We hope you like our refreshed look with features, graphics and photos. We would like to know what you think and whether you would like to be featured in the newsletter. If you have any comments, please let us know by completing our quick [survey](#).

This month we have included your feedback on the Presidents and Secretaries conference held early in May. We have also focused on giving you as much up-to-date information as we can on Brexit and what it means for the profession.

We hope you find the report useful and we would ask that you share it with your members and colleagues, put it on your websites and tweet about it.

Thank you for reading.

Jo McLeod  
Head of Relationship Management North  
[joanne.mcleod@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:joanne.mcleod@lawsociety.org.uk)  
M – 07980 725573  
T – 0161 763 6821

Claire Quinn  
Relationship Manager North  
[claire.quinn@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:claire.quinn@lawsociety.org.uk)  
M - 07580 977090

Cath Carter  
Relationship Management Executive North  
[catherine.carter@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:catherine.carter@lawsociety.org.uk)  
M- 07812 675150

You can also follow us on Twitter  
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## July events

### Still places available

#### **Mental Health First Aid Training sessions**

Two day health and safety course  
21 & 22 July 10:00 - 17:00 at  
DWF Solicitors Manchester

#### **Judicial Appointments Commission require a Deputy Regional Valuer of the First-tier Tribunal, Property Chamber, Residential Property in Manchester**

**Expected to launch:** September 2016

The successful candidate will be based in Manchester and expected to work across the whole of the Northern Region.

Those interested should visit the JAC website for more [information about the First-tier Tribunal, Property Chamber, and the role of a Deputy Regional Valuer](#). You can also [sign up for alerts](#)

#### **The Law Society's Annual General Meeting**

**The Law Society, London** 14 July, 14:30

Any member of the Society is welcome to attend this meeting, at which the results of Council elections will be announced, the report and accounts of the Society for the previous year will be received, and the office holders will pass on their badges of office to their successors.

#### [More information](#)

For a full list of events, further detail and to book, please visit our [events page](#).

## Forthcoming events September & October

Regulatory update seminar  
21 September Manchester venue TBC

Private Client Session - updates in practice  
22 September at University of Law Manchester

Family section - regional seminar  
5 October Leeds venue TBC

Small firms annual conference  
6 October Park Plaza Leeds



## Update on RM Team North

On 20 June we welcomed Claire Quinn to the North team as our new Relationship Manager.

She will work with Jo and Cath across the region and will be visiting local law societies across the north over the next few months

Before joining the team, Claire was a Partner at Irwin Mitchell in Manchester in the Real Estate Team and has a good working knowledge of the profession.

Two weeks in Claire is enjoying her new role and getting out and about meeting top 200 firms, council members, key stakeholders and local law societies across the region.

### Tribute to Council Member Nigel Day



Council Member for Manchester and District, Nigel Day retires in July after 16 years as a Council Member for the area. Nigel is a Senior Partner at Hague Lambert

Michael Hardacre, President of Manchester Law Society said.

*"The legal profession is a better place to be because of Nigel's efforts."*

Fran Eccles-Bech, Chief Executive of Manchester Law Society said .

*"Nigel has taught me so much and mentored me over the years, his contribution to the Council will be sorely missed and I will miss him at meetings even more."*

Jeff Lewis, Head of Litigation at Brabners in Manchester will be taking up the reins and will be new Council Member for Manchester and District.



### Your Feedback

Thank you to those of you who took the time to provide feedback on the Law Society's annual Presidents' and Secretaries' Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May in Chancery Lane.

Your feedback from last year was invaluable and resulted in changes to this year's programme, format and content. We think these worked well, but we will again use your comments to try to improve the event in 2017.

Overall your satisfaction level with the way the event was organised, the breakout and plenary sessions and the dinner had increased from 2015.

Your feedback from the event also told us that you are interested in a number of key issues such as:-

- Member engagement and increasing the membership of your local law societies
- Local law societies' involvement and interaction with The Law Society
- Need for and use of ADR
- Cyber security
- Equality issues
- Governance
- Changes to small claims limit and PI
- More help and support for smaller local law societies with no paid staff.

Between now and the 2017 conference we will be making use of the newsletter to address some of these issues. This will start in the August edition when we will be able to share with you the dates for the conference in 2017.

If you would like us to address an issue not included in the above list please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's event.



## Brexit - what it means for the profession

On Thursday, 23 June, the UK took the historic decision to leave the European Union - so what happens now and what does it mean for the legal profession?

To keep you informed and up-to-date, here are some of our key messages and some useful links to recent press releases and Gazette articles.

- Brexit means unprecedented and complex challenges for UK law - [read more here](#)
- Changes to key laws in the wake of Brexit could take years to accomplish,
- The Law Society will work with the solicitor profession, their clients, the public and with government to support a calm transition in the wake of the referendum
- Equally for now there will be no change to people's legal rights or obligations.

[Read our Brexit briefing on everything you need to know about Article 50](#)

### Human rights law and Brexit

- Leaving the EU does not remove the UK's membership of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) nor its obligation to uphold the rights set out in the ECHR. Nor would leaving the EU remove the UK from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).
- The Law Society believes that any potential future British Bill of Rights would need to maintain the protection of the human rights enshrined in the Human Rights Act and the ECHR. The UK should remain a fully committed signatory to the ECHR as an important international standard in the sphere of human rights.

However, Sir Paul Jenkins QC, a barrister at Matrix Chambers and former head of the Government Legal Department, told the *Gazette* that the Brexit vote could 'seriously increase' the chances of the UK opting to leave the ECHR.

[Read the article in full here](#)

### Jurisdiction of choice and Brexit

- The law of England and Wales will retain its international commercial appeal and will remain an attractive and stable jurisdiction with a high-quality legal profession, internationally respected courts, and the best law firms in the world that have attracted clients from across the globe for many years.

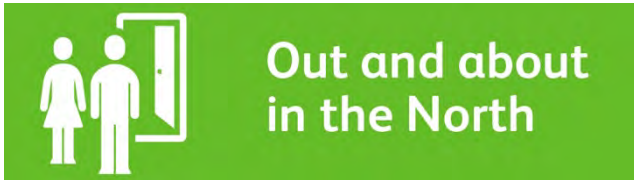
### Immigration, employment and Brexit

- The right of free movement of people remains in effect following the referendum result.
- For people who have already exercised their right of free movement - UK citizens living in other member states and other EU nationals living in the UK - the long-term situation post-withdrawal is not yet clear.
- Much of UK statutory employment law has its origins in EU legislation. The implementation of EU legislation into domestic law means that employment law obligations and protections would not automatically fall away upon the UK's eventual withdrawal from the EU

You may wish to read the following articles: [Legal sector does not need further instability in the wake of Brexit](#) [The Law Society]

[Brexit lobby lawyer sets out practice priorities](#) [The Law Society Gazette]

[Brexit: where now for PI reform and regulation?](#) [The Law Society Gazette]



June has been a busy month for the team. We've been busy with the International Festival of Business IFB events in Liverpool. We ran a successful fringe event on equality and diversity in Liverpool at Weightmans and hosted a number of legal advice sessions for SME's during the festival with DLA Piper.

Over all the team have made eight visits to top 200 firms, local law societies and with key stakeholders. Some of these include: attending the Liverpool and Yorkshire Local Law Society meetings and visiting the new President of Lancaster Law Society, attendance at a "Trailblazers Conference" in Manchester on how legal firms are embracing new business approaches to IT and a Pro Manchester meeting with key professional bodies.

Jonathan Smithers was also in the region this month, he attended the Leeds Legal Walk and visited a number of firms in Leeds.

### Legal comparison site ready to open with 150 firms on board

A Legal comparison site 'The Law Superstore' will be ready for business from 1 August after securing 150 firms willing to be ranked.

The site breaks down 130 legal services based on criteria selected by users, including quality ratings, services, location, expertise and price.

Firms do not pay to be ranked, but will pay a fee after a potential client has chosen a legal service provider and the agreed fee structure and scope of the work has been confirmed.

The firms taking part were hand-picked because of their progressive approach to providing and marketing legal services.

[Read the article in full here](#)



### Governance Review - update

The Governance Review of the Law Society is ongoing. If you would like to have your say you can submit suggestions by emailing [representation@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:representation@lawsociety.org.uk).

[Read more about the review and the existing governance structure](#)

### Take a look at the Law Society's Annual Review

The Law Society's annual review outlines the organisation's key achievements 2015 - 2016.

[Take a look here](#)



### Law Society responds to Justice Select Committee report on courts and tribunals fees

The Law Society asked the government to urgently assess the cumulative impact of court and tribunal fee increases on access to justice in England and Wales and on the competitiveness of London as a centre for dispute resolution

[Read the article in full here](#)



### Practising fee consultation - closes 7 July

Solicitors could pay £30 less for their practising certificate (PC) fee this year. The Law Society of England and Wales and the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) are running a [consultation \(PDF 407kb\)](#) proposing an individual rate of £290 per

solicitor for 2016-17. **The deadline to have your say is 7 July 2016.**

The proposed reduction in the PC fee is 9 per cent this year. If adopted this will mean that since 2014 it has been reduced by 24 per cent.

[Read the article in full here](#)

### Debate over Land Registry continues

Controversial plans to transfer Land Registry operations to the private sector came under parliamentary scrutiny on Thursday 30 June

David Lammy, Labour MP for Tottenham, north London, has tabled a motion for debate noting 'the important role the Land Registry plays in registering the ownership of land and property in England and Wales' and that any privatisation will have serious consequences for transparency and accountability in the UK property market.

[Read the article in full here](#)



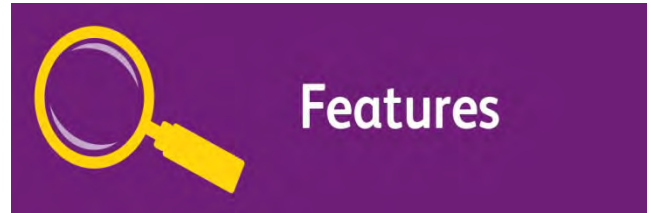
### Legal profession to be technology ready for the future

As technology is a key part of our daily and professional lives, Jonathan Smithers, The Law Society's President, calls for the legal profession to keep pace with the technological challenges ahead.

[Read more here](#)

You may also wish to read the following blog post:

[Will lawyers be replaced by robots?](#)



### Spotlight on Sheffield Law Society



With over 900 members Sheffield is one of the largest societies in Yorkshire. It covers Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Chesterfield

The society's ongoing aim is to support the legal profession locally through social events, training and a library and information service. It offers both individual and corporate membership

I asked outgoing President, Rachel Baldwin, one of the youngest Presidents in the society's history what she thinks the key to their success is

She told me that having a blend of experience and youth in their membership has really paid off. She says that with youth comes energy and with age comes experience and the two ingredients work well together and ensure sustainability in a difficult market.

She also says that getting the JLD involved in the society, sharing ideas exchanging views and going to one another's social events has been a crucial part of their success. She says

"They inject a bit of life, they are keen and help drive out the perception of law societies being known as 'old boy networks'".

Rachel's year as President has been a busy one, she's had a year of bringing the Society into the 21st century. Developing a new website, creating a strong social media presence and establishing new computer systems for the society

She has also been busy creating a comprehensive package of discounts and benefits for their members which they are really proud of. They trawled businesses and services across the region to create a relevant and desirable range of benefits and discounts which will save them money and make them feel part of Sheffield Law Society community.

Rachel has also built up sponsorship packages for the society and told me that getting reliable sponsors together with doing some savvy fundraising is crucial to being able to put on those all important social events for the benefit of members.

Natalie Cosgrove the incoming President (pictured above) took up office at the end of May 2016 and will continue and build on what Rachel has started.

### Council Member Insight - Steve Kuncewicz



Steve represents Manchester and District on The Law Society Council and is a partner at Bermans in Manchester, specialising in Intellectual Property, Media and Social Media legal issues,

His role as a Council Member has allowed him to establish strong ties with Chancery Lane, get to know its workings and feed this intelligence back to members in his constituency. He comments that working more closely with people in Chancery Lane has allowed him to see the bigger picture, how influential The Law society is and how and important it is to the profession.

Recently Steve joined the Governance Review working group to refresh the organisational structure of The Law Society over the next 10 years. He explains that this as a fundamental piece of work needed to sustain the profession and make it ready for the number of key challenges it faces.

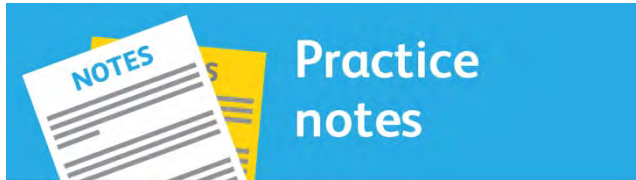
He describes his three years as a Council member as a fantastic opportunity to shape policy for the profession. He sees the role as a big commitment but says that it is manageable and well worth it.

I asked him what insights he had for Local Law Societies and he said that he would encourage them to get more involved with the national society, he says there has never been a better time to forge better links. He went on to say.

***"Local Law Societies are at the very heart of what Chancery Lane does, they couldn't do what they in the regions without them".***

He also encouraged local law societies to embrace the opportunities which social media and having a digital presence can bring. He continued

***"They open a whole new world of information and are the future of the profession***



## Lasting powers of attorney

Any solicitor intending to give advice about a lasting power of attorney (LPA) or act as an attorney under an LPA must be aware of the provisions in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA 2005) and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 Code of Practice (Code of Practice). Solicitors should also be familiar with the relevant guidance produced by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG).

The practice note provides an overview of LPAs and also covers the ongoing arrangements for enduring powers of attorney (EPA). It does not deal with situations with an international element, for example, using an LPA to sell a foreign property, or a non-UK individual who wishes to make an LPA.

[Read more](#)



## Semi-automated online services

In recent years, there has been a growth in the ability to deliver legal services electronically and online with little or no human intervention. This raises particular risks for firms and their duties to clients, particularly in respect of their professional conduct duties. This practice note looks at these risks.

[Read more](#)

## Power of attorney for banking

Attorneys are increasingly having difficulties with banking institutions accepting power of attorney documents as evidence of an attorney's authority to act on behalf of a donor.

The purpose of this practice note is to provide information about the different powers of attorney that can be used when dealing with a bank.

[Read more](#)

## Data protection

Processing personal data is fundamental to the work of a solicitor. The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) regulates the processing of information relating to individuals. Solicitors must comply with the DPA. Failure to do so may constitute a criminal offence. The Information Commissioner can, in certain circumstances, also impose financial penalties of up to £500,000.

This practice note sets out how solicitors can comply with the Act.

[Read more](#)

## Trust corporations

A trust corporation is a corporation which undertakes the administration of trusts and estates. It may also act as a court of protection deputy and attorney.

Some new entrants into the legal market are now combining them with a consumer brand to provide legal services. Recently, more established law firms have created their own trust corporations in response to consumer demand.

This note summarises what a trust corporation is, the requirements for its creation and a number of other matters.

[Read more](#)





### DCLG consultation on reform of the compulsory purchase system

The Law Society's Planning and Environmental Law Committee recently responded to a joint Department for Communities and Local Government and HM Treasury consultation on further reforms to the principles of assessing compensation and other technical improvements to compulsory purchase processes.

Government stated that its proposals were 'intended to make the compulsory purchase process clearer, fairer and faster', and has subsequently included compulsory purchase legislation in the 2016 Queen's Speech.

[Read our full response](#)

### HM Treasury consultation on the call for information on the AML and CFT supervisory regime

The Law Society of England and Wales has responded to the call for information issued by HM Treasury on the action plan for anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist finance (CFT) supervisory regime.

Our response covered the entire document, but our main focus was on the need for AML guidance to continue to be owned by the professions across all sectors because they have the practical and institutional understanding of the fight against organised crime.

[Read the full response](#)

### Home Office and HM Treasury consultation on the action plan for AML and CFT legislative proposals

The Law Society of England and Wales has responded to the consultation issued by the Home Office and HM Treasury on the action plan for anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist finance (CFT) legislative proposals.

Our response covered the entire document but our main focus was on the proposals to change the consent regime and remove the protection from prosecution offered by consent.

[Read the full response](#)

### MOJ consultation on proposals for the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal fees

We have responded to the Ministry of Justice consultation on proposals for the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) fees.

[Read the full response](#)

### Judicial Executive Board consultation on reforming the courts' approach to McKenzie Friends

The Judicial Executive Board has examined what approach courts should take to the provision of reasonable assistance by non-lawyers to litigants-in-person (LiPs) in respect of legal proceedings.

Such non-lawyer assistants are generally known as McKenzie friends. This work has been driven by the significant increase in the number of both LiPS and McKenzie friends, including paid McKenzie friends.

[Read the full response](#)



## SRA Open Consultations

### Removing barriers to switching regulators

The SRA are proposing to amend their Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements to remove a barrier to firms who wish to leave SRA regulation to be regulated by another Approved Regulator.

**Submission deadline** 14 July 2016

[Find out more](#)

### Looking to the Future - flexibility and public protection

The SRA are conducting a phased review of the SRA Handbook and their regulatory approach - Principles, Code of Conduct and Practice Framework Rules.

**Submission deadline** 21 September 2016

[Find out more](#)

### Looking to the Future: Accounts Rules review

The SRA are conducting a review of the SRA Accounts Rules 2011, which govern the handling of client money.

**Submission deadline** 21 September 2016

[Find out more](#)

Please feel free to contact us

Jo McLeod  
Head of Relationship Management North  
[joanne.mcleod@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:joanne.mcleod@lawsociety.org.uk)  
M – 07980 725573  
T – 0161 763 6821

Claire Quinn  
Relationship Manager North  
[claire.quinn@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:claire.quinn@lawsociety.org.uk)  
M - 07580 977090

Cath Carter  
Relationship Management Executive North  
[catherine.carter@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:catherine.carter@lawsociety.org.uk)  
M- 07812 675150

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