

Minutes of Special Authority Meeting**Date:** 30 March, 2017**Time:** 17:30 to 19:45**Venue:** Ormond Meeting Rooms, Ormond Quay**Attendance:**

Authority Members	Executive and Secretariat	Others
Don Thornhill – Chairperson	Ultan Ryan - Secretary	JP McDowell (McDowell Purcell)
Angela Black		James Roddy (McDowell Purcell)
Deirdre McHugh		Alison Hook (Hook Tangaza)
Gerry Whyte		Nessa Cahill BL (Counsel)
Stephen Fitzpatrick		
David Barniville		
Joan Crawford		
Eileen Barrington		
James MacGuill *		
Geraldine Clarke		
Dermott Jewell		

*James MacGuill by teleconference

1. A Special Authority Meeting was held on 30 March, 2017 to finalise and approve the following two reports for presentation to the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice on 31 March, 2017:
 - a. Section 118 Report:
A report following public consultation process in relation to the regulation, monitoring and operation of legal partnerships setting out recommendations arising from the consideration of submissions.
 - b. Section 119 Report:
An initial report commissioned by the Authority on the establishment, regulation, monitoring, operation and impact of multi-disciplinary practices in the State.

2. The Chairperson thanked the Authority members for their engagement in the review and feedback on the two reports and issues over the past month which had greatly assisted in bringing the reports up to such a high standard.

S118

3. In relation to follow-up actions arising from the submission of the s118 report, specifically the triggering of Section 1(3) and Section 100 of the Act, the Authority members discussed counsel's advice and the need to proceed with a structured action plan setting out what needs to be in place before legal partnerships can safely operate in the market. The Authority accepted the advices given by counsel in this regard.
4. The Authority approved that a systematic examination be undertaken of the issues to be addressed including identification of the preconditions which need to be in place to protect users of legal partnerships. This will include a programme and timetable of actions to undertaken which will form the basis of a further report to the Minister for Justice & Equality by end July, 2017.

S119

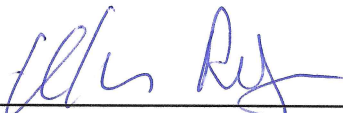
5. The Authority discussed the report commissioned through the Authority's legal service providers on multi-disciplinary practices and agreed to a two-part structure for the report. Part 1 of the report to set out the Authority's preliminary conclusions and Part 2, the commissioned report itself.
6. The Authority gave some consideration to mechanisms to optimise the benefits from the public consultation to follow the presentation of the report on multi-disciplinary practices. The Authority noted the material at Part 5 of the commissioned report on issues and suggested mechanisms for the public consultation process.

Outcomes

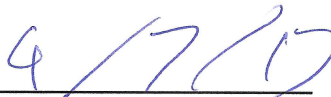
7. The Authority approved both reports subject to agreed structural adjustments and thanked McDowell Purcell, Alison Hook and Nessa Cahill for their hard work in assisting the Authority in its work.

AOB

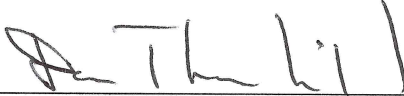
8. Draft public notices for the public consultations under Section 119 (multi-disciplinary practices) and Section 120 (issues relating to barristers) were provided in hard copy to members and will be circulated electronically.




Ultan Ryan, Secretary



Date



Dr Don Thornhill, Chairperson



Date