



MINUTES FINAL

19th Meeting of Legal Services Regulatory Authority – Minutes (FINAL)

Location: LSRA
Date: 11 November 2019
Time: 16:30 to 19:30

Attendees

Authority Members	Executive & Secretariat	Others
Eileen Barrington	Brian Doherty (CEO)	
Angela Black*	Ultan Ryan (Secretary)	
Geraldine Clarke		
Joan Crawford		
Stephen Fitzpatrick		
Dermott Jewell		
James MacGuill		
Deirdre McHugh		
Sara Moorhead		
Don Thornhill (Chairperson)		
Gerry Whyte		

*Angela Black by telecon.

Apologies:

N/A

Section 1 – Administration

Chairperson Don Thornhill was indisposed for the early part of the meeting due to urgent commitment elsewhere. Stephen Fitzpatrick was approved to Chair in his absence.

1.0 General

1.1 Agenda adopted.

Under AOB, Schedule of dates for 2020 Authority Meetings circulated to members – availability to be confirmed with Secretary.

- 1.2 Declaration of Interests on agenda items. None arising.
- 1.3 Minutes of Authority meeting of 5 September 2019 approved, subject one typo correction.

Section 2 – Governance

2.0 CEO Report

2.0.1 Members discussed the following items under the CEO Report:

Part 2:

Update on other activities undertaken:

2.1 Recruitment and Staffing:

- i. Update provided on current staffing profile.
- ii. Recruitment of key staff – phase I completed.

2.2 Legal Partnerships (LPs) and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs):

The sections of the 2015 Act in relation to Legal Partnerships were not commenced in the commencement order signed by the Minister for Justice & Equality on 7 October 2019. Department of Justice & Equality has indicated to the LSRA that a legislative amendment is required which it is anticipated will be progressed in early 2020.

2.3 Stakeholder Engagement update provided.

2.4 Roll of Practising Barristers update provided. As at 29 August 2018, there were 2,742 practising barristers enrolled.

2.5 Advisory Committee on the grant of Patents of Precedence: Executive met with Chief Justice on 14 November 2019 for information meeting on establishment approach. LSRA to put the structures in place to support the Committee, including application forms and secretariat.

Part 3: Upcoming and continuing work:

3.1 Section 218 Advertising regulations

Public Consultation ongoing. Deadline currently set at 2 December 2019 for receipt of submissions.

Part 4: Risk Management:

4.1 Risk Management update provided.

3.0 Duly Authorised Register Under 2015 Act

Authority approved the proposal in respect of the Duly Authorised Register.

Section 3 – Finance

4.0 Financial Reports

4.1 Management Accounts for Period ended 30 September 2019 noted by the Authority.

4.2 Executive working with accountants on 2019 outturn and Draft 2020 Budget. Draft 2020 Budget will be put to Authority for approval at the next meeting.

- Authority sought inclusion of contingency for judicial reviews.
- LPDT will be included in Budget.

Section 4 – LSRA Policy and Implementation

5.0 FAR Committee Chairperson's Update:

Chairperson of FAR Committee updated the Authority on the FAR Committee meeting of 18 October 2019, including:

- OCAg exit meeting items raised;
- Risk Register: risk review in December 2019 will consider removal of 2 x risks.

6.0 Update on Part 6 – Complaints:

CEO provided general update on the Complaints function, including key themes arising in respect of basis of contacts. Key themes are:

- Enquiries in relation to probate issues;

- Complaints in respect of (perceived lack of) communication from legal practitioners.

High levels of engagement in the process from legal practitioners have been experienced since day one.

In respect of the mediation function, the first cases are being assessed for admissibility for mediation.

6.1 Regulations under section 55 on Procedures under Part 6 and the Complaints Committee Procedures

Regulations

Draft Regulations reviewed by the Authority. Amendment required in respect of Regulation 11(7) and 11(8) on legal opinions and their disclosure. Authority approve Executive to amend and proceed with signing by Chairperson and CEO.

Committees

CEO provided update on the process to establish the Complaints and Review Committees.

LPDT appointments are being advanced by Department of Justice & Equality.

7.0 Levy Update:

Update on implementation of levy provisions provided. Notices issued to the Law Society, Bar Council and individual non-Law Library barristers in early November.

8.0 Update on Limited Liability Partnerships

Now live. Applications are being processed.

LSRA Executive team working on the implementation of LLP framework were commended by the Authority for their work on the project.

9.0 Update on Section 34 Consultation and Symposium on Legal Education & Training

Update provided by CEO on Symposium and next steps for Further Report to the Minister for Justice & Equality.

Authority discussed the format and structure of the Draft Report and Executive to draft a Report and issue as soon as practicable to Authority for comments, questions and observations.

Report to analyse the Hook Tangaza Report, the Submissions Received on second public consultation and output report from 2019 Symposium, basing the Draft Second Report on those sources.

Second Draft Report to then be issued to the Authority for discussion at its next meeting.

10.0 Roadmap for 2020

CEO gave a PowerPoint Presentation to the Authority on the key challenges and tasks ahead for the LSRA in 2020.

11.0 Closed Session

The Chairperson discussed the output from the Self-Assessment exercise with the Authority Members in closed session. Secretary was informed that no issues in respect of the Self-Assessment were raised by members in the session.

12.0 AOB

Dealt with at beginning of Meeting. No items raised.

Action Points – Meeting of 14 November 2019	
Agenda Item	Action
1.3	<p><u>Minutes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of 5 September 2019 to be amended. Typo (“Stage Three” instead of “Stage Tree”). • Authority Members to confirm availability for 2020 meeting dates provided.
2.1	<p><u>CEO Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.2: Update on Legal Partnership legislative amendment to be provided at next Authority Meeting. • 2.5: Update on Advisory Committee on grant of Patents of Precedence to be provided at next Authority Meeting.
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duly Authorised Register under 2015 Act approved by Authority.
4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive to provide Draft Budget 2020 at next Authority Meeting. • Budget to include Contingency for Judicial Reviews.
6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Regulations on Complaints (Section 55 Regulations on Procedures under Part 6) approved subject to amendment under Regulation 11(7) and (8) – disclosure of legal opinion.
9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive to proceed with Draft Second Section 34 Report and circulate to Authority Members. • Authority Members to review and respond with questions and comments. • Executive to review Authority Member feedback and reflect in further draft to be submitted for next Authority Meeting.

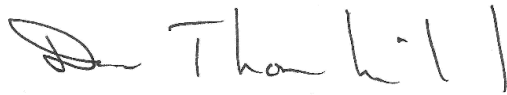
FINAL Minutes Signed



23 January 2020

Ultan Ryan, Secretary

Date



23 January 2020

Don Thornhill, Chairperson

Date