

City of London Law Society – Corporate Crime and Corruption Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the 18 January 2022,
carried out remotely via videoconference
8:30 – 9:30

Present:

Eoin O’Shea (Chair): *CMS*
Andrew Katzen: *Hickman & Rose*
Rosanne Kay: *Reed Smith*
Neil Blundell: *Macfarlanes*
Eve Giles: *Allen & Overy*
Simon Joyston-Bechal: *Turnstone Law*
Elly Proudlock: *Linklaters*
Pamela Reddy: *Norton Rose Fulbright*
Hannah Lamming: *Peters & Peters*
Michelle de Kluyver: *Addleshaw Goddard*
Roger Best: *Clifford Chance*
Judith Seddon: *Ropes & Gray*
Rita Mitchell: *Wilkie Farr*
Jeremy Summers: *Osborne Clarke*
Sarah Wallace: *Constantine Law*
Susannah Cogman: *Herbert Smith*
Jonathan Cotton: *Slaughter & May*

Attending:

Amy Wilkinson (Secretary): *CMS*
Kevin Hart: *CLLS*
Matthew Rous: *CLLS*

1. Minutes and apologies

The Chair noted apologies from members and reminded members that the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and invited comments. Subject to any comments, the minutes would be finalised and filed within 24 hours. The Chair noted an amendment required to the attendance record of the previous meeting.

2. Pre-Interview Disclosure & Interview Practices

Members discussed solicitor undertakings for SFO s.2 interviews, noting that little progress had been made with the SFO since the end of November. Members also discussed the SFO's approach to issuing s. 2 notices.

3. Practice / Legal updates

Members considered the SFO's current position, in light of the press coverage of the Unaoil failings and Attorney General's independent review. The Chair canvassed views on what members thought may need to change to reform the SFO. Members discussed the implications of rolling the SFO into another authority (i.e. the NCA), resourcing, remuneration of staff and funding. The Chair asked members to produce a short (1-2 pages) briefing on what they saw as the main challenges facing the SFO and proposed solutions, with the intention of combining the members' thoughts into a consolidated document to feed into any future consultations on the SFO or discussions regarding its reform.

4. Consultations and legislation

The Chair noted that the Law Commission report on corporate liability would be published soon, but it had not yet been published.

5. Future guest speakers

The Chair invited suggestions for future guest speakers from members and possible candidates were discussed.

6. Membership

The Chair noted that three senior members of the committee would be stepping back. Roger Best, Tony Woodcock and Louise Delahunty. The Chair thanked all for their long-standing service to the committee and their significant contributions over the years.

On the topic of new members, the Chair noted that he was considering one applicant and may report on that in due course. The Chair confirmed that the new member window would remain open for a little longer.

7. AOB

The date for the annual dinner for Committees was confirmed as 24 January 2022, with further details available on the CLLS website.

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