



Hello and welcome to the Relationship Management monthly report for November 2016 for members in the North, including the North West, Yorkshire and the North East.

This edition includes the latest insights on Brexit, celebrates our Excellence Award winners in the North and updates you on the Solicitor Brand Campaign, the Governance Review and our Social Mobility Ambassadors Programme for 2016/2017

Also in this edition we also put the spotlight on Cheshire and North Wales Law Society.

We hope you find the report useful, please share it with your members and colleagues.

If you have any comments or suggestions please let us know.

Thank you for reading.

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You can also follow us on Twitter  
[@lawsocNorthWest](https://twitter.com/lawsocNorthWest)  
[@LawSocYorksNE](https://twitter.com/LawSocYorksNE)

Join the North LinkedIn Group - follow the link  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12003211>

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## Events

11 November, 2016

[The SRA Continuing Competence Regulations 2016: Training from 1st November 2016](#)

Liverpool Law Society

15 November, 2016

[Complaint Handling for the Legal Profession in conjunction with LeO](#)

Liverpool Law Society

16 November 2016

[Conference For Legal Cashiers & Managers](#)

Liverpool Law Society

17 November 2016

[Money Laundering Reporting Officer networking group, Newcastle](#)

**Location:** Royal Station Hotel, Neville St, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DH

[Find out more and book your place](#)

29 November, 2016

[Solicitors Accounts Rules for Fee Earners,](#)

Liverpool Law Society

30 November, 2016

[Maximising Multi Track Work](#)

Liverpool Law Society

13 Dec 2016

[Money Laundering Reporting Officer networking group, Manchester](#)

Location: JMW Solicitors, Manchester

[Find out more and book your place](#)

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

## Excellence Awards 2016 - Celebrating our winners in the North

The 10th Excellence Awards held at Chancery Lane on Thursday 20 October was a great showcase for solicitors in the North. Overall we had four winners and eight highly commended.

Our congratulations go to all our winners, those highly commended and all nominees, fantastic achievements for the North. The list of winners is below.

- The Jackson Canter Group Manchester picked up two awards one for Excellence in Pro Bono and another for Chris Topping as Human Rights Lawyer of the Year.
- Simpson Millar LLP in Manchester received an Excellence Award for Learning and Development
- Ranjit Uppal from Switalskis Solicitors in Leeds picked up the Excellence Award for Solicitor Advocate of the Year
- Huddersfield Law Society also received a Highly Commended in the Excellence in Pro Bono category for their Uganda Twinning Group
- Hugh Jones Solicitors Salford picked up a Highly Commended for Excellence in Private Practice
- Ridley & Hall Legal Ltd in Huddersfield picked up a Highly Commended for Excellence in Business Development
- Paul J Watson Solicitor Middlesbrough picked up a Highly Commended for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion
- Rachel Horman from Ramsbottom Watson Limited in Blackburn received a Highly Commended for Woman Lawyer of the Year .
- Susan Bartfield from Lester Morrill in Leeds received a Highly Commended for Solicitor of the Year Private Practice.

- Rhiannon Jones Lester Morrill Leeds picked up a Highly Commended for Junior Lawyer of the Year.
- EMG Solicitors LTD in Durham received Highly Commended for Excellence in Client Services

To see a full list of winners go to <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/events-training/excellence-awards/2016-winners/>



### Presidents and Secretaries Conference 2017 - change of date

Please note that the date for the Presidents and Secretaries Conference in 2017 has changed, it is now happening on the 5 and 6 May at Chancery Lane. We apologise for having to change the date but we hope you will still be able to join us for this important event in the Law Society calendar.

Organisation for the event is well underway and you should by now have received a formal invitation to the conference from Robert Bourns, the President of The Law Society.

We have listened to delegate feedback from our 2016 conference to form the programme for the event. As a result, the 2017 programme will include a number of additional items.

For further information and to book your place, please visit the [Law Society website](#) today!

If you have any ideas for the 2017 conference please let your Relationship Manager know.

### My Law Society is live - personalise your Law Society information

Did you know you can now personalise your Law Society information on My Law Society?

For more information and details on how to register please [visit our website](#).

### Brexit Update

As the legal ramifications of Brexit continue, we have the latest updates, advice, and insights [here](#).

You may also find the following articles of interest:

Read about the impact of Brexit on the Investigatory Powers Bill [here](#).

Read about the implications of Brexit on the UK Justice System [here](#).

Read the Guardian article on UK lawyers registering in Ireland as a Brexit insurance move [here](#).

Watch the video of Robert Bourns speaking about what lawyers think about Brexit here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-37682827>

### SQE update and details of consultation

The Law Society welcomes the SRA's second round of consultation on the SQE proposals and will be submitting a response to this consultation in due course.

The SRA has responded to many of the concerns raised by stakeholders during the first consultation and made positive changes to the proposals.

Some concerns remain around:

- The potential lack of availability of appropriate funding for students who

have to pay for SQE prep courses and the assessments themselves

- The way in which open data on the providers of education and training may be published

Read more about the SRAs second consultation on the introduction of the SQE [here](#). The deadline for responses is 9 January 2017

## Update on the Law Society's Governance Review - have your say

The Review of The Law Society's governance has been ongoing over the summer and below is a summary of the latest Council decisions on the issue.

**Council has agreed: To establish a Main board** – this board's first task will be to review the form and function of other Boards and make recommendations to Council for further changes as necessary.

We currently have four Boards, covering [Management](#), [Legal Affairs and Policy](#), [Membership](#) and [Regulatory Affairs](#). These are populated by Council members who elect one of their peers to be chair of the committee.

- The Main board will include solicitors who are not currently members of Council
- The board Chair will be appointed by reference to her or his skills
- The Board will have up to two lay members
- The Board will also include the three Law Society Office Holders

## Review of the Council

Before we implement these changes, we now move on to the broader review of the Council itself. So that you can comment on the representative structure, the way the current structure works is below.

The Society has a Council with up to 100 seats for volunteer solicitors representing [geographic and special interest groups](#) which meets in London seven times a year. These seats are

open to election on a four-year cycle. (One seat, for a two-year term, is reserved for someone to represent LPC students and trainees.)

[Find out more about our current governance structure](#)

We have been seeking input from individual members, local law societies and others as we have begun to consider changes. Please let us know what you think by e-mailing [representation@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:representation@lawsociety.org.uk)

[Download our strategy \(PDF\)](#) [Find out more about our Council](#)

## Pro Bono Week - update

National Pro Bono Week provides an opportunity for the legal profession to celebrate and strengthen its commitment to undertaking legal work for free pro bono publico ('for the public good' in Latin).

This year, we are providing a range of support for solicitors who want to do pro bono.

We have also launched a [survey](#) to build a qualitative understanding of what is going on, potential examples that others might consider, as well as those things that have not worked. This survey closes on 7 November.

For many solicitors, pro bono work is absolutely central to their identity and professional lives.

During [Pro Bono Week 2016](#) there will be an online pro bono portal to connect lawyers who are looking for opportunities to do pro bono work with local access to justice centres across England and Wales that need their support.

Put a note in your diary to visit the [pro bono portal](#) between 7-11 November and find out what opportunities may be open to you.



**Solicitor Brand Campaign - how you can get involved**

You told us that you wanted us to support the reputation of the solicitor profession and promote and protect the use of solicitors above other sources of legal advice. On 3 October 2016 we launched a joint campaign with members to help achieve this.

Find out more, watch the video and find out how you can get involved [here](#).

## World Mental Health Day - five steps to wellbeing

Monday 10 October was World Mental Health Day, this has been observed annually across the globe since 1992, and promotes mental health education, awareness and advocacy.

LawCare, which receives funding from the Law Society, supports mental health and wellbeing throughout the legal community. World Mental Health Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of wellbeing and the impact it has on mental health.

Read the five steps and more [here](#).

## Social Mobility Ambassadors for 2016

The Law Society recently launched its Solicitors for Social Mobility programme to celebrate and showcase solicitors from all social backgrounds. Social mobility is vital for the future health of the legal profession and Law Society President, Robert Bourns said:

"I am proud and delighted to introduce the 2016 Solicitors for Social Mobility: the Ambassadors. These solicitors are proof that the profession and broader society are strengthened by enabling people from all walks of life to overcome challenges and barriers and join the profession."

The Ambassadors will work with the Law Society and with non-profit organisations, universities and schools to promote social mobility in the legal profession.

The Society has selected 10 solicitor ambassadors to share their experience of entering the profession, including the challenges they faced and how they overcame them.

Read their profiles [here](#)

## Law Society CDD Costs Survey 2016

You will be aware, the government is currently holding a consultation exercise on the UK's transposition of the Fourth EU Money Laundering Directive (4MLD).

The consultation invites views and evidence on the steps that the government proposes to take to meet the UK's obligation to transpose 4MLD into national law.

In order to further these aims we have put together a brief and anonymised survey which seeks to quantify the significant costs borne by law firms in adhering to the current AML/CFT regime and to quantify any additional costs which would result from the government's plans to transpose aspects of 4MLD.

The government's 4MLD consultation exercise closes on 10 November and we require firms to complete this survey by close of business on Monday 7 November. [Take the survey now](#)

If you have any questions with respect to this survey please contact us by email at:

[antimoneylaundering@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:antimoneylaundering@lawsociety.org.uk)

## Revival of the Yorkshire Union

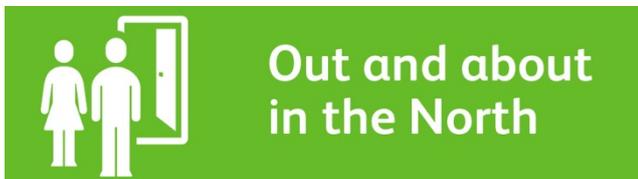
The Yorkshire Union of Law Societies was re-launched at a well attended meeting held at the offices of Leeds Law Society on Wednesday 5th October.

David Barraclough of RadcliffesLeBrasseur and a director of Leeds Law Society was elected

President of The Yorkshire Union of Law Societies at the meeting.

The next meeting of the Yorkshire Union of Law Societies will take place at 10.30 am on Tuesday 6th December 2016 at the offices of Leeds Law Society. Tom Macdonald, Centre Director of the University of Law in Leeds will talk about the University of Law's views on the current Solicitors Regulation Authority consultation "A new route to qualification; the Solicitors Qualifying Exam". The closing date for responses to the consultation is the 9th January 2017

Further information about the activities of The Yorkshire Union of Law Societies can be obtained from David Barraclough c/o Leeds Law Society 62 Wellington Street Leeds LS1 2EE or on 07710 531432"



October has been a busy month for the north team. We attended the prestigious Excellence Awards at Chancery Lane, a Law Society Small Firms conference in Leeds, and the AGMA Chief Legal Officers meeting in Manchester.

We also attended the re-launch of the Association of Women Solicitors in Manchester and the official launch of the Black Solicitors Network in the North.

We have also carried out five firm visits in Preston, Sheffield, Manchester, Bradford and Liverpool and attended Manchester, Preston and Liverpool Local Law Society committee meetings.

### Spotlight on Cheshire & North Wales Law Society



### Cheshire & North Wales Law Society

This month we are putting the spotlight on Cheshire and North Wales Law Society. I spoke to Diana Williams, President of the society and Partner at Cullimore Dutton and Mark Brown, Honorary Secretary of the society and Partner at Taylor Brown Solicitors and asked them what they thought their biggest achievements have been so far.

They told me that when they began their year of office their predecessor had already begun a programme of change and the clear challenge was to build on this and see the change consolidated.

The Society changed its name to "Cheshire" and North Wales Law Society earlier this year and decided to take the Committee 'On Tour' to demonstrate its support for the region it serves. So far they have held Committee Meetings in St Asaph, the Chester Grosvenor and at Sandiway Golf Club Northwich.

They also have a dynamic new website which is operating very well.

Diana became President earlier this year and she told me that the biggest challenge for the Local Law Society was apathy from the profession, an unwillingness to engage in the Local or National Law Society. She believes that as the changes for the profession are coming from Government and the SRA thick and fast, it has never been more important for the profession to get more involved and be engaged.

As one of the larger societies in the North West outside of the Joint Five I asked them both what tips they would give to other Local societies who may be struggling with this apathy?

They both said that their Committee was the key to their success. They recommended having a balanced representation between age and youth, as both bring experience and enthusiasm. Also,

having a mix of senior and junior solicitors is vital. Mark told me:

*"We have a permanent representative from the JLD on our Committee and the enthusiasm of our younger lawyers is infectious— particularly regarding events and social media."*

They also said that networking with other Local Law Societies and not being afraid to ask for help from the larger ones was crucial. Cheshire and North Wales work closely with Liverpool Law Society and have been a key point of contact for smaller societies wanting to introduce a corporate membership scheme, which is something Cheshire and North Wales have done successfully.

Mark also told me that engaging with the National Law Society, using their Relationship Management contacts for help and going to the Law Society Presidents' and Secretaries Conference at Chancery Lane, as well as the Local Law Societies Conference organised by the Local Law Societies, has helped them enormously.

Over the next 12 months they told me that they plan to increase their membership by focusing on events and building up support for the new website. They also plan to increase their income by developing sponsorship packages for their events.

Finally, on a lighter note, I asked them which bar/pub/restaurant was their favourite for a relaxing after committee meeting drink. Mark told me they often go to the "Ring O' Bells" in Christleton after the Committee Meetings, which are kindly hosted by the University of Law.

## Provision of Services Regulations 2016

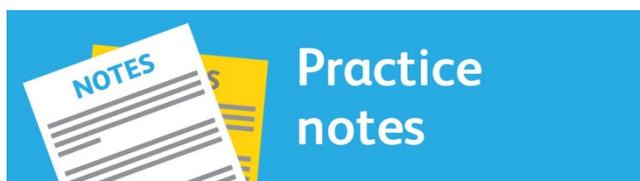
Directive 2006/123 on services in the Internal Market (the directive) imposes new obligations on you in respect of information you give to clients. It was implemented in the United Kingdom via the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 (the regulations) in December 2009

While the Directive's main focus is how Member States and regulators govern service providers, some direct obligations are imposed on service providers. It imposes certain information requirements on solicitors. Much of the information you are required to provide will already be included in your client care information. However, there are new requirements about the information you must provide clients in terms of the compulsory layer of professional indemnity insurance, VAT number, non-judicial dispute resolution procedures and information regarding the Solicitors Regulation Authority Handbook. Part 2 of the practice note sets out the new information requirements. For completeness, part 3 of the practice note sets out the other requirements.

The Regulations also prevent discrimination in your general conditions. This is discussed in more detail in part 4 of the practice note.

These obligations are reflected in the Law Society practice notes on client care letters, complaints management and professional indemnity practice.

[Read more](#)



## HMRC consultation on stamp duty land tax: changes to the filing and payment process

We have responded to HMRC's consultation on changes to the SDLT filing and payment process.

We have suggested that if online filing and electronic payments are mandated, HMRC should:

- allow exceptions for complex transactions, where online filing is not reasonably practical
- allow an appropriate transition time to allow users to become familiar with the new system before they are obliged to use it
- make allowances by extending time limits for communications between solicitors and HMRC to clarify filings on complex or unusual transactions.

HMRC should use this opportunity to make the SDLT return simpler. By only collecting information that is directly relevant to the SDLT, the process would be streamlined, easier for users, and easier to implement successfully.

[Read the full response](#)

## FCA request for information on reserved activities

In October 2015, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) published a Call for Inputs (CFI) on competition in the mortgage sector. The CFI's goal was to seek views on areas of the mortgage sector which might raise competition related concerns and merit further investigation.

In December 2015, the Law Society respond to the CFI. While solicitors do not directly participate in the mortgage supply chain, they have an interest in it, an impact on how it works, and their clients are affected by the outcome. Mortgage lenders' practices with respect to their panels of solicitors used in residential conveyancing transactions ultimately leads to fewer solicitors being accepted onto these

panels. This could restrict consumers' choice in solicitor.

The Society recommends that the FCA further investigates lenders' practices with regard to managing their panels of solicitors and the impact it has on consumers and the mortgage market.

[Read our full response](#)

## HMRC Strengthening Tax Avoidance Sanctions and Deterrents discussion document

The Law Society has responded to the HMRC's discussion document on strengthening tax avoidance sanctions and deterrents, which was published in August 2016.

In August 2016, HMRC published proposals to introduce sanctions for advisers who design, market or facilitate the use of tax avoidance arrangements which are subsequently deemed unacceptable. This followed the announcement at the budget that the government would be exploring further options to influence the behaviour of promoters and others in what HMRC calls 'the supply chain'.

The Law Society's view is that the overly-wide scope of the definitions, the proposed level of penalties and the implications of LPP for a defence against those penalties could, if implemented, lead to some law firms deciding not to provide tax advice to businesses and investors.

[Read the full response](#)

## Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect consultation

The Law Society has responded to government proposals to introduce a new duty to report or to act on a variety of professionals.

The Society cautions against the introduction of wide ranging duties, which could carry criminal sanctions and lead to high volumes of unsubstantiated reports.

[Read the full response](#)

## DCLG neighbourhood planning proposals

The Law Society's Planning and Environmental Law Committee recently responded to a Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on reforms to neighbourhood planning processes.

The consultation sought views on detailed regulations to implement the neighbourhood planning provisions in the Neighbourhood Planning Bill. The Committee has also given evidence in person to the parliamentary committee scrutinising the bill.

[Read the full response](#)



## SRA Open Consultations

### A new route to qualification: the Solicitors Qualifying Examination

This second consultation sets out more detail about how we are proposing solicitors might qualify in the future – and specifically about the SQE. It makes clear how we have revised and developed our proposals in the light of feedback from the first consultation, and it explains how the SQE would fit with preparatory training, including work-based learning. It sets out how the SQE can assure high professional standards.

**Submission deadline** 9 January 2017

[Find out more](#)

Thank you for reading - if you have any queries about anything in the newsletter or would like to include something, please contact us.

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