



Hello and welcome to the Relationship Management monthly report for September 2017 for the Midlands.

We hope you find the report useful and encourage you to share it with your members and colleagues.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the future development of our monthly report, please let us know.

Thank you for reading.

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Contents

News

- Events and training
- Excellence Awards 2017
- The latest on Brexit
- The latest on GDPR
- SQE - what you need to know
- For the diary - National Local Law Societies Conference 2017

Out and about in the Midlands

Consultation responses

- Consultation on the AML supervisory review
- Enforcement of suspended orders

Open Consultations

- SRA: Corporate Strategy 2017-20
- Consultations for Government that you may be interested in responding to...



In-house Division - Routes to the Board: A seat at the table for in-house lawyers

The Law Society, London 7 September, 17:30 - 20:30

Join us for an interactive panel discussion on how you can advance your in-house career onto a board. Whether you are thinking about volunteering as a trustee or wish to become a company secretary, we will offer you practical advice and guidance on your path.

Working as a volunteer board member can be an immensely rewarding experience and can provide ample opportunities for personal and professional development. Equally, transferring your skills into the role of a company secretarial can increase your profile with chairs and CEOs and possibly lead to non-executive roles in the future.

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

Risk and Compliance Autumn Conference: A one-stop-shop for your compliance needs

Hyatt Regency, Birmingham 13 September,
10:00 - 17:00

The 2017 Risk and Compliance regional conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Birmingham, on Wednesday 13 September 2017. The conference will examine the current compliance issues that are affecting firms, and legal departments and features a mix of plenary sessions and a choice of concurrent workshops that will help you achieve best practice in compliance.

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

Private Client Section seminars with Professor Lesley King

London 19 Sept, **Birmingham** 26 Sept,
Manchester 28 Sept

These one-hour evening seminars with speaker Professor Lesley King will provide a review of current issues in private client practice. They will include coverage of the Guardianship (Missing Persons) Act 2017, the latest on the RNRB, the new trusts register, the implications of Halsall v Champion Consulting (negligent tax advice) and Re Exler (conflict of interests in the administration of an estate), plus post-election updates.

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

Legal services in a data driven world

The Law Society, London 27 September, 09:00 - 17:00

With the EU General Data Protection Regulation fast-approaching, non-compliance is not an option. This event will tell you all you need to know about the steps to take.

Speakers will also look at the practicalities of moving to the Cloud, staying safe from cyber threats and will address how to utilise the vast amount of information and client data you are holding.

[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 2017 - fantastic shortlists in the Midlands

Recently the names of the brightest and best from the solicitor profession were unveiled in the 11th annual Excellence Awards.

The annual awards recognise the commitment, enthusiasm and passion that solicitors dedicate to serving their clients, and, in the process, underpinning our world-renowned legal system.

"To be shortlisted for the Excellence Awards is an achievement to be proud of," said Law Society president Joe Egan.

The Midlands team are delighted to announce the firms below have been shortlisted in the Midlands area:

Excellence in Business Development

Wildings Solicitors

Excellence in Client Service

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Excellence in Conveyancing Practice

Wilson Browne

Excellence in International Legal Services

Addison Aaron International Lawyers

Excellence in Marketing & Communications

April King Legal

Roythornes Solicitors

Wilson Browne Solicitors

Excellence in Private Client Practice

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Excellence in Pro Bono

Gowling WLG LLP

Excellence in Technology

Wildings Solicitors

Solicitor of the Year - Private Practice

Terri Harman, Godiva Law

Woman Lawyer of the Year

Louise Drew, Shakespeare Martineau

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony hosted by BBC Radio 4 Today programme presenter, Mishal Husain, on 19 October 2017 at the Hilton Park Lane Hotel, London.

[Book tickets to the Law Society Excellence Awards 2017 ceremony](#)



The latest on Brexit

As Brexit rumbles on, below is a round-up of what's been happening, including the Law Society's key victory on civil justice cooperation.

[Civil justice cooperation vital to post-Brexit relationship](#)

[Our latest activities on Brexit](#)

[New EU financial sanctions reporting requirements - What you need to know](#)

The latest on GDPR

Time is running out to prepare for what is being described as a major overhaul of the EU data protection regime. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will apply from the 25 May 2018, and you need to be ready. Read our top 10 tips [here](#).

[Read Owen O'Rourke's blog on why it's important to take control of your data](#)

Paul Cummins, Head of Legal at Milton Keynes Council and a member of our In-house Division

committee, has produced a practical guide to tackling the new GDPR legislation, read it [here](#).

Law Society Vice President, Christina Blacklaws will be chairing a GDPR seminar for in-house lawyers on 26 October. Further details and booking information will be announced in early September at events.lawsociety.org.uk.

We have developed a number of on-demand webinars which may be of interest...

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and how it affects your organisation

Cost: £45 (free to In-House Division members)

Join this webinar and benefit from critical insights into the changes to the data protection law across Europe, how it will impact your organisations and how you can prepare in the run up to Brexit. Delivered by Stephen McCartney, director of information governance and data protection officer at the Royal Mail Group.

[Find out more](#)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): are you prepared?

Cost: £45 (free to Law Management section members)

This webinar, presented by James Castro, a partner and head of Data Protection at Wedlake Bell LLP, will provide you with a balanced understanding of the GDPR. The webinar will help you to identify the greatest risks to your organisation and how to focus on addressing them.

[Find out more](#)

The following articles may also be of interest:

[Cybercrime trends - Is your firm prepared?](#)

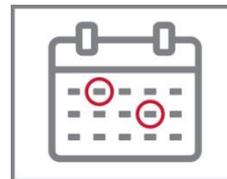
[Your money or your data: 4 reasons to comply with GDPR](#)

[Keep your papers under wraps for GDPR compliance](#)

SQE - what you need to know

From 2020, there is likely to be a new way to qualify as a solicitor. Our Junior Lawyers Division JLD have put together a [comprehensive guide](#) to help you understand the new regulations.

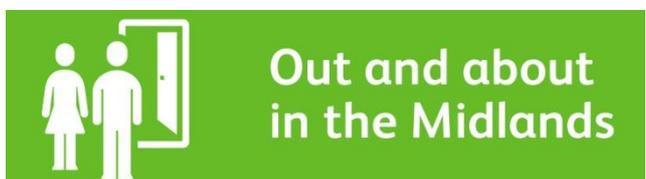
Also, read the President, Joe Egan's call for clarity on the SQE [here](#).



For the diary - National Local Law Societies Conference

The City of Westminster & Holborn Law Society are pleased to invite you to the National Local Law Societies Conference 2017.

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



During August we organised a series of GDPR sessions across the country to offer help and support in adjusting for the new regulations in advance of their implementation from May 2018.

Our Policy Adviser for this area, Tim Hill chaired a Midlands Compliance Forum meeting in Birmingham to discuss these issues.

The same month we were also delighted to team up with Birmingham Law Society and welcome a

delegation of Kazakhstani judges to Birmingham as part of an intensive six month judicial training programme. The group of 14 judges participated in sessions focused on the business and property court, international corporate crime and were given a tour of the Magistrate Court.



Consultation on the AML supervisory review

The Society has responded to HM Treasury's (HMT) consultation on the anti-money laundering (AML) supervisory review. The review includes proposed regulations to establish a new Office for Professional Body AML Supervision (OPBAS), hosted by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The consultation sets out that OPBAS will focus on working with professional body AML supervisors (PBS) to ensure high standards of supervision.

The proposed regulations will give the OPBAS power for both public censure of a PBS and to recommend to HMT the removal of AML supervisor status for compliance failure.

Our response highlights our concerns that OPBAS is likely to impose unnecessary costs on PBS, which inevitably will be passed to legal businesses and ultimately to the consumers of legal services.

Read the full response [here](#).

Enforcement of suspended orders

The Society's Housing Law Committee has responded to a consultation by the Civil Procedure Rule Committee (CPRC) on proposals to clarify the process for enforcing suspended

orders following the Court of Appeal's judgment in *Cardiff City Council v Lee (Flowers)* [2016].

The CPRC consultation sought views from practitioners on whether amendments were required to rules and forms in light of the judgment.

Read the full response [here](#).



SRA Open Consultations

Corporate Strategy 2017-20

The SRA is consulting on its Corporate Strategy for 2017-20. Its aim for 2017–20 is to continue to work in collaboration with the public, those it regulates, the justice system and other regulators. That will help the SRA to better understand and meet the needs of everyone it serves. To do this, the SRA is proposing five new strategic objectives for 2017–20.

Closing date for responses 21 September

[Find out more](#)

Consultations for Government that you may be interested in responding to...

Consultation on sentencing guidelines: child cruelty

This consultation seeks views on new guidelines for offences of cruelty to a child, causing or allowing a child to die or suffer serious physical harm and failing to protect a girl from the risk of FGM.

Closing date for responses 13 September

[Find out more](#)

Draft 'Information for tenants of social landlords' document

The Welsh Government is consulting on a sample document to see if it clearly summarises the right to buy and the right to acquire, explains clearly when these rights could end and explains clearly the financial and legal advice tenants should get if they wish to exercise the right to buy or right to acquire.

Closing date for responses 13 September

[Find out more](#)

Regulatory performance assessment

The consultation seeks views on the proposed performance assessment framework the LSB intends to use for its regulatory oversight.

Following a review of previous process and a consultation with regulators the LSB has identified opportunities for improvement in areas as follows:

- The regulatory performance standards could be more representative of the key areas of regulatory risk (for example, they could cover authorisation and education and training) and there was scope to remove duplication and ambiguity amongst the indicators outlined under each standard
- There is an opportunity to be more systematic and to utilise an ongoing approach to gathering information and evidence about the regulators' performance
- The assessment process could be more proportionate, risk-based and targeted. It was also noted that greater clarity was needed as to whether the process assesses performance against minimum standards required for effective regulation or 'gold-plated' regulation, and
- The grading scale could more accurately reflect the regulators' current performance rather than the progress the regulators' have made and intend to make.

Closing date for responses 25 September

[Find out more](#)

Fees charged to tenants in the private rented sector

The Welsh Government is consulting on the nature and level of fees being charged to determine which fees are being reasonably charged to tenants, fees paid by landlords and consequences of banning fees.

Closing date for responses 27 September

[Find out more](#)

For further information regarding any of the consultations please contact Lauren Rabaiotti, Legal and Regulatory Policy - lauren.rabaiotti@lawsociety.org.uk