

**Minutes of Meeting of Legal Aid Special Interest Group Committee held on  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – 9.20am to 11.05am**

Present: Paul Seddon  
Rachel Perkins  
Bob Baker  
Samantha Bagnall  
Francesca Rigo  
Steve Jepson

**Agenda**

- 1 – 2017 committee meeting dates
- 2 – Autumn 2017 seminar
- 3 – FOI request - audits
- 4 – Future of the ACL
- 5 – Constitution
- 6 – Update new committee members, ie SPG/CCCG
- 7 – AOB

**1. 2017 committee meeting dates**

These were provisionally diarised for:

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Day of September conference

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November

All to start at 9.15am (apart from September conference)

**2. Autumn 2017 seminar**

Provisionally looking for London on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017. PS/RP advised of email from DP with rough price estimates.

RP to email DP asking for 2/3 quotes for London (inc Canary Wharf) and also MK Dons for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> as back up. **(AP1)**

Discussion re possible speakers/subjects:

Mr Edwards (BB to liaise). **(AP2)**

Carol Storer

ECF family (BB to liaise with contact/PS to put feelers out with Resolution/LAPG/Public Law Project). **(AP2)**

PS ask for other potential subjects/speakers to be discussed at next committee meeting

**3. FOI request - audits**

PS advised SB he wishes to resurrect this. SB requested further information from PS as the request needs to be specific, and she will email PS the information required. **(AP3)**

**4. Future of the ACL**

PS suggested all committee members read the article in the CL mag including curbs to expenditure, and updated that the CEO's last day was 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – no announcement was actually made as to when this would actually be happening. The position re the future of the Policy Officer is unclear, the current contract for Claire Green ends this August. There appear to be plans to sever ties with ACLT, and to open the ACL to all lawyers with an interest in costs and cease to be the representative body for regulated Costs Lawyers and Trainee Costs

Lawyers.

## **5. Constitution**

PS advised FR and SJ as to plans re constitution, i.e. change to length of committee and also change from 50% of membership required to make any changes to 50% of voting membership. PS asked SB to liaise with CF to take over this issue. SB also to liaise with DP to get the ball rolling with regards to getting the vote out to the membership re change to 50% of vote. PS is aiming for 1 month, but realistically it may take 6 months to get enough votes to effect the required change. **(AP4)**

## **6. Update new committee members ie SPG/CCCG**

PS advised as to reason and history of SPG/CCCG and the LAG's position on each.

## **7. AOB**

SJ gave an update on his responses re AGFS and LGFS. SJ agreed to do an updating article for the CL mag **(AP5)**, and PS will provide SJ with contact details of Louise Eckersley at Black Letter PR. **(AP6)**

PS also asked SJ to chase Carol Storer on progressing work on response to consultation to amendments to Criminal Bill Assessment Manual. There is a tight deadline on this as the LAA deadline is 06.04.17. **(AP7)**

**Website** – PS asked SB to email DP to find out where things are with this, when it can be tested, and when we can look at it. **(AP8)**

**Next committee meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May @ 9.15am**

Actions from this meeting		Owner	By when
AP1	Email DP re dates/venues/prices	RP	Done
AP2	Liaise with possible speakers for autumn seminar	BB/PS	Next meeting
AP3	Further information for FOI request	SB/PS	05/04/17
AP4	Contact CF for draft voting forms and any draft comm.s already prepared re change to constitution and then liaise with DP for management of co-ordination of vote.	SB	12/04/17
AP5	Article for CL mag re criminal costs	SJ	Provided by Louise Eckersley
AP6	Provide contact details for Louise Eckersley	PS	ASAP
AP7	Chase Carol Storer on amendments to Criminal Bill Assessment Manual	SJ	ASAP
AP8	Website – contact DP	SB	05/04/17