



Hello and welcome to the Relationship Management monthly report for October 2017 for the South West.

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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### News

- Events and training
- Proposals to extend court operating hours is postponed
- Brexit - the latest news and updates
- GDPR update and the latest guidance
- Anti-money laundering- the latest guidance
- Take a look at the CMA transparency toolkit
- Committee member vacancies

### Out and about in the South West

- The Law Society's public affairs team visit Bristol

### Practice notes

- Criminal Finances Act 2017
- Closing down your practice: regulatory requirements

### Consultation responses

- Draft guidelines for manslaughter sentencing
- LSB regulatory performance assessment consultation
- SRA corporate strategy 2017-2020
- Tackling unfair practices in the leasehold market
- Response to the consultation on guidelines for offences of child cruelty

### Open Consultations

#### SRA

- Looking to the future: phase two of our Handbook reforms
- Looking to the future: better information, more choice

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

- Law Commission Reform on Wills Law
- Law Commission Sentencing Code
- Special guardianship orders- Welsh Government



## Lex Mex 2017

**The Law Society, London** 5 October, 08:15 - 16:00

Learn about key developments, opportunities and challenges in the Mexican legal market. LexMex 2017 is an opportunity to network with leading Mexican lawyers in a range of practice areas, including capital markets, energy, employment law and dispute resolution.

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

## Black History Month – inspiration evening

**The Law Society, London** 6 October, 18:30 – 21:00

To mark Black History Month the Law Society is hosting a programme of events and free photographic exhibition in October. To launch the programme, the inspiration evening takes place on Friday 6 October and our panel of inspirational speakers will share with the audience their journey into the profession. Following the presentations a buffet reception will give guests the opportunity to network and build new professional relationships.

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

## Inclusion through diversity: annual lawyers with disabilities conference

**The Law Society, London** 9 October, 10:00 – 14:30

The Law Society is committed to promoting inclusion in the legal profession. Our annual conference focuses on promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities within the legal profession.

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

## Legal aid roadshow

**Plymouth** 30 October

**Location:** Copthorne Hotel, Armada Way, Plymouth, PL1 1AR

These roadshows are recommended for anyone who wishes to start or continue providing civil legal aid services from September 2017.

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

## Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and the Rule of Law

**The Law Society, London** 9 October, 17:00 – 19:30

In this event, leading experts will explore the use of algorithms in decision-making in both the public and private sectors; the human rights implications of automated decision-making, including the occurrence of algorithmic discrimination and bias; the rule of law and the principles of fairness, predictability, transparency and accountability; and emerging good practice and possibilities for regulatory oversight in this field, including rights under the EU General Data Protection Regulation.

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

## National property law conference 2017: overcoming challenges in a volatile landscape

**The Law Society, London** 11 October, 09:00 – 17:00

Changes in regulation, the increase of cyber crime attacks and the uncertainty of the economy and property market are likely to affect the conveyancers and property practitioners in the next 12 months. This is the conference designed to give you the tools and support to help you overcome these difficulties.

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

## Commercial litigation conference 2017

This event is purely focused on commercial litigation and will assess the impact of the Jackson reforms on the commercial litigation landscape, as well as examining the further changes ahead.

### Competition Section Seminar: key recent developments in abuse of dominance

**The Law Society, London** 17 October, 18:00 – 20:15

Abuse of dominance remains a key area of enforcement and litigation activity. This seminar will provide important insights on practical implications for clients on the complaint and defence sides.

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

### European Lawyers Day 2017- The impact of technology on the profession and how this affects citizens

**The Law Society, London** 25 October, 08:00 – 10:30

This event is aimed at lawyers and legal professionals interested in developments in relation to technology on the profession, as well as at members of the public interested in finding out more about how these impact their access to justice.

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

### Judicial appointments: Interview training for solicitors – 20 October 2017 – Bristol

In view of increasing competition for judicial appointments, this interactive course will equip delegates with the skills to help enhance your application and interview performance. This workshop has been developed specifically for solicitor applicants but the content is relevant for anyone serious about submitting a credible judicial application.

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

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



### Proposals to extend court opening hours is postponed

The decision to delay a government pilot trialling extended court opening hours has been postponed until February 2018.

The proposal which would have heaped additional pressure on the already fragile criminal legal aid service was welcomed.

Read the press release [here](#).

### Brexit - the latest news and updates

Below is a round-up of the latest happenings around the Brexit negotiations.

Read the latest [parliamentary blog](#) on the second reading of the EU withdrawal bill.

News that the UK Government is to push for a transitional deal for the two years after Britain leaves the EU was welcomed - read more [here](#).

Read the Law Society's [response to the paper on criminal justice](#) and security co-operation following Brexit.

### GDPR update and the latest guidance

Read the latest [blog](#) to find out what law firms need to do to comply with GDPR.

### Anti-money laundering: the latest guidance

The anti-money laundering (AML) legal supervisors have agreed draft legal sector anti-money laundering guidance taking account of the changes introduced by the [Money Laundering Regulations 2017](#), which came into force on 26 June 2017. The draft is subject to approval by HM Treasury later this year.

Read more and download the draft [here](#).

### Committee member vacancies

Our policy committees need you. Would you be interested in defining and implementing legal policy? We have 43 vacancies on various committees open to Council and non-Council members, so why not join us.

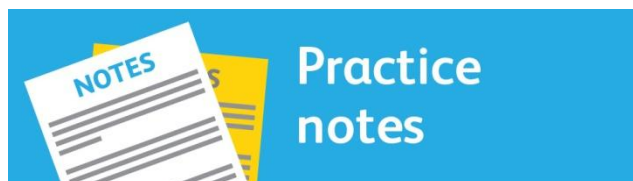
To apply, click [here](#). Applications close on 13 October.



Alexandra Cardenas, the Law Society's head of public affairs joined us in Bristol for meetings including addressing members on the work on the department on lobbying and representation.

The Law Society also attended the Liberal Democrats party conference in Bournemouth with meetings and engagement with members of the party, the society's Deputy Vice President Simon Davies was in attendance.

We have plans for a series of visits with colleagues from the Law Society and office holders through out November which we look forward to updating you on.



### Criminal Finances Act 2017

This practice note provides guidance to solicitors on the corporate offence of failure to prevent the criminal facilitation of tax evasion introduced by the Criminal Finances Act 2017, with effect from 30 September 2017.

This brings a risk of criminal liability to solicitors' firms not just for their employees' actions, but for the actions of others with whom they are associated. The guidance will be submitted for approval by the chancellor and may be updated as a result. It explains:

- the new offence

Legal Affairs and Policy Board	Number of vacancies		Dates of Interviews 2017
	CM*	NCM**	
Access to Justice Committee	1	0	Between 30 Oct & 10 Nov
Civil Justice Committee	2	2	Between 30 Oct & 10 Nov
Company Law Committee	0	11	Wednesday 8 November
Conveyancing and Land Law Committee	1	2	Friday 3 November
Criminal Law Committee	1	6	Between 30 Oct & 10 Nov
Employment Law Committee	0	2	Between 30 Oct & 10 Nov
Family Law Committee	1	0	Between 30 Oct & 10 Nov
Housing Law Committee	1	1	Between 30 Oct & 10 Nov
Human Rights Committee	1	0	Friday 10 November
Money Laundering Task Force	0	1	Between 30 Oct & 10 Nov
Wills and Equity Committee	1	0	Between 30 Oct & 10 Nov
<b>Regulatory Affairs Board</b>			
Education & Training Committee	2	0	Tuesday 7 November
Professional Indemnity Insurance Committee	0	1	Thursday 2 November
Regulatory Processes Committee	1	6	Wednesday 1 November

CM\* = Seats are reserved for Law Society Council Members in the first instance  
NCM\*\* = Seats are open to all members of the profession

- the definition of an associated person
- risk assessments
- communication, training, monitoring and reporting requirements

[Read more](#)

### Closing down your practice: regulatory requirements

This practice note outlines the regulatory requirements to consider when closing down your practice. There are numerous actions that need to be taken when closing down a firm and doing so will require forward planning. The process for closing a practice differs depending on whether or not there is a successor practice in place.

[Read more](#)

For further information about the successor practice rules consult the Law Society's [Professional Indemnity Insurance \(PII\) practice note](#).



### Draft guidelines for manslaughter sentencing

The Society has responded to the Sentencing Council's consultation on draft guidelines for sentencing offences of manslaughter.

The guidelines will assist practitioners in advising clients and making submissions, and judges in arriving at the appropriate sentence for offenders convicted of manslaughter.

There are four separate guidelines under consideration for the different types of the offence:

- Unlawful act manslaughter
- Gross negligence manslaughter
- Manslaughter by reason of loss of control
- Manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility

[Read our full response](#)

### LSB regulatory performance assessment consultation

The Legal Services Board (LSB) consultation sought feedback on a simplification and revision of its approach to assessing the performance of frontline regulators.

The Law Society has responded to the consultation and suggested areas for improvements, in particular the need for:

- A measure requiring front line regulators to provide evidence justifying the need for proposed regulatory changes, including relevance and priority
- Proportionality, transparency and consistency in the front-line regulators' approach to different types of rule change, enforcement and supervision
- Proportionality, transparency and consistency in decision-making processes
- Proportionality in allocation of cost burden on the regulated community
- Clear and stronger compliance with the Regulators' Code

[Read our full response](#)

### SRA corporate strategy 2017-2020

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) consulted on its draft corporate strategy 2017-2020. The strategy sets out what the SRA seeks to achieve over the next three years, with reference to a set of strategic aims.

Under each of its aims, the SRA outlines how its planned items of work will fulfil that aim. For example, the SRA states that delivery of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination will help deliver on its strategic aim of setting and applying consistently high professional standards for the profession.

The Law Society has responded to the SRA to highlight the areas of concern or where further work is needed by the SRA to ensure that it fulfils its strategic aims.

[Read our full response](#)

### Tackling unfair practices in the leasehold market

The Law Society has responded to the Department of Communities and Local Government consultation on tackling unfair practices in the leasehold market.

[Read our full response](#)

### Response to the consultation on guidelines for offences of child cruelty

The Law Society has responded to the Sentencing Council's consultation on draft guidelines for sentencing offences involving child cruelty and failing to protect a girl from female genital mutilation (FGM).

The Society's response welcomed the guidelines and made a number suggestions in relation to an offender's culpability and the relevant aggravating and mitigating factors.

[Read our full response](#)



## SRA

### Looking to the future: phase two of our Handbook reforms

Following the SRA's first Looking to the future consultation in summer 2016, they are now consulting on further changes to their Handbook and their proposed revised Enforcement Strategy. This consultation also includes the

transitional arrangements for the introduction of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE).

**Submission deadline** 20 December 2017

[Find out more](#)

### Looking to the future: better information, more choice

The SRA are consulting on publishing more of the regulatory data they hold about the solicitors and firms they regulate. They are also consulting on asking the solicitors and firms they regulate to publish more information on the legal services they provide.

**Submission deadline** 20 December 2017

[Find out more](#)

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

#### Special guardianship orders- Welsh Government

The Welsh Government is seeking views on amendments to the Special Guardianship (Wales) Regulations 2005 and a new code of practice for local authorities.

The amendments will cover the assessment of potential special guardians, support for former LAC and entitlement to assessment for support services. The code of practice covers local authority functions in relation to special guardianship orders.

**Submission deadline** 27 October 2017

[Find out more](#)

#### Law Commission Reform on Wills Law

**Submission deadline**      10 November 2017

[Find out more](#)

### Law Commission Sentencing Code

The Law Commission is consulting on the introduction of a single sentencing statute that will act as the comprehensive source of sentencing law– the “Sentencing Code”.

**Submission deadline**      26 January 2018

[Find out more](#)