

To:	Legal Services Board	
Date of Meeting:	25 March 2015	Item: Paper (15) 12

Title:	Post-Ministerial summit work streams: update and first output
Work stream(s):	Post-Ministerial summit work streams
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Status:	Official

Summary:

This paper updates the Board on the four cross-regulator work streams. It:

1. Sets out for each work stream progress to date and next steps;
2. Describes the plans for engaging the representative bodies in this work;
3. Includes for Board consideration at **Annex A** the first output from the work streams: proposals for minor/clausal changes to the existing legislative framework. These have already been agreed with regulator chairs (and are currently going through the regulators' internal governance processes) with a view to submitting jointly to incoming Ministers following the General Election;
4. Includes for information at **Annex B** the scoping paper for the work stream on legislative options beyond the Legal Services Act, which is being led by Professor Stephen Mayson; and
5. Includes at **Annex C** the recent letter from Minister Shailesh Vara to the Chairman, thanking the LSB for its engagement with the MoJ and for its work with the other legal services regulators on reducing regulatory burdens on practitioners

Recommendation(s):

The Board is invited to:

- Discuss progress and next steps on the post-summit work streams; and
- Endorse the paper at **Annex A** setting out proposals for minor/clausal changes to the existing legislative framework.

Risks and mitigations	
Financial:	N/A
Legal:	The Legal Director has been consulted via a Gateway discussion.
Reputational:	These work streams are an opportunity for the LSB to act as a champion of cross-regulator working, to build its credibility in this role with the MoJ and Ministers, and to maximise the impact of key post-election submissions to Ministers through joint working with the other legal services regulators.
Resource:	These work streams have required significant 'off-plan' LSB resources during 2014/15, and have been formally factored into the 2015/16 Business Plan which is currently being finalised.

Consultation	Yes	No	Who / why?
Board Members:	X		The Chairman has hosted both regulator chairs' meetings to date, and will host the next meetings on 8 April and 30 June.
Consumer Panel:		X	LSB Chairman has briefed LSCP Chair. The Panel has not been formally engaged to date, although when relevant outputs are at a more advanced stage of development, it may be appropriate to share them with the Panel.
Others:	Professor Stephen Mayson is acting as the independent chair of the meetings of the regulator chairs, and is leading the cross-regulator work stream on legislative options beyond the LSA.		

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol)		
Para ref	Fol exemption and summary	Expires
Second sentence of para 3, paras 4 – 6, second column of work stream table, second sentence of para 8, last sentence of para 13 Annex C	Section 36(2)(b): information likely to inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and the exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation by the Board	N/A
Annexes A and B	Section 22: information intended for future publication	N/A

[Redacted text]

6. [Redacted text]

7. The table below sets out for each work stream the planned output, the current status and the next steps.

Progress summary

Work stream and planned output	Current status and next steps
<p>Deregulatory status report</p> <p><i>Planned output: a briefing document, with contributions from the frontline regulators, aimed primarily at Ministers post-election, but with possible wider audience as appropriate, which maps existing work by the regulators to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens while maintaining appropriate consumer protection</i></p>	<p>[Redacted text]</p>
<p>Identification of alternatives to avoid the handling of client money</p> <p><i>Planned output: a report that can be used as a resource by regulators and providers seeking to understand the alternatives that may be available (NB – not envisaged at this stage to be a Ministerial submission)</i></p>	<p>[Redacted text]</p>

place – informed by a prior discussion with MoJ officials - regarding the timing and handling of the LSB’s interactions with Ministers following the election.

11. Engagement with the representative bodies on the outputs from the post-summit work streams will ramp up over April.
12. Encouragingly, the regulator chairs have expressed interest in continued collaborative working following the election on an as-yet undetermined agenda. To that end, a meeting of regulator chairs has been scheduled for 30 June to identify candidate areas for further collaboration.
13. Our Chair wrote to the Minister with an update on this on 24 February. The Minister’s response of 9 March is attached at **Annex C**. It provides encouragement to our work on collaborating with other regulators especially on deregulatory initiatives. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

17 March 2015