

Paper (12) 64 - Annex A

Note of informal meeting of the Legal Services Board (LSB) held on 11 July 2012 to discuss the board evaluation and review 2012

Date: 11 July 2012
Time: 1.30 to 2.45pm
Venue: Victoria House, Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AD

Present: David Edmonds Chairman
(Members) Chris Kenny Chief Executive
Steve Green
Bill Moyes
Ed Nally
Nicole Smith
Andrew Whittaker
David Wolfe

Apologies: Barbara Saunders

In attendance: Julie Myers Corporate Director
Crispin Passmore Strategy Director
Holly Perry Corporate Governance Manager (minutes)

Item 1 – Board Evaluation

1. The Corporate Governance Manager introduced the paperwork for the discussion, which comprised a summary of Board Members' comments, with suggested actions and a total of 25 collated actions set out at the Annex. An anonymised version of Board Members' verbatim comments had also been circulated. It had been difficult to identify trends or patterns on the basis that responses were relatively disparate. The intention was, following discussion, to narrow down the actions to a manageable number of around seven to ten.
2. Points raised in discussion were as follows:
 - There was general agreement that the overall position was very healthy, with only a limited number of areas for action.
 - There had been some positive engagement with approved regulators Board-to-Board, however there was more work to be done to improve relations. The opportunity for a refreshed approach would arise through the appointment of two new Legal Services Board Members early in 2013.
 - On the basis that whole Board-to-Board meetings had not worked well, one option was to try to develop informal relationships and contacts with non executives of the approved regulators, though it was agreed that a balance would need to be struck between good relations and challenge. There were also likely to be governance challenges eg confidentiality
 - Another option was to meet at approved regulators' offices eg there was an opportunity for a session with SRA following its move to Birmingham later in the year

- The emphasis needed to be on allowing the regulatory system to develop and mature so that the end result was professional regulators working positively with the oversight regulator to devise regulatory solutions to problems
- Engagement on specific issues was paramount – one area where there might be a role Board-to-Board was in relation to the Legal Education and Training Review.
- In relation to the sections on the Audit and Risk Committee and Remuneration and Nomination Committee, responses had – in the main – been received from members of the respective committees only. It was therefore agreed that these actions would be picked up by the respective committees as part of their annual effectiveness review.
- Responses to the questions about individual performance would inform discussions between Board Members and the Chairman as part of the annual appraisal process, to be scheduled for the autumn.
- The Board requested a copy of the LSB's culture and values – attached here:



Culture for
Colleagues presentat

3. Specific actions agreed – which would be reflected in a suggested action plan¹ for discussion and approval at the September meeting of the Board - were as follows:

- Increasing the opportunities for strategic discussions and sessions
- Develop a rolling programme of guest speakers at Board meetings, to include Chairs of approved regulators attending to speak on matters of mutual interest just ahead of lunch, with informal networking over lunch
- Improving the quality and reducing the length of Board papers

HP, 25/07/12

¹ Suggested action plan attached at **Annex B**