

Company number: 04608905

Costs Lawyer Standards Board Ltd (the "Company")

Minutes of meeting held by email

Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 4.00 pm

Present: Graham Aitken (Chair)
 Gillian Milburn (Vice Chair)
 Richard Allen
 David Gamble

In attendance: Lynn Plumbley

Note: Board attendance and agreements were obtained via email.

1. Quorum & apologies

Apologies were received from Marc Brooks. The Chair declared the meeting open, it was noted a quorum was present.

2. Insurance following CPR change

Following increased financial risk due to significant CPR changes in April 2013, the board discussed ongoing concerns that the LSB had refused the exemption application to allow the current insurance rule to be changed immediately. This would have ensured the rule change was in place before 2014 practising certificate application packs/2014 practising certificates were issued.

The board also noted that despite intervention by the ACL Chair on 5 November 2013, and his best efforts to make the LSB understand the seriousness of the situation, an email had been received from the CEO of the LSB dated 11 November 2013 advising he was not minded to reconsider his refusal.

The board noted the LSB had advised they require "data" and evidence of the risk, yet CLSB understands the ACL Chair gave them verbally on 5 November 2013 the required evidence of the risk caused by the change in law.

The board also noted the LSB expects the CLSB to go out to formal consultation process, and then seek LSB approval again (which is not guaranteed). This would likely take in excess of 6 months based on current LSB performance. The CLSB application to set & maintain standards of Trainees has been with the LSB since 12 July (4 months) with still no decision.

The board was deeply concerned at the continued lack of understanding at the LSB of the Costs Lawyer profession, their cavalier attitude to risk and refusal to allow CLSB to address risks as required. The board was also concerned that the LSB decision had financially exposed not just the consumer, but Costs Lawyers, the CLSB (its officers & directors), the LSB and deciding LSB officer themselves.

Lynn presented a Damage Limitation Plan for board consideration.

The board agreed:

- The Damage Limitation Plan put before them.
- The Insurance Guidance Note put before them to be issued to all Costs Lawyers with their 2014 practising certificate packs/posting on the CLSB website.
- Letter to Chris Grayling, Lord Chancellor.
- That the LSB is recorded on the CLSB risk register with a scoring of 12 (red).
- That the risk register be updated with recent actions/outcomes of the insurance risk in question.

3. AOB

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed.

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Chairman