



## Business Plan 2015/16

<b>Strategic Objective: 1</b> <b>To consider areas for improvement in the operation and delivery of the civil justice system, and to make recommendations for improvements</b>				
<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To review the operation of the civil justice system, highlight problems and make recommendations for improvements	CJC Council and Executive Committee	To ensure the CJC is fulfilling its statutory role and drawing on the expertise and experience of members and other professionals	Ongoing	To identify areas for review and to take steps to assess and report on possible reforms to improve the system in areas, such as the pressures on law firms of conducting larger litigation.
To commission a piece of research to find out more about the impediments people face in accessing the civil justice system	CJC Council and Executive Committee	As above, and to bring to the surface previously unidentified issues of concern	March 16	As above, identifying areas of work for the Council
To publish a series of recommendations based on the outcomes of the March 2014 'Jackson' conference	Working group	To arrange a second 'Impact of Jackson' event	Oct 15	To identify the next round of specific pieces of work to be carried out by the CJC in the light of discussion at the Oct 15 event

<b>Strategic Objective 2</b> <b>To continue supporting the work of the working group on Damages-based Agreements (DBAs)</b>				
<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To prepare two reports to the MoJ – Phases I and II	Working group	To advise the MoJ on: - Specific points relating to the draft	April and Sept 15	By improving the Regulations, to increase certainty

		Regulations (Phase I), and - The use of DBAs as a method of funding litigation more generally (Phase II).		for the professions in the use of DBAs as a way of funding litigation.
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<b>Strategic Objective 3</b>				
<b>To continue to implement the CJC report on access to justice for Litigants in Person (LIPs) and work with Mrs Justice Asplin, the MoJ and advice sector to put in place activities that will assist LIPs</b>				
<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To continue to work to implement the recommendations of the report and the conclusions of the 2014 National Forum	LIP WG and Secretariat	Arrange a fourth National Forum on LIPs	Nov 2015	To better equip LIPs and professionals in obtaining effective access to the civil justice system
To support Mrs Justice Asplin in her judicial coordinating role	CJC and Secretariat	To maintain contact and support the network of 80 liaison judges by sharing ideas and good practice from around England and Wales	Ongoing	To encourage country-wide consistency and reduce duplication in initiatives in courts in England and Wales to promote access to justice for LIPs
To work with the Judicial College to develop and produce a training DVD on hearing cases with LIPs	Asplin J working group and planning group	To facilitate a series of tea-time seminars in main court centres across England and Wales, overseen by local liaison judges.	Oct 15	To clarify for judges what they can do – and what they can't – to promote a fair hearing in a case with one or more LIPs
To work with the Government, judiciary, professions and advice sector to develop services and resources for LIPs	CJC	Work with HMCTS on review of court forms and leaflets  Produce a guide on the winding up court	Ongoing  June 15	To create better links and networks between advice and service providers  To improve the accessibility and reliability of reference material

<b>Strategic Objective 4</b> <b>To continue to support the work of HMCTS and other Government departments in their work to promote ADR and ODR.</b>
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<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To investigate and report on the ways various different Government-sponsored initiatives relating to ADR interrelate.	CJC	To promote a greater understanding within the CJC of the interrelation of projects, and work	July 15	To identify possible areas of work for the CJC in the broad area of ADR
To support HMCTS project group in the consideration and establishment of HM Online Court (HMOC) in resolving lower value civil disputes	Working Party	To establish and support a reconstituted working group under the chairmanship of Richard Susskind	October 15	To identify and draw up detailed arrangements for possible ODR pilots

#### **Strategic Objective 5**

##### **To respond to Government and other consultation papers that affect the civil justice system**

<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To respond to all relevant MoJ and other departments' consultation papers relating to the civil justice system  To review other consultation papers affecting civil justice, e.g. on consumer or housing law	CJC and Secretariat	To seek advice from members to co-ordinate suitable and representative consultation responses	Varied	To ensure that the CJC contributes to civil justice policy and decision making by adding expert views on proposals and their impact on civil justice

#### **Strategic Objective 6**

##### **To monitor the working of the new class action regime in Schedule 8 of the Consumer Rights Act.**

<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To report orally to CJC meetings on the impact of this new regime.	CJC	To keep up-to-date on the emergence of the new regime.	Ongoing	To be in a position to alert Government departments to any teething problems in the implementation of the new regime.

**Strategic Objective 7****To improve communications and outreach work to promote the work of the Council and to engage effectively with other bodies in the civil justice system**

<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To undertake engagement activities to promote and encourage access to the CJC	Secretariat and Council Members	To ensure web content is clearly laid out and kept up-to-date.  To publish Annual Report 2015/16.		Increased Council efficacy through increased visibility of the work which it is doing, in particular in relation to objective 1

**Strategic Objective 8****To provide Secretariat support for the work of the Council**

<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To ensure that the Council works in line with the guidelines for public bodies	Secretariat	To follow guidelines for recruitment and appraisal	Ongoing	To comply with the guidelines of the Office for the Commissioner of Public Appointments