



Synopsis of Civil Justice Council meeting

26 October 2018

Siobhan McGrath, Property Chamber President, presented her final report of the **Property Chamber Deployment Project** which considered whether access to justice in property disputes could be improved by the deployment of judges to sit concurrently in courts and tribunals. The report would be published on the Council website.

The Council received updates from its **Working Groups**:

- ADR – the final report was presented to the Council which received praise from the Chair and members. Thanks were given to all involved. A further two weeks were allowed for final comments before publication and consideration by the Ministry of Justice.
- Work was progressing on Vulnerable Witnesses. Information had been gathered from a range of sources to assess the resources and mechanisms already in place. Terms of reference for the group would be established, followed by the creation of a small working group and the drafting of a report.
- ASBIs – since the last Council meeting, a meeting had been held with the Home Office. Additionally, work was being undertaken into improving the lack of data held on these injunctions.
- On LIPs, the main updates included the Forum event on the 7th December, the Exeter LIP workshop on the 29th November and an HMCTS reform event on the 6th November. Additionally, a consultation was planned on opportunities for further development of the pro bono sector.
- Clinical Negligence – work was progressing well with a number of core and wider group meetings having been held.
- A report and recommendations on Boundary disputes had been sent to the Ministry of Justice for its consideration.
- The final report on Low Value PI Claims was nearing completion and would be ready for the January 2019 meeting.

The representative from the **Ministry of Justice** provided updates including that the Civil Liability Bill had completed its main stages in Parliament, there would be a call for evidence and review on the discount rate, that the department had received 150 responses on the LASPO Part 2 survey following the CJC event in June which would be

followed by a report, and that there would be a call for evidence on a potential Housing court.

The Council discussed the **LASPO Post Implementation Review Part One (Civil Legal Aid Reforms)**. CJC members had held a meeting with Ministry of Justice officials resulting in a proposal to hold a CJC led workshop modelling some of the types of cases where people did not receive support and what the costs actually are. A written submission to the review had also been drafted, which would be published in due course.

The date of next meeting would be Friday 25th January 2019