



Business Plan 2017/18

Strategic Objective: 1				
To consider areas for improvement in the operation and delivery of the civil justice system, and to make recommendations for improvements				
Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To review the operation of the civil justice system, highlight problems and make recommendations for improvements	CJC	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 particular areas
To monitor and advise on implications of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union	CJC	To assist with advice and support on the challenges of converting and then reviewing EU civil law. To consider briefing material and consider holding a CJC event.	Ongoing	To ensure a smooth transition of the civil legal system.
To prepare reports on specific areas of civil litigation funding, making recommendations as appropriate on areas for targeted modification and improvement.	Working group	To consider a series of discrete topics arising from the Jackson costs and funding reforms, with a focus on issues of concern to the legal marketplace	BTE report – Oct 17	To recommend, where appropriate, ways of facilitating and further embedding the aims and recommendations of the Jackson reforms.

To assist in the development of fixed recoverable costs regimes.	CJC	To gather the views of expert practitioners and advise on the most effective means of establishing FRC regimes in different areas of litigation.	As required	To help ensure that litigation costs are reasonable, proportionate and that all parties to civil litigation can proceed with greater certainty.
To assist in implementation of the Civil Courts Structure Review	New working group?	To convene, as required, workshops or seminars to look at aspects of the reforms. To respond to consultation papers.	To be determined	To help ensure implementation of the recommendations of the review.
To explore a piece of collaborative research with a partner University in the field of civil justice.	CJC	To fulfil the CJC's statutory role and explore previously unidentified issues of concern	Establish by July 17	To identify areas for review and of further work for the Council in considering possible reforms to improve the system.
To monitor developments in collective redress and actions	CJC	In line with the CJC's statutory remit	Ongoing	To help advise on future reforms.
To inquire into holiday illness claims	New working group	To ensure the CJC is fulfilling its statutory role and drawing on the expertise and experience of members and other professionals	Establish group by June 17	To identify areas for review and to take steps to assess and report on possible reforms to improve the system in particular areas

Strategic Objective 2**To continue to implement the CJC report on access to justice for Litigants in Person (LIPs) and work with the judiciary, the MoJ and advice sector to put in place activities that will assist LIPs**

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To continue to work to implement the recommendations of the report and the conclusions of the National Forum	LIP WG and Secretariat	Produce a strategy for narrowing the gap between consumers and the provision of free and affordable legal advice Arrange a sixth National Forum on LIPs in 2017	Nov/Dec 2017	To better equip LIPs and professionals in obtaining effective access to the civil justice system Expand the size of the event and its programme.
To commission a high quality, evidence-based report on Assisted Digital	CJC and Secretariat	To provide a more detailed and focused consideration of the challenges and risks of digitisation of court processes, and how to best respond to these.	Oct 2017	To improve the design and planning of public services, and the experience of users.
To contribute to collective work to improve Public Legal Education	LIP WG and CJC	To work collaboratively with other bodies to improve PLE	Ongoing	To increase public awareness and understanding of resolving disputes and the legal system.
To continue to work with the Government, judiciary, LIP support strategy, professions and advice sector to develop services and resources for LIPs	Working group	Assist work of LiP support strategy and other initiatives e.g. LiP Engagement Group on HMCTS reform	Ongoing	To create better links and networks between advice and service providers To improve the accessibility and reliability of reference material To enable litigants to resolve their disputes at the earliest opportunity

Strategic Objective 3**To continue supporting the work of the working group on Property disputes**

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To prepare a second phase report to the CJC on modifications to the way in which specific types of property case are heard by court and tribunal, taking into account the views of stakeholders in those cases.	Working group	To complement the Civil Courts Structure Review and HMCTS reform	October 2017	To rationalise and improve the way in which specific types of property case are heard by the county court and First-tier Tribunal.
To consider the scope for improving the decision-making process in relation to boundary disputes	CJC and working group	a) Improving court and tribunal procedure b) Encouraging mediation c) Making better information available when useful	July 2017	To improve the process by which boundary disputes are resolved

Strategic Objective 4**To finalise the work of the working group on claims for noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL)**

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To prepare a report for the MoJ on a streamlined process and fixed costs structure for NIHL cases.	Working group	To advise the MoJ on: - how the handling of NIHL cases might be improved - how a fixed costs regime for those cases might work.	July 2017	To encourage greater openness between claimants and defendants in preparing for NIHL cases, and improve the efficiency with which such cases are resolved and to reduce the costs of those cases.

Strategic Objective 5

To continue to support the work of HMCTS and other Government departments in their work to promote ADR and ODR.

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To review current incentives to ADR	New working group	To consider issues arising from the Review of the EU Mediation Directive. To consider the proposals of the Centre for Justice for a change in the CPR on whether courts can mandate mediation if just one party requests it.	July 2017	To publish a report to prompt a wider policy debate To consider whether proposals for reform should be put to the CPRC

Strategic Objective 6

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

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
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 (e.g. 2 in May 2017)	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 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

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To undertake engagement activities to promote and encourage access to the CJC To engage with equivalent civil justice review bodies, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, to exchange views and experiences relevant to civil justice	Secretariat and Council Members	To publish summaries of Council meetings and working group reports. To publish Annual Report 2016/17	Ongoing October 2017	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

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To ensure that the Council works in line with the guidelines for public bodies To service and support all working groups	Secretariat Secretariat	To follow guidelines for recruitment and appraisal To support and service all meetings	Ongoing	To comply with the guidelines of the Office for the Commissioner of Public Appointments To ensure members are fully supported and accurate records of meetings are kept