



Business Plan 2018/2019

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.	Ongoing	To ensure a smooth transition of the civil legal system.
To work collaboratively on research projects 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		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 sickness claims	Working group	Identify areas for review	Ongoing. To report by end of April 2018	To report on potential 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 working group and the conclusions of the National Forum	LIP WG and Secretariat	Arrange a seventh National Forum on LIPs in 2018	Nov/Dec 2018	To better equip LIPs and professionals in obtaining effective access to the civil justice system
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.	Ongoing – to complete in Spring 2018	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 assist the Ministry of Justice in its review of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act.

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To assist the Ministry of Justice in its LASPO review	CJC	To hold a seminar in May/June 2018 to allow an opportunity for an analysis of the reforms in Part 2 of LASPO To engage and respond to the reforms in Part 2 of LAPS0	June 2018	To offer guidance to the Ministry of Justice following an evidence gathering session.

Strategic Objective 4

To further progress the work of the working group on fixed recoverable costs for clinical negligence cases with a value up to £25,000

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To consider and recommend an improved process for clinical negligence claims, where the claim has a value of £25,000 or less	Working group	(a) To draw up (i) a structure for FRC for such cases to attach to the new process, (ii) figures for FRC in the proposed structure, and (iii) figures for the cost of expert reports (b) To have regard to how any improved process or scheme of FRC might affect issues of patient safety, including the way in which case outcomes are reported back to	Dec 2018	To publish a report containing recommendations for a FRC scheme for these cases.

		<p>healthcare providers for learning purposes</p> <p>(c) To consider how expert reports should be commissioned and funded, including the feasibility of single joint experts for at least some claims, as part of the improved process</p>		
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Strategic Objective 5

To progress the work of the working group dealing with handling personal injury claims with a value of under £25k, including holiday sickness claims.

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To recommend reform in dealing with claims of a value of under £25k including holiday sickness claims.	Working Group	<p>a) Consider how the handling of holiday sickness claims could be improved to prevent unmeritorious claims and resolving meritorious claims more quickly</p> <p>b) Consider what reforms could be introduced to low value (under £25k) personal injury claims more generally</p>	Ongoing. To report by end of April 2018	To report back to the Ministry of Justice with recommendations on dealing with meritorious and unmeritorious claims.

Strategic Objective 6

To promote ADR and complete a review of the operation of ADR in civil justice.

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
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To hold a seminar on the ADR report with stakeholders.	ADR working group	To assist promotion of final report of review	March 2018	Published summary to assist final review report.
To publish a report with the results of the review.		To make proposals for role of ADR in Civil Justice.	2018	Recommendations to improve use and understanding of ADR
To assist HMCTS reform and the ODR project.	ODR Working group	To assist and provide expert advice as required.	ongoing	Assist with online facilitation of cases.

Strategic Objective 7

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	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 8

To continue supporting the work of the working groups on Property disputes

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To finalise a second phase report to the CJC on modifications to the way in which specific types of property case are	Working group	To complement the Civil Courts Structure Review and HMCTS reform	Ongoing? (should be finalised by Jan 2018 meeting, but update from Siobhan	To rationalise and improve the way in which specific types of property case are heard by the county court and

heard by court and tribunal, taking into account the views of stakeholders in those cases.			McGrath due)	First-tier Tribunal.
To consider the scope for improving the decision-making process in relation to boundary disputes	CJC and working group and joint RICS working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improving court and tribunal procedure b) Encouraging mediation c) Making better information available online, including the RICS website d) produce information leaflets signposting online information e) working collaboratively with RICS, mediators and ombudsmen in finalising a pre-action protocol for these types of disputes 	Ongoing (should have been finalised by Jan 2018 meeting, but likely to continue into the next business year)	To improve the process by which boundary disputes are resolved

Strategic Objective 9

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
<p>To undertake engagement activities to promote and encourage access to the CJC</p> <p>To engage with equivalent civil justice review bodies, whether</p>	Secretariat and Council Members	<p>To publish summaries of Council meetings and working group reports.</p> <p>To publish Annual Report 2018/2019</p>	Ongoing	Increased Council efficacy through increased visibility of the work which it is doing, in particular in relation to objective 1

in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, to exchange views and experiences relevant to civil justice		To plan for one public meeting annually.		
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Strategic Objective 10

To provide Secretariat support for the work of the Council

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