

THE FINANCIAL REMEDIES COURT TRANSPARENCY GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2022

In attendance (via MS Teams):

HHJ Stuart Farquhar (Chair) (SF)
Henrietta Boyle (Secretary) (HB)
Sir Jonathan Cohen (JC)
Deborah Dinan-Hayward (DDH)
Sian Harrison (SH)
Samantha Hillas QC (SHQC)
HHJ Louise McCabe (LM)
Harry Oliver QC (HO)
Caroline Park (CP)
Lucy Reed (LR)
Adam Wolanski QC (AW)

Apologies:

DJ Susan Bennett (SB)
Parishil Patel QC (PP)
Penelope Reed QC (PR)
Helen Robson (HR)
Emily Ward (EW)

The meeting commenced at 16.30.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. SF welcomed SH to the Group and thanked her for agreeing to become involved as a representative of the Press.

B. UPDATES

2. PP should be providing his paper on transparency in the Court of Protection shortly.
3. SF has got in touch with some of the international contacts suggested to him and has received some responses, including from the US and Canada. He is going to pursue a few more individuals too.

C. THE CONSULTATION

4. SF turned to the consultation, which is now live. The following points were made/discussed:

- a. The consultation has been responded to by c. 400 people at the moment. The response rate has not been as good as last year's yet (and the response rate from barristers in particular has been poor so far) but we will continue to publicise the consultation to encourage as many responses as possible. The judicial response rate has been good.
- b. The consultation was advertised at the FLBA Conference at Cumberland Lodge. The FLBA will send out further emails to try to cultivate a higher response rate from the Bar. The Northern Circuit has been asked to send an email to its members.
- c. There was a media engagement meeting earlier in the week which was attended by journalists interested in transparency in family proceedings. SH has drafted a list of people who were present who she considers should be contacted about the consultation and will liaise to consolidate the list with the existing list of organisations and individuals contacted as put together by CP.
- d. Members of the Group should forward on the consultation to anyone they consider to be a relevant and interested party.
- e. Members of the Group will divide up the task of phoning certain organisations who get so inundated with emails that the consultation email may have slipped through the cracks (e.g. the Family Mediation Council and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators).

D. PROCESSING AND ANALYSING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION

5. SF turned to the question of how we will analyse the responses to the consultation that are received. The following points were made/discussed:
 - a. In terms of timing, the consultation period will end on 31 July 2022 but at that point a lot of people will go on holiday in August so it is unlikely much progress can be made then.
 - b. The responses will first be collated in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, which will be completed by the beginning of September 2022.
 - c. We will aim to have finished the initial analysis by mid-September 2022 and then to have a face-to-face meeting in London in October or early November 2022 to formulate the Group's recommendation on the basis of the responses received. We will then aim to publish the Group's report in December 2022.
 - d. Members will send their dates to avoid for the meeting to HB.

E. NEXT STEPS

6. The next meeting will take place on 7 September 2022 at 4.30pm.

F. AOB

7. There was no other business.
8. SF thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting ended at 17.25.