

CJC NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release**

EXPERTS DISCUSS CIVIL COSTS

The Civil Justice Council (CJC) convened an Experts Workshop yesterday (31 October) to draw up detailed proposals for putting into practice key parts of the Jackson report on the implementation of civil costs reform.

The CJC was asked by the Ministry of Justice to set up a Working Group to identify options for implementing Lord Justice Jackson's proposals on Qualified One-Way Costs Shifting, proportionality in civil costs and Part 36 Offers. The Working Group was chaired by CJC Member Alistair Kinley and assisted by Nicolas Bacon QC and David Marshall of the Law Society's Civil Justice Committee who chaired the sub-groups on proportionality and Part 36 Offers.

Following the workshop the CJC Working Group will refine its proposals before submitting them to the Ministry of Justice for consideration by Ministers. They will be published on the CJC's website.

Attended by the Master of the Rolls, Chair of the CJC, and the Justice Minister Jonathan Djanogly, the workshop put the CJC Working Group's proposals through detailed analysis and scrutiny by experts in the field of civil litigation costs. The experts were drawn from a wide range of bodies working in the civil justice system. They represented the interests of both claimants and defendants in personal injury, commercial, defamation and other areas of civil litigation.

In his opening remarks the Master of the Rolls, Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, said:

"Today's event is precisely the sort of activity that the Civil Justice Council should be engaged in; the transitional area between the making of policy and the implementation stage of change. The CJC is well placed to help the implementation of policy by harnessing the expertise of practitioners drawn from across the spectrum of professionals and court users. There is a real need for detailed scrutiny by the people who will be asked to operate within the new costs landscape."

In his closing remarks, Jonathan Djanogly, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, told participants:

"Implementing this package of reforms is a key priority of mine. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is progressing through Parliament – indeed it is at Report stage in the Commons as we speak. But we are taking forward a balanced package of measures as recommended by Lord Justice Jackson, and not

all of them are included in the Bill. I recognise how vitally important it is to get the details right when implementing these measures through Rule changes or other secondary legislation. That is why I am so grateful to you all for sharing your expertise and influence the detail of implementation.”

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Notes to Editors:

1. For further information on the CJC visit <http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/about-the-judiciary/advisory-bodies/cjc>

For Further Information Contact:

Judicial Press Office on behalf on the Civil Justice Council on 020 7073 4852.