

Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar:

The future of legal services regulation

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 4th September 2014

Venue: The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR



WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Rt Hon The Lord Hunt of Wirral, Partner and Chairman, Financial Services Division, DAC Beachcroft and Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Legal and Constitutional Affairs
- 9.05 - 9.45 **Legal services regulation: trends, challenges and cross-sector comparisons**
Professor Stephen Mayson, Honorary Professor, Faculty of Laws, University College London
Professor George Yarrow, Chairman, Regulatory Policy Institute
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 - 10.25 **What next for reform of legal services regulation?**
Sir Michael Pitt, Chairman, Legal Services Board
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Rt Hon The Lord Hunt of Wirral, Partner and Chairman, Financial Services Division, DAC Beachcroft and Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Legal and Constitutional Affairs
- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town, Shadow Spokesperson, Business, Innovation and Skills and Cabinet Office and former Chair, Legal Services Consumer Panel
- 11.05 - 12.00 **The view from the frontline regulators - priorities moving forward**
Paul Philip, Chief Executive, Solicitors Regulation Authority
Dr Vanessa Davies, Director General, Bar Standards Board
Ian Watson, Chief Executive, ILEX Professional Standards
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Re-organising the regulatory landscape - competition, standards, accountability and consumer protection**
In what ways might the post-Legal Services Act landscape need further reform - particularly in terms of operational independence, reducing regulatory overlap and ensuring adherence to the principles of "better regulation"? What more needs to be done to realise the Act's core aims of providing greater protection for consumers (rather than suppliers), and supporting effective market liberalisation? Following its recent call for evidence - and subsequent decision not to take forward immediate reform - in what ways can Government work with regulators to accelerate existing initiatives to tackle regulatory burdens? Should professional bodies be able to levy compulsory fees for non-regulatory activities, and what else might be considered to reduce regulatory costs for firms and practitioners? How can regulators more effectively support the breakthrough of alternative business structures, and how realistic are calls for a streamlined 'fit and proper' test for ABS owners to reduce the costs of authorisation? Should the legal services market continue to be based on the regulation of six "reserved" activities, and was Government right not to propose extending or revising this framework in its recent review?
Elisabeth Davies, Chair, Legal Services Consumer Panel
Jonathan Smithers, Vice President, The Law Society
Mark Dembovsky, Chairman, Montana Law Firm Strategy Consulting
Steve Green, Chair, Office for Legal Complaints
Rita Leat, Consultant Chief Operating Officer, National Association of Licensed Paralegals and Director, Professional Paralegal Register
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town, Shadow Spokesperson, Business, Innovation and Skills and Cabinet Office and former Chair, Legal Services Consumer Panel
Marc Gammon, Senior Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum