



The Law Society

Minutes of the meeting of the VHCC Steering Group

28 October 2008

SUPPORTING
solicitors

Minutes of the Meeting of the VHCC Steering Group held on 28 October 2008 at the LSC, 4 Abbey Orchard St, London

Present: Sarah Albon (SA)
 Desmond Browne QC (DB)
 Prof Martin Chalkley (MC) (Telephone)
 Nathaniel Rudolf (NR)
 Derek Hill (DH)
 David Keegan (DK)
 James MacMillan (JM)
 Keith Milburn (KM)
 Cris Scotter (CS)
 Adrian Vincent (AV)
 Rodney Warren (RW)
 Claire Mc Namara (CM)
 Alice Mutasa (AM)
 Nigel Field (NF)
 Gary Brown (GB)
 Greg Powell (GP)

		<u>Action</u>
1.	Apologies Jim Meyer, Mark Lucraft QC, Barbara-Ann Tweedie, Paul Mendelle QC and Simon Hayllar	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting To be amended and posted on the internet.	CM
3.	Matters Arising DB stated that there was a SE Circuit Heads of Chambers meeting, TD would present details of the Interim Scheme. However, it was noted that the Bars real concern lies in the absolute assurance that a new scheme will be in place by July next year, and that the interim scheme is clearly just that. DH stated that there are risks, but everything humanly possible that could be done is being done.	
4.	Update on Experts Meeting & Next Steps MS gave a brief synopsis on the paper he wrote outlining the framework of a possible scheme. It was noted that SH has done a redraft of this document. Progress to date was provided by MC. He stated that the last of the files have been transferred onto the database although no analysis has been done on them thus far.	

	<p>Some files were discovered to be unsuitable. More cases will be analysed to reach the target 100. The 70 that have been examined so far will provide ample material for the parameters of a scheme to be explored.</p> <p>A meeting to be set up for two weeks time, the “experts” would produce a further scheme outline to include further details.</p> <p>The group agreed that it should work on the principle of core and non-core tasks. Non-core tasks being those that cannot be captured in a formula and specific authority should be given to contract managers to negotiate.</p> <p>RW was keen to explore the proposals in more detail (including cost calculations).</p> <p>NR presented his views stating that his outlook generally reflects the points raised in the experts meetings where we should ensure that the level of swings and roundabouts utilised is at an acceptable level.</p> <p>SA indicated that it might be possible to consult on a scheme even if a solid agreement has not been reached by the Working Group.</p> <p>The Working group would be sent the “experts” scheme prior to the next meeting, so that the contents could be understood and discussed.</p> <p>CS to work on the structure of the scheme by the next meeting.</p> <p>The Law Society to provide MS with its “quality document”.</p> <p>MS/MC to circulate electronic version of the ‘Draft Outline’ to the Working Group. Comments to be sent to MC, CS and MS.</p>	<p>MC&SH</p> <p>CS</p> <p>LS&MS</p> <p>MS</p>
5.	<p>AOB No AOB</p>	
6.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The working group will meet again on Tuesday 11th November at 09.30. The Bar Council will host this meeting.</p> <p>The following meeting will take place on the Tuesday 18th November at 9:30. The Law Society will host this meeting.</p>	