



An tÚdarás Rialála
Seirbhísi Dlí
Legal Services
Regulatory Authority

MINUTES FINAL

42nd Meeting of Legal Services Regulatory Authority – Minutes (FINAL)

Date: 20 June 2024
Time: 16:30 to 18:30
Location: Camden Court Hotel

Attendees:

Authority Members	Executive & Secretariat	Others
Eileen Barrington	Brian Doherty (CEO)	
Angela Black	Ultan Ryan (Secretary)	
Geraldine Clarke		
Joan Crawford		
Shane Galligan		
Dermott Jewell		
Sara Moorhead		
Simon Murphy		
Síona Ryan		
Don Thornhill (Chairperson)		

Apologies: Éilis Barry

The following member attended remotely:

Angela Black, Geraldine Clarke, Síona Ryan

Some technical issues arose with the venue which impacted on the participation of these members.

Section 1 – Administration

1.0 General

1.1 Agenda adopted.

1.2 Declaration of Interests on agenda items. None raised.

- 1.3 Minutes of Authority meeting of 21 March 2024 approved.

Matters arising in Minutes dealt with in CEO Report.

Section 2 – Governance

2.0 CEO Report (including update on Risk Register)

- 2.0.1 CEO Report provided updates on matters arising from Minutes of 21 March 2024 and highlighted activity and the Risk Register dashboard since the last Authority meeting. The following aspects of the report were discussed at the meeting:

2.0.2 Oireachtas Committee on Justice:

The CEO briefed the Authority on the LSRA’s appearance before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice on 18 June 2024.

2.0.3 Nominations for Membership of the LSRA Authority:

The CEO updated the Authority on the process for nominations to the Authority, with the terms of 6 current members, including the Chairperson, coming to an end at 30 September 2024.

2.0.4 Publications:

The CEO updated the Authority on activities since the last Authority meeting, including the publication of

- the LSRA Annual Report 2023 and
- the Annual Report on the Admission Policies of the Legal Professions
- the First Bi-Annual Section 73 Complaints Report for 2024

The Authority expressed concern about the timeline for the publication of the Section 34 Barriers Report on the Education and Training of Legal Professionals.

2.0.5 **Risk Management:**

Risk Management update provided in CEO report and noted by the Authority. The following risk was discussed at the meeting:

In particular, the Authority raised concerns about the impact of administrative procedures around the levy process, including the Ministerial consent process, on the timeline for the issuing of levy notices each year. This will be monitored over the next year and the LSRA Executive will look at how to reduce the timescale for next year.

2.0.6 Other matters dealt with under separate agenda items.

3.0 Duly Authorised Register.

Duly Authorised Register approved, reflecting staff changes since previous meeting. The CEO informed the Authority that the text relating to authorisations, particularly in relation to Advertising Regulations will be reviewed and a revised draft of that text, if required will be submitted to the Authority at its next meeting.

4.0 Internal Audit Unit – Report on 2023 Internal Controls:

The Report on Internal Controls for the LSRA/LPDT was reviewed and approved by the Authority.

5.0 FAR Committee Chairperson’s Report.

The FAR Committee Chairperson’s Report was noted by the Authority. The report from the accountants following a review of its processes arising from concerns raised earlier in the year by the FARC was noted and approved by the Authority on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the FARC.

Section 3 – Finance

6.0 Financial Reports:

6.1 Management Accounts for period ended 31 March 2024

The Authority noted the LSRA Management Accounts at end March 2024.

6.2 Update on levy

The Authority noted the update report on the status of the Levy for the 2023 Financial Year.

Section 4 – LSRA Policy and Implementation

7.1 Updates on the Performance of the Complaints & Resolutions Department of the LSRA and on the Operation of the LPDT

The CEO presented update reports, including statistical reports to the Authority in respect of the Complaints & Resolutions Department of the LSRA and on the operation of the LPDT.

7.1 Update on the Performance of the Complaints & Resolutions Department

The Authority noted the summary report and statistics in relation to complaints. Improvements in statistics have been achieved through additional resourcing and focused activity within the Complaints & Resolutions Department. The update included reference to activities to promote the use of mediation as early as possible in the process.

In relation to the development of a new Case Management System (CMS) for the Complaints & Resolutions Department, the CEO informed the Authority that the LSRA is continuing to work with the Department of Justice (IM&T Division) on the project plan, scope and costings and the Authority will be updated on progress with this at the next Authority meeting. In relation to the Inspections Function the Authority queried the protocol on criteria for selecting practices for inspection.

7.2 Update on the Operation of the LPDT:

The Authority was updated by the CEO on the operation of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (LPDT). 22 applications were received in 2023; to date in 2024, seven applications have been received five from the Law Society and two from the LSRA. Inquiry hearing dates were held in March, April and May 2024 with a total of 8 inquiry hearing days. 12 cases were considered over these hearing dates.

8.0 Legal Partnership Regulations

The CEO briefed the Authority on progress with the introduction of the framework for Legal Partnership:

- a) Update on the consultation process including meetings with insurance providers and update on engagement with the consultation process generally;
- b) Next steps to re-engage with the professional bodies to explain how matters raised in submissions to the consultation will be addressed;

- c) LSRA Executive to check that the PII Regulations are aligned with the minimum level of insurance set out for members by the Bar of Ireland;
- d) LSRA Executive to develop information and explanations of the new business model for consumers.

Regulations and Code of Practice for Practising Barristers approved by the Authority subject to any minor amendments required.

- a) a revised set of Legal Partnership Regulations under section 116(1)(a) of the 2015 Act in relation to the operation and management of legal partnerships;
- b) a revised set of Limited Liability Partnership Regulations under section 130 of the 2015 Act in relation to the operation of LLPs which now include provisions relating to legal partnerships who apply for authorisation as an LLP;
- c) a revised set of Professional Indemnity Insurance Regulations under section 47 of the 2015 Act which now includes minimum standards of professional indemnity insurance for practising barristers and for practising barristers in legal partnerships and limited liability partnerships; and
- d) An updated Code of Practice for Practising Barristers under section 22 of the 2015 Act.

9.0 Closed Session

The Secretary left the meeting for the closed session of the Authority.

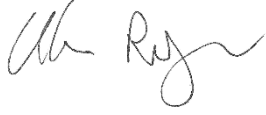
10.0 AOB

No matters arising.

Action Points – Meeting of 20 June 2024	
Agenda Item	Action
1.3	<p><u>Minutes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of 21 March 2024 approved. • Secretary to arrange upload to LSRA website.
2.0.	<p><u>CEO Report:</u></p> <p><u>Standing Updates for next meeting on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0.5 Update on Levy for 2023 Financial Year • 2.0.6 Update on Risk Register • Updates in CEO report or as separate Agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment and staffing, including engagement with Department of Justice and DPENDR on sanctions and new Authority members for 1 October 2024. ▪ CEO to update on progress relating to AML and the Faculty of Notaries Public. ▪ Legal Partnerships (Regulations, Consultations etc)
3.0	<p><u>Duly Authorised Register:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Duly Authorised Register will be circulated prior to next Authority Meeting to reflect staff changes. • Possible update to text of the Register in respect of advertising in regulation.
5.0	<p><u>FAR Committee Chairperson’s Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of new FARC. A matter for the new Authority to decide.
6.0	<p><u>Financial Reports:</u></p> <p>Up to date Financial Reports to be provided for next Authority meeting.</p>
6.1	<p><u>Management Accounts:</u></p> <p>Up to date Management Accounts to be presented to the Authority at its next meeting.</p>
6.2	<p><u>Update on Levy Financial Position:</u></p> <p>For inclusion as separate item or in CEO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Levy process in 2024 • Update on Financial Position in 2024
7.1	<p><u>Update on performance of Complaints and Resolutions Department:</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Authority on Complaints statistics and processing; • Update on performance activities for Complaints Department; • Update Authority on Advertising Regulation activities;
7.2	<p><u>Update on the Performance of the LPDT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on operation of the LPDT including Inquiries.
8.0	<p><u>Legal Partnership Regulations and Codes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress and launch.

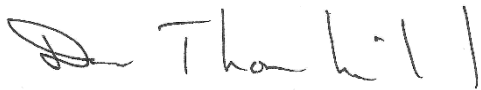
FINAL Minutes Signed



12 September 2024

Ultan Ryan, Secretary

Date



12 September 2024

Don Thornhill, Chairperson

Date