

City of London Law Society

Corporate Crime Committee

Minutes of Meeting 1 October 2024

(Held as a hybrid meeting)

Attendees (in-person):

Louise Hodges (Chair)	Laura Ford
Neill Blundell (Vice-Chair)	Matthew Getz
Phil Taylor (Secretary to the Committee)	Matthew Nunan
Elizabeth Head	Pamela Reddy
Elly Proudlock	Rosanne Kay
Emily Agnoli (substitute)	Sarah Wallace
Jonathan Pickworth	Wayne Barnes (substitute)

Attendees (online):

Christopher David	Ruby Hamid
Eve Giles	Simon Joyston-Bechal
Johannah Walsh	Tom Epps
Michelle de Kluywer	

1. The Chair **welcomed** the attendees and extended thanks to the Member representing the hosting firm.
2. **Apologies** were received from Daren Allen, Susannah Cogman, Andrew Katzen, Matthew Rous, Kevin Hart and Virginia Salter.

(As this was an extraordinary Committee meeting, **minutes of the previous meeting** had not yet been circulated.)

3. **CLLS / Committee business**

- a. The Chair updated Members of the **new membership** round which has now opened. Interested potential members are invited to apply via the online advertisement. The Chair asked Members to bear in mind the desire to improve diversity in the Committee (and all CLLS specialist committees). A Member asked if there were specific firms which are not currently represented. The Chair suggested Members review the current list of members, available online, and noted that expressions of interest have been received from several firms – those prospective members will be contacted directly.

- *The Secretary to circulate a link to the membership advertisement along with details of membership criteria and a link to the current members' list.*
 - b. In preparation for the **meeting with Sara Lawson KC** of the Serious Fraud Office which would follow the Committee meeting, the Chair referred members to the agreed discussion points which had been circulated and explained that Members should not share the contents of the discussion. However, a short report on the meeting would be agreed with the SFO and posted on LinkedIn following the meeting.
 - c. The Chair noted updates received from Colin Passmore of the CLLS regarding the **Labour Party conference** and Members made some brief comments around work by the recently-appointed Law Officers.
 - d. The Chair also noted Colin Passmore's message encouraging better and wider engagement by the specialist committees. A Member asked how the Committee's LinkedIn page is performing, and the Secretary noted 155 followers and good engagement with posts. A Member requested that an email is circulated when a post is published to allow better support.
- *The Secretary to ensure emails are circulated when LinkedIn posts are published.*
 - e. The Chair noted the recent CLLS paper on proposed changes to SRA fining powers, which has helped wider debate on this topic.
 - f. The Chair made way for any **further business**.
 - i. A Member raised the topic of the failure to prevent fraud guidance and there was a brief discussion on the approach taken, timing for publication, industry-specific guidance. The Members also discussed the extent to which this may lead to more Deferred Prosecution Agreements. This led to discussion around the overlapping roles of the SFO and other agencies including the FCA and NCA/NECC.
 - ii. The Vice-Chair gave a brief further update on the activities of the working group set up to pursue the **work-life balance/culture workstream**, including progress on a draft paper. The Vice-Chair aims to share this at the next scheduled Committee meeting.

The Chair called a close to the meeting with thanks to the Members for their contributions and a further reminder of the **meeting scheduled for 10th December** at which the resident judge at Southwark Crown Court would be a guest.