

City of London Law Society
Corporate Crime & Corruption Committee
Minutes of Meeting, 24 February 2026
(Held via MS Teams)

Attendees (online):

Louise Hodges (Chair)	Nick Barnard
Phil Taylor (Secretary to the Committee)	Matthew Banham
Kevin Hart (CLLS)	Matt Getz
Andrew Katzen	Pamela Reddy
Christina Franzese (substitute for Ali Sallaway)	Rosanne Kay
Christopher David	Ruby Hamid
Eve Giles	Shruti Chandhok
Hannah Laming	Susannah Cogman
Justin McClelland	
Laura Ford	

1. The Chair **welcomed** the attendees.
2. Apologies were received from Elly Proudlock, Jonathan Cotton, Neill Blundell, Sam Tate, Tom Epps, Sarah Wallace. **Minutes of the previous meeting** had been circulated, and amendments were invited within 24 hours.

The Secretary canvassed the Members for feedback on the guest from the Insolvency Service who had presented to the Committee on 9th December 2025. Feedback was positive with one member saying they enjoyed the event and another adding that the guest had given good insights. Members agreed that the Committee should continue to invite guest speakers, and there was some discussion over possible invitees.

- *The Secretary to follow up with Members on suggestions for speakers.*

3. **Committee Membership**

The Secretary confirmed the names of four members who were leaving the Committee. A Member raised an query related to the circumstances of one individual's departure. The Chair explained that she had been in contact with the individual concerned, and that the circumstances were in no way hostile and it had been suggested that someone else from the team may want to make an application, but that we had not received one. The Chair reminded the Members of the "three strikes" rule on attendance, in force partly to prevent non-attending members 'blocking' others from their firm joining the Committee. Kevin Hart

confirmed that discretion is applied on this rule as the CLLS understood that everyone is volunteering their time, which is much appreciated. He reminded Members that if they felt the expected commitment was too high, there would be no shame in stepping away; further, Members are permitted to nominate a substitute to attend in their stead temporarily.

The Secretary confirmed that three applications for membership had been received, and that relevant details had been included in the Committee meeting papers. The Secretary noted that one applicant was not a 'Partner' but that CLLS rules permitted membership by an individual of equivalent seniority, which Kevin Hart confirmed. It was further noted that only two of the applications could be voted on at this Committee meeting due to one applicant needing to confirm CLLS or CLSC membership.

Kevin Hart conducted a formal vote and both applicants were unanimously approved for membership by the Committee.

4. **CLLS / Committee business**

- a. The Chair explained that the UK will be hosting "a major international summit" on 23rd and 24th June which is billed at aiming "to tackle the flows of dirty money around the world, which are making the UK's streets less safe". This was announced in December 2025. The Chair and Chief Executive of the CLLS wrote to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs with the invitation that the CLLS would be able to assist the government in hosting the event and/or taking part in panel discussions. A negative response has now been received. Kevin Hart added that there is an intention to follow-up to offer further help and that the Committee will be kept updated. A Member offered to raise the point at an upcoming Law Society committee meeting, and another Member offered to investigate via a global network of which they are a member.
- b. The Secretary drew the Members' attention to two points which had been included in the cover email for his meeting: a cross-committee CLLS project on the impact of AI on employment in the legal sector, and the upcoming CLSC Annual Banquet.

5. **Subcommittee business**

- a. **AML / Sanctions:** A member of the subcommittee noted an ongoing consultation by OFSI on ownership and control and suggested that a response should be prepared on behalf of the Committee. *Any Members interested should indicate this to the Secretary or a member of the subcommittee.*
- b. **Disclosure:** A member of the subcommittee presented a useful and entertaining update on the disclosure issues which have continued to affect the SFO, including those relating to the London

Mining case. A number of points were raised including the accreditation status of the SFO's digital forensics capability.

- *The Secretary to follow up with interested Members on the accreditation point and discuss potential follow-ups including a letter and/or FOIA request.*

c. **Law Reform / Legal Practice:** A planned update by a subcommittee member was deferred.

d. **Events:** There were no updates.

6. **Legal / Case updates**

a. The Secretary drew Members' attention to, and summarised, a paper he had prepared collating recent developments relating to the SFO. The Chair added comments relating to the possible Interim Director of the SFO and the timeline for recruitment of a new Director.

b. The Secretary summarised the contents of Part II of Sir Brian Leveson's Review of the Criminal Courts, and updated the Committee on other developments, including questions asked to the Justice Secretary by members of the all-party House of Commons Justice Committee and the latest government plans as announced by the Justice Secretary (who would be delivering a speech later in the day). A number of Members commented on the proposed reforms. The Chair addressed a query around media campaigns, explaining that the CLLS's retained PR company have been assisting. Unfortunately, there had been no response to the CLLS's invitation to the Justice Secretary to attend a roundtable event to discuss the proposed reforms.

c. The Secretary updated the Committee in relation to the Fisher Review: Part 2 was submitted to the government at the end of January 2026 (but has not yet been published), and on 26th January the Home Office delivered a written statement on its joint response with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice to 45 recommendations from Part I of the Fisher Review. The Government will reportedly publish its full response to the Fisher Review by 20th May 2026.

- *The Disclosure Subcommittee to maintain a watching brief on this issue.*

7. The Chair elicited comments from Members on the **Investigation and Interview Practices (including tech)** standing agenda item. There was some discussion relating to recent high-profile criminal cases and the tactics adopted by law enforcement.

8. There being no **further business**, the Chair called a close to the meeting with thanks to the Members for their contributions.