

City of London Law Society
Corporate Crime & Corruption Committee
Minutes of Meeting, 12 May 2026
(Held as a hybrid meeting)

Attendees (in-person):

Louise Hodges (Chair)	Rebecca Copcutt (substitute for Daren Allen)
Neill Blundell (Vice-Chair)	Ruby Hamid
Phil Taylor (Secretary to the Committee)	Sarah Wallace
Christopher David	Satnam Tumani
Ian Redfearn	Susannah Cogman
Matthew Banham	Sarah Wallace
Nick Barnard	

Attendees (online):

Amy Edwards (substitute for Eve Giles)	Justin McClelland
Andrew Katzen	Laura Ford
Anousheh Bromfield (substitute for Sam Tate)	Matt Getz
Christina Franzese (substitute for Ali Sallaway)	Michelle de Kluyver
Elly Proudlock	Rosanne Kay
Eoin O'Shea	Shruti Chandhok
Eve Giles	
Hannah Laming	

1. The Chair **welcomed** the attendees.
2. Apologies were received from Kevin Hart, Sam Tate, Pamela Reddy, Camilla da Silva. **Minutes of the previous meeting** had been circulated, and amendments were invited within 24 hours. The Secretary reminded attendees that two new members were approved at the last Committee meeting and confirmed that welcome communications had been sent to them.
3. **CLLS / Committee business**
 - a. The Secretary reminded the Committee that one application for membership, from Ruth Paley, had been carried over from the last meeting pending the applicant's CLLS / CLSC membership status being arranged. The applicant's status having been confirmed, their application could be considered by the Committee.

The Vice-Chair commended the applicant to the Committee. The Secretary conducted a formal vote. Those attending as substitutes for Members did not participate in the vote. No objections were raised and the applicant was duly approved for membership by the Committee.

- *The Secretary to ensure a welcome email is sent to the new Member and that they are invited to subsequent Committee meetings.*
- b. The Secretary provided an update on the progress of the Courts and Tribunals Bill noting that no amendments had been made to the provisions about which the Committee is particularly concerned (relating to curtailment of jury trials).
- c. The Vice-Chair delivered a report on a roundtable meeting with the SFO which had attended on 30 March. The meeting involved approximately 10 other defence practitioners, and the atmosphere was warm despite some robust debate. The impression given was that the SFO wishes to be open and transparent and is conducting business as usual under the interim Director. Other topics covered at the meeting included recruitment of a new Director, the SFO's record on prosecutions, issues with the SFO's disclosure software, the SFO's relationship with overseas counterparts, the SFO's use of technology, resourcing and staff, deferred prosecution agreements, incentivisation of whistleblowers, and section 2 notices. There was some discussion among Committee members around the process of and timing for recruitment of a new SFO Director.
- d. A Member put forward to the Committee the idea of forming a subcommittee to look at the issues of AI in the context of a corporate crime practice and to act as a bridge with the CLLS's specialist AI Committee. The Members agreed this was a good idea and should be taken forward.
- *The Secretary to note expressions of interest from Members and set up a new subcommittee email group. The subcommittee to report back at the next scheduled Committee meeting.*
- e. The Secretary drew the Committee's attention to a report on an event hosted by the CLLS on Legal Professional Privilege in the Age of AI at which Sir Colin Birss was the guest speaker.
- *The Secretary to circulate a recording and transcript of this event.*

The Secretary further noted that the Serious Fraud Office had recently hosted an International Economic Crime Conference in collaboration with France's Parquet National Financier and Switzerland's Office of the Attorney General. This was an event for investigators and prosecutors rather than private practitioners. Baroness Margaret and Joe Powell MP spoke at the event. According to the government press release, "the conference underscored the value of international collaboration in addressing increasingly complex cross-border financial crime and provided a vital opportunity to strengthen partnerships that support effective enforcement worldwide."

4. Subcommittee business

- a. **AML / Sanctions:** A member of the subcommittee noted that the Money Laundering Regulation amendment SI had been laid before Parliament and would come into force in June. Most of the SI is quite detailed and more of interest on the compliance side. One point of interest to the Committee may be the pooled client obligations but the amended Regulation will not take things significantly further than the JMLSG guidance. There will be a new power for law enforcement to ask solicitors where money is coming from and an obligation on solicitors to provide this information. This is part of a trend of increased focus on this area of money laundering risk.

The subcommittee member also noted a call for evidence on information sharing (public-private and public-public). The FCA is pushing for greater use of the information sharing provisions under ECCTA with a requirement for institutions to report on levels of sharing. This may be ported over when the FCA takes over AML supervision of solicitors.

It was noted that the Law Society had issued a response to the recent ownership and control consultation.

On sanctions enforcement, it was noted that HMRC is taking a new approach to issues such as publication in line with the new sanctions enforcement strategy.

- b. **Disclosure:** There were no updates.
- c. **Law Reform / Legal Practice:** There were no updates.
- d. **Events:** It was noted that this subcommittee had been quiet recently and efforts would be made to revitalise it.

5. Legal / Case updates

- a. Here, the Secretary had planned to discuss recruitment of the new SFO Director but noted this had already been discussed.
- b. The Secretary reported that the Crime and Policing Bill had been subject to heavy amendments in the House of Lords, but that the provisions on corporate criminal liability were not amended at during the whole passage of the Bill. Royal Assent was granted on 29th April. Section 250 of the new Act reforms corporate criminal liability introducing a senior manager test for all criminal

offences; it will be in force from 29th June. There was open and engaging discussion among the Members as to the likely impact of the new test and possible approaches to compliance by clients.

- c. The Secretary noted the Global Fraud Summit 2026 which took place on 16th March in Vienna. The keynote speech was given by Lord Hanson, and the event was attended by representatives of member states of the United Nations including Australia, Canada, France, Singapore, the UK and the USA; and private sector organisations and industry bodies including Meta, Google and Amazon. The Secretary commented that this appeared to be part of a trend of increased involvement of the private sector in tackling fraud.
 - d. The Secretary's final update was to note that Lord Garnier had used a Parliamentary debate on the Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Bill on 14th April to call for further expansion of failure to prevent law to allow corporates to be held to account for more compliance failures, indicating that, despite the introduction of the new senior manager test, failure to prevent is still in play.
- *The Secretary to circulate further details and relevant links by email relating to the foregoing updates.*
- 6. Under the **Investigation and Interview Practices (including tech)** standing agenda item, a Member explained a recent issue involving an insurer and asked if others had experienced a similar situation.
 - 7. It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 7th July with the location shortly to be confirmed. There being no **further business**, the Chair called a close to the meeting with thanks to the Members for their contributions.