# THE CITY OF LONDON LAW SOCIETY INSOLVENCY LAW COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT STEPHENSON HARWOOD LLP AT 1 FINSBURY CIRCUS,

### LONDON EC2M 7SH AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

## ON THURSDAY 26th MAY 2022 AT 8.30am

- Present: Jennifer Marshall, Allen & Overy LLP (chair) Ian Benjamin, Stephenson Harwood LLP Catherine Balmond, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP Ben Klinger, Simons Muirhead Burton LLP Giles Boothman. Ashurst LLP Ian Fox, Dentons UK and Middle East LLP Joe Bannister, DAC Beachcroft LLP Katharina Crinson, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP lan Johnson, Slaughter & May James Roome, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld Hamish Anderson, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP Inga West, Ashurst LLP Jo Windsor, Linklaters LLP Dominic McCahill, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP Gabrielle Ruiz, Clifford Chance LLP Kevin Pullen, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP Ben Larkin, Jones Day Peter Wiltshire, CMS Cameron McKenna LLP Ross Miller, Simmons & Simmons LLP **Apologies:** David Ereira, Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP Tim Symes, Stewarts Law LLP
- Tim Symes, Stewarts Law LLP Melissa Coakley, Clifford Chance LLP Adrian Cohen, Proskauer Rose LLP Simon Thomas, Goodwin Procter (UK) LLP James Maltby, Hogan Lovells International LLP
- In attendance: Rebecca Oliver, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP (secretary) Jamie Leader, Enyo Law LLP Kevin Hart, CLLS
- 1 Opening of meeting

Jennifer Marshall welcomed new members Melissa Coakley, James Maltby and Tim Symes.

- 2 The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were approved.
- 3 Current consultations/proposals

	Terms of reference	Working party	Comments/Update
A.	Insolvency Service consultation on the future of insolvency regulation <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/th</u> <u>e-future-of-insolvency-regulation</u>	Jennifer Marshall Hamish Anderson Joe Bannister Jo Windsor Dominic McCahill David Ereira Ian Fox	Response submitted 25 March 2022 CLLS response to Insolvency Service cor
В.	BEIS, HM Treasury and HMRC joint consultation on Corporate Re-domiciliation	Jennifer Marshall Joe Bannister David Ereira	Insolvency law committee submission 7 January 2022:

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/c	
orporate-re-domiciliation	https://www.citysolicito rs.org.uk/storage/2022 /01/Corporate-re- domiciliation- consultation-on- government- proposals-07-01- 22.pdf
	CLLS company law committee submission 12 January 2022:
	https://www.citysolicito rs.org.uk/storage/2022 /01/Response-to- consultation-on- Corporate- Redomiciliation.pdf
	Summary of responses published 12 April 2022: <u>Corporate Re-</u> domiciliation
	<u>Consultation</u> <u>summary of responses</u> (publishing.service.gov <u>.uk</u> )
C. HM Treasury response to consultation on changes to insolvency arrangements for insurers 7 April 2022	<u>17/08/2021 - CLLS</u> response to insurers consultation 12 08 21

#### 4 Sanctions

The Committee noted the need for representation in UK court proceedings for sanctioned entities or indirectly Russian controlled UK entities and noted the useful decision in the court appointment of special administrators to Sberbank CIB (UK) Limited following an application by the directors where the court notes the appointment would protect the company and its creditors.

The Committee noted the planned ban on services exports to Russia announced on 4 May: <u>Russia</u> cut off from UK services - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

#### 5 Pandemic related commercial rent arrears

Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Act 2022: final version statutory guidance on arbitration process for pandemic-related commercial rent arrears published 8 April 2022: <u>Commercial Rent</u> (Coronavirus) Act 2022: guidance to arbitrators and approved arbitration bodies on the exercise of their functions in the Act (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Commercial rent code of practice following the COVID-19 pandemic published by BEIS 7 April 2022: <u>Commercial rent code of practice following the COVID-19 pandemic - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

Noted by the Committee.

6 National Security and Investments Act 2021 – implications on taking and enforcing security

CLLS-statement-on-share-security-BEIS-comments-1.pdf (citysolicitors.org.uk)

Noted by the Committee.

7 BEIS First Review of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016 published 5 April 2022

First Review of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Noted by the Committee.

8 Queen's Speech: Audit Reform Bill

The Committee noted the announcement of an Audit Reform Bill "Reforming the regulation of Insolvency Practitioners to give greater confidence to creditors and strengthening corporate governance of firms in or approaching insolvency so that 'asset stripping' can be more effectively tackled." The Committee will await consultation.

9 Recent cases noted by the Committee:

Amigo Loans (sanction hearing 23/24 May; Amigo Loans Scheme | Scheme of Arrangement (amigoscheme.co.uk))

Re Safari Holding Verwaltungs GmbH [2022] EWHC 781 (Ch), [2022] All ER (D) 39 (Apr)

Re Glam and Tan Ltd; Barnett (as liquidator of Glam and Tan Ltd) and another v Litras [2022] EWHC 855 (Ch), [2022] All ER (D) 51 (Apr)

*Re Marylebone Warwick Balfour Management Ltd (reg nr 02944316) (in liquidation); Hunt (liquidator of Marylebone Warwick Balfour Management Ltd) v Balfour-Lynn and others [2022] EWHC 784 (Ch)* 

Re Smile Telecoms Holdings Ltd [2022] EWHC 740 (Ch)

Re Baglan Operations Ltd (in compulsory liquidation); Counsel General for Wales and others v Allen (as Official Receiver) (in his capacity as the liquidator of Baglan Operations Ltd (in compulsory liquidation)) and others [2022] EWHC 647 (Ch)

Re E D & F Man Holdings Ltd [2022] EWHC 687 (Ch)

- 10 Any other business
- 11 Next meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022, at 8.30am, due to be hosted by Peter Wiltshire, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP.