

**City of London Law Society**

**Corporate Crime & Corruption Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting, 9 December 2025**

**(Held as a hybrid meeting)**

**Attendees (in-person):**

Neill Blundell (Vice-Chair, in the chair)	Pamela Reddy
Phil Taylor (Secretary to the Committee)	Ruby Hamid
Andrew Katzen	Sam Tate
Barry Vitou	Sara Thomas Arano (substitute for Matthew
Elly Proudlock	Banham)
Jeremy Summers	Tom Epps
Nick Barnard	

**Attendees (online):**

Ali Sallaway	Hannah Laming
Christopher David	Laura Ford
David Capps (substitute for Justin McClelland)	Michelle de Kluwer
Eoin O'Shea	Satnam Tumani
Eve Giles	Susannah Cogman

1. The Vice-Chair **welcomed** the attendees and thanked the hosting Member for providing facilities and refreshments.
2. Apologies were received from Daren Allen, Louise Hodges, Kevin Hart, Matt Getz, Nick Barnard, Sarah Wallace, Shruti Chandhok, Simon Joyston-Bechal. **Minutes of the previous meeting** had been circulated, and amendments were invited within 24 hours.

The Secretary updated the Committee with regard to **actions from the previous meeting**:

- Liaison with the Secretariat of the Times Crime and Justice Commission has been further postponed due to other projects and particularly responding to the Leveson Review. An update will be given to the Committee in due course.
- A welcome message has been sent to the Chief Executive of the CLLS, and he plans to attend a Committee meeting in 2026.

### 3. **CLLS / Committee business**

- a. The Vice-Chair gave an update on activities undertaken in response to the **government's proposal to reduce the availability of jury trials**.

The Vice-Chair explained that a response had been coordinated at central CLLS level, with the assistance of the CLLS's retained public relations firm. This response included a letter to the editor of The Times and a letter to the Lord Chancellor, signed on behalf of the Committee by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee. The position taken was to oppose the plans to reduce jury trials.

The Vice-Chair and a Member of the Reform / Legal Practice subcommittee also noted plans to host a roundtable event with the Lord Chancellor early in the New Year.

Members offered further comments in relation to the issue, including a feeling that the narrative around the cause of the delays in the criminal justice system should be changed; it is at the investigation stage that significant delays can arise in fraud cases, and this should be addressed and tackled. Judges' attitude to the proposed reforms were also discussed.

- *The Secretary to circulate a copy of the letter to the Committee, asking that this is kept confidential.*

- b. The Secretary reminded the Committee of a discussion at the previous meeting on **failure to prevent fraud** and asked Members to share any further insights into the new offence. These included that prosecutors are reportedly coming under significant pressure to prosecute the new offence, but it remains to be seen when and if this will be translated into action.

Here, one Member noted the recently announced HMRC tax evasion informant reward scheme, while the Vice-Chair mentioned the planned Illicit Finance Summit to be hosted by the UK government in 2026.

The Secretary drew Members' attention to the government's Anti-Corruption Strategy and noted that this included a reference to incentives for whistleblowers.

- *The Secretary to circulate a link to the Anti-Corruption Strategy along with notes on its key points.*

### 4. **Subcommittee business**

- a. **AML / Sanctions:** A member of the subcommittee delivered updates on the ongoing consultation to reform AML supervision of the legal and other sectors, including a brief history of the project and the current position. The member noted that a number of professional groups are responding

to the current consultation, including the Law Society and CLLS (whose response is being coordinated via the Professional Rules & Regulation Committee with input from the subcommittee). The basic position of these groups is that this is a misguided reform with significant practical consequences, but due to the position of the plans, the planned response is focused on offering practical suggestions about how to implement changes. The deadline for responses is 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Members discussed points including the enforcement approach of the FCA, their attitude towards legal professional privilege, and the FCA's expertise and resources.

b. **Disclosure:** There were no updates.

c. **Law Reform / Legal Practice:** There were no updates.

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

5. Due to time constraints, the agenda points **Legal / Case updates** and **Investigation and Interview Practices (including tech)** were postponed.

6. There being no **further business**, the Vice-Chair noted the provisional dates for 2026 Committee meetings, as circulated with the agenda. The Vice-Chair then called a close to the meeting with thanks to the Members for their contributions and again to the hosting Member. Following the close of the meeting, Members were encouraged to remain for a Q&A session with a guest from The Insolvency Service.