

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CILEx REGULATION LIMITED (CRL)
HELD ON 16 APRIL 2026**

Present:

Jonathan Rees (Chair), Helen Astle, Aaron Porter and Patricia White

In attendance (CILEx Regulation):

John Barwick, Chief Executive Officer
Simon Blandy, Director of Regulation
Jonathan Levack, Director of Policy & Governance
Phil Hodgson, Regulatory Support Lead (Item 7)
Gerry McCarthy, Finance Manager (Item 10)

Note: the formal meeting had been preceded by a private Board discussion.

Note of the private discussion (not for publication)

Mazur and CILEX Update

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Douglas Blackstock

2 Declarations of Interests

There were no new declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of previous meetings

The Board received and **APPROVED** as a correct record the minutes of the Board meeting on 10th February 2026.

4. Chair's update

None.

5. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive introduced his report, highlighting recent updates including:

- The LSB chair being confirmed in post. The Chair will write to the new LSB chair in due course.
- The Justice Select Committee hearing on access to justice. This meeting was notable in that the LSB said regulators needed to be more proactive in their approach and they were considering setting up an enforcement function.
- Changes to the Strategic Risk Register, with strategic risk 4 now red reflecting the concerns raised by the LSB in the 2026 PCF decision notice.
- Corporate plan progress.

The Board **NOTED** the report.

6. Director of Regulation's Report

The Director of Regulation introduced his report, updating the Board on:

- Data analysis. The Director of Regulation updated the Board on the work of the new Information Analyst and the progress being made in this area of CRL's work
- The work of the PAS team.
- Entity and supervision team activity. This included discussion of AML supervision, with transfer of responsibility to the FCA not expected for another 3 years at least.
- Panellist appointments. The Director of Regulation updated the Board on the recent panel recruitment exercise, noting the very strong field of applications received.

The Board **NOTED** the report and ASKED the Executive to consider how to engage new panellists subject to our governance rules. The Board also ASKED the Executive to revive engagement with HMT concerning Designated Professional Body status.

7. Enforcement Review

The Regulatory support lead updated the Board on progress with the enforcement review. The review has focussed particularly on efficiency, proportionality, transparency, and alignment with regulatory best practice.

Six lines of enquiry were originally identified, but work to date has concentrated on four core areas where structural and operational issues are most acute: Enforcement structure, Complainant role, CRL's sanctioning powers and Entity enforcement. Clear inefficiencies have been identified with remedies being developed that will reduce costs and improve timeliness.

The Regulatory support lead outlined the next steps in the project, which are: early stakeholder engagement, drafting rules for Board consideration, consultation and, subsequently, LSB approval. Draft rules are expected to be considered by the Board at its July meeting.

The Board **NOTED** the update, welcomed the work done to date and agreed the broad direction of travel.

8. Director of Policy and Governance Report

The Director of Policy and Governance introduced his report, focusing on probate practice rights. The team have been actively engaging with CILEX and affected CLEs to clarify the scope of probate practice rights.

The Board **NOTED** the report, and asked the Executive to keep it update, including on whether the existing rights needed amendment to reflect ways of working.

9. Stakeholder Perceptions Research

The Director of Policy and Governance presented findings from the stakeholder perceptions research to the Board. He noted that the findings were heavily influenced by Mazur, including the proportion of respondents who practised litigation.

The Board:

- Noted the findings and the perceptions of CRL across stakeholder groups
- Noted the quality of the insight
- Noted the need to move from broadcast communications to more meaningful engagement with stakeholders
- Asked the Executive to further develop a proposed response for consideration at the May strategy meeting of the Board.

9. Annual Cycle of Business

The Board **NOTED** the Annual Cycle of Business.

10. AOB

The Board considered the 2027 budget and business plan as an opportunity to review CRL's legal support.

The following minutes are not for publication.

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