



**MINUTES OF THE TELECONFERENCE OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF CILEx REGULATION LIMITED
HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2022**

Present:

Jonathan Rees (Chair), Helen Astle, Alice Belcher, Robert Morris

In attendance (CILEx Regulation):

Janine Griffiths-Baker, Interim Chief Executive
Victoria Purtil, Chief Operating Officer
David Pope, Director of Operations
Simon Blandy, Director of Governance (minutes)
Becky Snape, Personal Assistant to CEO, Chair and
Executive Team (observer)

In attendance (Observer):

Carilyn Burman, Chief Executive (returning to full time role with effect from 3 January 2023)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting. The Chair welcomed Robert Morris to his first meeting as a Board member. He also welcomed Carilyn Burman who was returning as Chief Executive with effect from 3 January 2023.

It was noted that Douglas Blackstock, who was not present, had previously said that that he would be in Nigeria and it might not be feasible for him to attend. The Chair declared that the meeting was quorate and would proceed in the absence of Douglas Blackstock. There were no other apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interests were made in addition to those already included on the register of interests.

3. Legal Ombudsman Business Plan 2023/24 Consultation response

The Chair introduced the item and asked the Director of Governance to present the paper.

The Director of Governance stated that the Legal Ombudsman Business Plan 2023/24 consultation paper provided a positive assessment of progress made in the 2020/23 strategy period. It was frank about the issues with which it had had to grapple, primarily staff attrition and operational performance. CILEx Regulation should be supportive of the aspirations set out in the consultation paper, but equally it was too early to celebrate any sustainable achievements. CILEx Regulation's proposed response had been prepared on that basis.

The following comment was made:

- Draft Response to Q5 - Although it was accepted that currently it was only required to pay the minimum levy to the Legal Ombudsman, CILEx Regulation had a material interest in the

setting of the Legal Ombudsman's budget. The minimum levy might be increased, alternatively the number of complaints made against firms it regulated might exceed the minimum threshold, in which case CILEx Regulation's contribution to the levy could increase substantially. Bearing in mind the cost-of-living crisis, CILEx Regulation had agreed its budget for 2023 on the basis that the PCF Fee would not increase. It would not be possible to sustain that position if the levy payable by CILEx Regulation continued to increase because the Legal Ombudsman and the LSB failed to limit their budgets to current levels

- The quality of the Legal Ombudsman's draft business plan and budget was underwhelming.

The Board **REVIEWED** and, subject to amendment of the response to question 5, **APPROVED** the proposed consultation response to the Legal Ombudsman, to be submitted on or before the deadline of 14 December 2022.

4. CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION

5. Any other business

The Chair reminded members that the Board evaluation survey was due to be completed by 16 December 2022. The Director of Governance agreed to circulate a further copy of the email with a link to the survey. The Chair also reminded Board members to complete updated declarations of interests by the end of the year.

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting the Interim Chief Executive would be attending. On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked the Interim Chief Executive for all her hard work and dedication during her tenure which she always carried out with a smile on her face. He appreciated her willingness to respond to a range of challenges and for keeping the Board fully informed. The Interim Chief Executive thanked the Chair and said that she would be watching developments with interest in the New Year.

The Chair welcomed back the permanent Chief Executive from the beginning of January 2023. He thought there was more than enough to keep her occupied.

The Board extended its thanks to all members of staff for continuing to contribute to the success of CILEx Regulation in a difficult year and wished them all a Happy Christmas.

There was no further business.

**Jonathan Rees
Chair**