

Full Name	Party	Answers to Questions
North Thanet		
Sir Roger Gale	Conservative	<p>I acknowledge receipt of your proforma questionnaire.</p> <p>I am blessed with a number of very good legal practices in my constituency with whom I am able to work closely and who, sometimes on a pro bono basis, are able to provide assistance to my constituents. I freely concede that I do not have any experience, however, of the “international market” to which you refer but I cannot see that the provision of legal aid or otherwise can or should impact upon this market. I do have concerns about the vagaries of a legal aid system that appears to be able to provide assistance to some people that do not warrant it while denying it to others who most certainly do.</p> <p>The response to your second question is that I have absolutely no experience of law firms in Kent having dealings with “mainland continental Europe”. This is not an issue that any constituent firm has ever raised with me and I think that if you wish to “protect the business interests of lawyers in Kent in a post- Brexit world” then it would be helpful to have a thoughtful briefing on the subject.</p> <p>The answer to your third question is that I am highly dissatisfied with the national level of self-regulation of the legal profession: on the occasions when I have had the need to raise concerns with the regulatory bodies in respect of constituents’ complaints against legal services I have found the system to be loaded very heavily against the general public and in favour of the profession.</p> <p>The answer to your final question is that while – as I have already indicated – I have a good working relationship with a number of the legal practices that serve my constituents and have also had very considerable assistance from the Bar Pro Bono Unit (which is proactive) I cannot recall any occasion in recent years upon which I have been approached by any member of the Kent Law Society with a request for any form of engagement or discussion on “legal and justice issues”. That suggests to me that the Kent Law Society has at least in this particular area, been ineffective.</p>
Clive Egan	UKIP	
Fran Rehal	Labour	
Martyn Pennington	Lib Dem	
Ed Targett	Green	
Iris White	CPA	<p>1. The CPA is totally committed to providing legal aid for everyone who needs it and understands the need to increase the funding to support the process. Cuts have caused many solicitors to withdraw from legal aid and this process must be reversed.</p> <p>2. &amp; 3. The CPA is committed to retaining all EU regulations in the short term and reviewing them to see if they are needed or can be improved on. It is essential that standards are maintained at a high</p>

		<p>level in all professions especially the legal profession. When we leave the EU it is inevitable some changes will occur but we want our lawyers to be able to represent clients anywhere in the world with ease.</p> <p>4. If elected I would be more than happy to meet with you as and when you wish diary permitting. Certainly I would want to engage with all interest groups in my constituency and the law society is one I greatly esteem.</p>
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