3rd July 2020

Dear Member,

The London & South East Relationship Management team are keen to ensure that key updates and information of relevance are communicated to you, and your local law society, periodically.

Please feel free to share the information below more widely with your committees and your membership.

**Return, Restart and Recovery campaign**

We’re supporting solicitors and firms to return to their offices safely, restart the economy and drive the recovery after coronavirus.

**Return**: focusing on supporting law firms and organisations to re-open their doors safely and business support measures to address the courts backlog which do not compromise on the quality of justice.

**Restart**: focusing on steps the government can take to help solicitors in revitalising key markets, such as: bespoke support for the civil and criminal legal aid sectors; changes to the apprenticeship levy to promote job creation and training, and; targeted tax incentives to support employment and stimulate activity in key markets

**Recovery**: focusing on the wider role legal services will play in the country’s recovery from coronavirus, both in economic terms and in social ones. This means: continuing to promote England and Wales internationally as a global legal centre; investing in adoption of new technologies in the legal sector, and; ensuring access to justice for all to help ensure our communities emerge from the crisis more resilient and more supported than before.

On 30 June, we published our submission to HM Treasury outlining specific measures the government can take which would help the legal services sector to achieve this mission.

[Read about our campaign](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlUQndyRGozQTJ0Y1NJMFdKRnZBenZNdk9ZZDlSRXB0dm9OTVJlYkRYbnpCSFVNajRmdC9sM0ZLVTJJSkVSdnFNblBoNWdzWXEzTWUyYXZTR1JxbytPU2taUVcwbVFDTU83ST0=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)
[Read our submission to the Treasury](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlUQndyRGozQTJ0Y1NJMFdKRnZBenZNdk9ZZDlSRXB0dm9OV2xRYng2M29aMGVxbHVSSGFjdkNMQjBzMmFGWmJwbURuQm9wd1RBS3dmSEMyeXIxQTRUdktaakptL092ZUVnVT0=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)

**BAME Roundtables - register your interest**

The Law Society of England and Wales invites black and ethnic minority solicitors to take part in its research project. The aim is to better understand the experiences, both positive and negative, of black and minority ethnic members of the profession. We are keen to hear the views of practitioners from a wide range of legal practise. An additional part of the research is to capture the insights from other professionals working in the sector involved in the recruitment and career progression of solicitors (HR, recruiters and D&I professionals).

Research will be conducted via virtual roundtables and online survey. Virtual roundtables will be held in July and August on our behalf by DJS Research.  The roundtables will bring together groups of up to 6 participants and will be run under the Chatham House rule. You’ll be asked to share your stories – the highs and lows, the challenges and the opportunities you have experienced.  The full names of participants and their employers will not be identifiable visible to other participants in these sessions. Members interested in taking part in an online survey will be sent a survey link in July.

Responses in the surveys and roundtables will be anonymised before being used in our research.  Personal details you provide in this form will be used solely for the purpose of the Career Experience of black and ethnic minority solicitors research project, and deleted on completion of the project.

Your contributions will be anonymised and the intelligence gathered will inform our final report and our strategy to better support and promote black and ethnic minority solicitors in the profession.

For more information on how the Law Society processes your data please see our [privacy notice](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlURGRaNmRvWU83RmtVS0o0UDY1WjV6V2dWcWFWODVRUHVHN2IydmRTeUQwYUtSSkJJcWtWRWFmdmFVWHVnYTAvMzMyQjVNMWkvY25tczFQalIxUm14YXc=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886).

If you have any questions about the research or how it will be run please contact our Diversity and Inclusion Team contact: jerry.garvey@lawsociety.org.uk

To register please follow this link by **15 July**: [https://forms.microsoft.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ss1OLdFCUEK3lCyvUjcZrY65BNma5odEq1gcXF2Do2hUQVRZNjFKRzBLMUpJSzdKQjg5SzY3V1Q4Vi4u](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlUQ3FHdkdxMUhVSEJkSkh1ZllPWXZXT0lRU1NYMXFIZ2lPM3M2QjdsLzVBZnFVSVVCME1OVG80WkNGY2tLWm9QeEVyWnp0SFRBazQ1ZGpCMEJGVGpUWitnYVNkY1YrcW82UHFZYld4RVNROFd0aGVwWE5vVjJzeDJNMDRFVGtmN2dVVktLVW9xQkM5Q3FCSkdsU0hVWDlDeE04UDhLVUQ5c21aVHUvZmRSVFoxSHNUYyt1RTJkN1Q=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)

**Solicitors Indemnity Fund closure postponed by one year**

News of a one-year delay of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF) has been welcomed by the Law Society of England and Wales.

[Read our press release in full](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlURGRaNmRvWU83RmtVS0o0UDY1WjV6V2dWcWFWODVRUHVIMU9MRlU3S25xaGZYTTJxNCtCcjVrWlVxKzY4ZkR3RWhURkJqOURISmJnRlZMMU1aOU5OTE14aTVtd3BXeHU4OVpsRTRHOE9DS0JBd0pON1pWT2tiRUROL0tlZ3R5enBLZTVGOURFV0E1T3lLSXk1alRrWk9BbENOWVF2aEZ2Uko4Ym0vVytYMFljMUh1SGRPQnBQbVo=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)

**Our new website is live!**

Following many months of hard work, we're excited to announce that our new website has been formally launched, with our My LS account and personalised dashboard for all website users.

The new website is available to all users at [www.lawsociety.org.uk](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDb25IaUJNbGpTbDFsVHlGOHlWdXl1N3ZucXAwTllmeHZrSlgzMjFpZjhsMkJNVDdOS2xLSGc9PQ==&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)

**We are keen to hear any feedback you and your members have about the new site, so please feel free to get in touch to share your thoughts and views.**

[**Tell us about your PII renewal**](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlUQXVQbXJDOS92NDM2V3ZtSklZK2YwMXpTY1VKTzF6N3ZHZXROTWhJMmFrNHJqZnBMcmxPYkYv&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)

The market for professional indemnity insurance (PII) is hardening and we need to know what's happening to target assistance for firms that are struggling to find cover. So, if you've renewed your PII on or since 1 April 2020, tell us about your renewal by completing our survey.

[Take the survey](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlUQXVQbXJDOS92NDM2V3ZtSklZK2YwMXpTY1VKTzF6N3ZHZXROTWhJMmFrNHJqZnBMcmxPYkYv&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)

**FREE WEBINAR: What does supervision look like from a distance and in the future?**

Join Pearl Moses, Head of the Law Society’s Risk and Compliance Service, Michelle Garlick of Weightmans and our host Manchester Law Society for a free webinar discussing what supervision looks like from a distance and in the future, **Wednesday 8 July**at **14:00**.

[Register here](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlUREFZd3NQWVhjd2tmZHNTWG9HY09wcXlzZ1NJZlVaVXV0VmxkTzBrZlhCMGNQMlBlb0srdUVYY1I5VnV1L2ZnRUlOdjUyK1JRYmxrZ0x4RHNxWWY4UUM=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)

**Pride**

We’ve curated a page of our **#LegalPride2020**content so you can still get involved and mark Pride digitally.

Listen to a podcast with LGBT+ solicitors across the world, watch a video or post about your own experience with the hashtag #LegalPride2020 pandemic or not – Pride will go on.

[View the page here](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlUQWR2aDFBQVNVbDZtR0pjSEdTeURiYzJJSzZ5N21oeFE2S0R0LzFzMkhxTHJHbnhzQ3dvOVNzcU9GMVdiNkw3WE5FWUFqWGtTclF0MFJ3c2N4VkQ5Q3Y=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)

**Consultation summary**

**Revisions to the Attorney General's Guidance on disclosure and the CPIA Code of Practice** - closing date extended to 22 July 2020
[Link to consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlURGZtUURWc1B0aCs0NnNqa3N6MCtqTFVPdE1YdDhhUm9lTWlKSFZBcXpzUFZFUThLNmMvdjNEaVVUN3ZOOCtGa0hJWWRpM055dnFCK0NQSG9lb3pFdU0ydzJXc01RNUc0UzNDVmhYUVoweFE4dVBDUFRHYW1FOTQxd1dSSG4rVlJzYTVBYlpWNE5YZEo0a1VRTzJ0Y0pwWkhHYVJ5UW91WWdDenlYRldubHlPY2tneCs1Z3lydWlaVzRxYUNPT2lkTT0=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)
Policy Lead: Janet.Arkinstall@lawsociety.org.uk

The Attorney General's Office is consulting on changes to the guidelines and Code of Practice for disclosure.

**Tax Treatment of Asset Holding Companies in Alternative Funding Structures**- closing date 19 August 2020
[Link to consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlURGZtUURWc1B0aCs0NnNqa3N6MCtqTFVPdE1YdDhhUm9mWURaQi9neVo0UHJtcUF0RHJaMmRhYXc0d0pORzhjQkRWdExhbVdmVkdOTTFuMytxVGFSY21QSFBTcVFwMkF0TkxQYW95OE1jNVVJc1lCbXpJd2pWMENHVGJLSXBoSHQzTklEN0JLUndZcHNKdTVCOWVzeEp3&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)
Policy Lead: James.Reynolds@lawsociety.org.uk

This consultation seeks views on whether changes to the tax treatment of companies used by funds to hold assets could make the UK a more attractive location for these companies. It also considers the VAT treatment of fund management fees and other aspects of the UK’s funds regime.

**SRA Consultation: SRA Business Plan and Budget 2020-2021** - closing date 26 August 2020
[Link to consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlUQ2phK2p0MEFldGdLSng0Z1RYVVBUVldDTHd5YzlGdC9rOU9aN2FJR0I1emZaeEQ5NGJjdjZZaVFDOFNqVUdWYWdmVEszTEJJWnFGM3lYM1NVVTdDOFdRZVJKWHppSWJ3SzVVRVdIUEZPc1dvTEd2T3IxQkVraw==&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)
Policy Lead: Marzena.Lipman@lawsociety.org.uk

This consultation takes place, in part, alongside the [Law Society Group consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlURGRaNmRvWU83RmtVS0o0UDY1WjV6V2dWcWFWODVRUHVFSjlVaVJYZGlZcUljYUV1ZE12YXRTOE95NGxwanVmaEdoUVBrYzFjOFo5NGd1d0V4Qzl6RVMrRUtoWlp1bVM4STdobHp4d0RIWjdBPT0=&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886) on the level of the practising certificate fees for 2020/21, which runs until 10 July 2020. The SRA has therefore encouraged responses on the budget component of the business plan prior to 10 July.

As part of this consultation, the SRA is also be asking for views its proposed principles for managing its Compensation Fund, which is a key part of consumer protection and supports public confidence in solicitor firms and the reputation of the profession. Every year the SRA Board decides on the level of the profession's contributions to the fund, based on information about trends, past and prospective claims and interventions.

**Notification of uncertain tax treatment by large businesses**- closing date 27 August 2020
[Link to Consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlURGZtUURWc1B0aCs0NnNqa3N6MCtqTFVPdE1YdDhhUm9mWURaQi9neVo0UG1NTmVtZnBOU1lPTFhrMjUzMHlscjJjZ0tyeWhqdWt2OFVtcm1NSm8rN2FPWkoyd0tnY1d0b3FuNWpORzB2U1d5SS9qbW1IMmFEZUNOVTc5N3RUWFhzeFl5M2g0OHZzWm5xQUNSZDh6T091SFdqVFArclFFajJxL28wTTY0UWlMbHlyNzI1QzhoV3FMQ1EvdWxrU255OE85VEh5V0NSMVhWemVyQmJVVjhLN3p2YzlDd1RDRmV6SGpibGZhRWp2aU1RTGpleGcvbm14NmV5YVpMV3g1WTdpeEFFc3FadGEybEFzWEZ4bFA3M2RETXNKZndkOWQ4MXM3VFprbi9uYzAwMjJZNnR0K0tKWA==&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)
Policy Lead: James.Reynolds@lawsociety.org.uk

From April 2021 large businesses will be required to notify HMRC when they take a tax position which HMRC is likely to challenge. This policy will draw on international accounting standards which many large businesses already follow. This consultation seeks views on the method and detail of the notification and particular areas of uncertain tax treatment.

**Call for evidence: raising standards in the market for tax abuse**- closing date 28 August 2020
[Link to consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlURGZtUURWc1B0aCs0NnNqa3N6MCtqTFVPdE1YdDhhUm9mWURaQi9neVo0UGh1WXVuaGFsN3pXUTZwOUlWQ1pQRWI3N0t5YTNKaDNyWEZSUngvbVljS3RDY2trN1BYelhNVlVxMy9SZEk0aWtRcWRKZ3J3U04xZ3lYSXpTaUJub3RmZjU0bmV1T3dHbTFKbVhGR3hFdUF2TGVpSG10NEpWMnFzRkY2ZEI3aVdINmtGc0tUY2xlUHlldVdXWjUzUVZOTWJ3ZVA5c0xySHJVeHlGVm9Fc0duR29FWjllcnpGek40bzRIRnVjNVFKVHFCdVYzUXdZWGJIYnBDNEdBT2hsRTI1QVFKdnQvbkw3RVAvY3FoajhibFRMaWV2YjR0TzluaUNmNVBHbDkyL1A4M3BITmJNbUNrNQ==&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)
Policy Lead: James.Reynolds@lawsociety.org.uk

The government has published a call for evidence on raising standards in the market for tax advice. HMRC is seeking evidence about providers of tax advice, current standards upheld by tax advisers, and the effectiveness of the government’s efforts to support those standards, in order to give taxpayers more assurance that the advice they are receiving is reliable.

**Consultation on Corporate Tax Rules that apply to Hybrid Mismatch Arrangements**- closing date 29 August 2020
[Link to consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dmhZN0FiRUFPc1pXRlh2eUszTzNSQ3dha0xrc2FrUTNDT0F0YnJXVHlURGZtUURWc1B0aCs0NnNqa3N6MCtqTFVPdE1YdDhhUm9mWURaQi9neVo0UGoyWEZXUUV3OU53NDd3dUplcFVWcldoeWcxUjNQSWNIZi9lU3NwWjRDQW9WckZyMm53bHFUZzZXMWkyTHlZak11VjEzVUtJMmJ2aElyRGVOczloa1JzR3dZWDlZQVY4L05mMFIvMnUrMzBoRE9CbENaQzlTemFlNTlzVFZBK3J4RjhEck9QVHBxVG96NU9oMVNaQW1lb1hZNUZaZkU0bXVnSG9ISWthS2haOEk1eUFzTzhEY0NyeFNsamZmQ2dtamk1T2lIenZIbHVCYmtBZ1ZRVlpQWU9XeUpJUVlHdXFxQT09&rh=ff006483816874a3b850ceed184ba8bb785a7886)
Policy Lead: James.Reynolds@lawsociety.org.uk

The government is consulting on arrangements that exploit the differences in tax treatments between the two jurisdictions. This consultation seeks to ensure that the hybrid mismatch rules work proportionately and as intended.

If you have any questions in relation to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us at London&SouthEastTeam@lawsociety.org.uk

Best wishes,

Bhavni, Beth and Stuart.