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.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) pages**

We know members will have questions about the implications of coronavirus (COVID-19) for their clients, their businesses, their professional obligations, their own wellbeing and that of their employees.

In response to questions from our members, our latest advice for firms is listed on our [designated Covid-19 page](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pZdzdpOFhFY2IzODU2ZGtaOW5Vb0doQkxnTGw5RmVrM09yeFJVZWM0WlR0bFJFWUJxQjBpZ1BtVk12ZVFkNm9IZ3E4NWI5amI1c2VyckR5SVgxTXl4NTJWa1Z0NCtUQ0hRdWJLeXVTZVdZcjdnZGxMZHlYZnQ0PQ==&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9).

This information will be updated regularly to reflect the most recent guidance.
As well as updates and advice, we're influencing government, regulators and other stakeholders on behalf of our members.

To stay up to date on the impact on the sector and our latest support, please keep checking our [website](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pZdzdpOFhFY2IzODU2ZGtaOW5Vb0doQkxnTGw5RmVrM09yeFJVZWM0WlR0bFJFWUJxQjBpZ1BtVk12ZVFkNm9IZ3E4NWI5amI1c2VyckR5SVgxTXl4NTJWa1Z0NCtUQ0hRdWJLeXVTZVdZcjdnZGxMZHlYZnQ0PQ==&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9), subscribe to our [Gazette Daily News Update](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pUQ0hCS2h0a0xRWnpGKzIvVU56OFE3djJtcFBuRjIrckE9PQ==&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9), check the latest [coronavirus news from the Gazette](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pUQ0hCS2h0a0xRWnpGKzIvVU56OFE3citHNGJIRzhnQzkxRmZyblN2OTJOblNmbFBzQmcrQms9&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9), follow us on [Twitter](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT3gwaU1sZWo1d212MkRhU0ZGQ2hJcTI0STNXaU42MVVkWXF6NkRCY05hNGc9PQ==&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9), subscribe to our weekly [Professional Update email newsletter](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pZdzdpOFhFY2IzODU2ZGtaOW5Vb0dnSUZuTzVxalVPY2RaZUFXNmtGeTI2Yy8wN2tDWTBlbVk9&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9).

Firms should also  [sign up to receive government email alerts](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2hjeDNXdlp4Z05GRmg4R3lOcVdhcGorWjZlclhoZnpSZUVsMTZpWGRsdUhYMFhoQkdBcTRVbm9tMjF2MkZRRG5sQlJKNzBPcmQ0NEJQREFPSlIrQnh5SThpaEYwdlZRVE15N2dZZU1oOTY2NCtmU3EzTGd2K2h5MG9OZW00R2orQzV1cWdkZUlBUUE9PQ==&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9" \t "_blank) to ensure they are acting on the latest information. Please also consider following [The Law Society](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pYYWZCeDNvZm8xQUgyQVBCQzRrWlFGNlFRdHdqbU1ZZ2xSS0NaOXNyZGVVdzlhUDdUOWtQcXIvS3E1aTdEeVJvMzU0d2pjWTlmcEhVemY1TDk5cENCST0=&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9) on LinkedIn, if you aren't already, as all updates are communicated via that account in real time.

HMCTS also offer a daily operational update- [Read more and sign up here](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2hjeDNXdlp4Z05MNkVNV3BuU1U0Mmhta1FXRnplUG9iaDFEV3hvNW44amxBc1VvSzh2VGxUZ2k1aHR2V25LUXQyM0JmWi85VHBXN2Y3dllWMHdIWnVYV1pCMWRNSDM1eGUwYVZHS3Noa2MwVmFSSGVIQmhQNzdNeVJuUStveEVlYlcvVHN5MXpqVXYzbnprRU8rZXRIaGxtWmRxMUtjV3c9&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9)

**Please get in touch to share any concerns you have relating to coronavirus and your business and the practice of law. Your feedback is essential in order for us to keep our guidance as up-to-date and relevant as possible**. Contact beth.quinn@lawsociety.org.uk

**Coronavirus and pro bono**

Pro bono services have been affected by the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in an unprecedented way. Charities have had to transition their staff to home working, as providing advice through face-to-face meetings is no longer possible.

Emergency appeals have been made to make sure the advice sector remains viable, and the scale of demand has been overwhelming for many.

Our dedicated pro bono page is for members who are thinking of providing pro bono assistance during the pandemic, and includes:

* The national response to pro bono
* Finding pro bono work as a law firm
* Finding pro bono work for your firm's trainee solicitors
* Virtual pro bono opportunities
* Furloughed staff volunteering
* Other ways to support access to justice

[Read more here](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pZdzdpOFhFY2IzODU2ZGtaOW5Vb0doQkxnTGw5RmVrM09yeFJVZWM0WlR0WkNLcThqckRkVVVkNDlYOHdFRDB3MWRJNHZBcXdUd0dUdXBZZnFiTzBHaXk0ZjZQZllHWWFnNXZiMTA5RVNheElpTm1nQ1pyVjdFPQ==&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9)

**Cybersecurity, fraud prevention and lawtech**

The current lockdown has changed the way legal services are delivered; these changes have presented an opportunity for cyber-criminals and fraudsters, and the Home Secretary has reported that cases of fraud and scams have increased significantly since lockdown.

We have created a [dedicated hub](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvTVlLbmFrWWRSTHRQUGpnZjJYeFhQVUpOaEFpRTF3Nll3ZWE4RzFGRzN1aDJWcEdsSmhpUjh5aFo5ZU1INFIxVzdKeS85STlKU2UvVkNLb3M4NHdBMkl4MFFPcmlOQnVzSVY4T0xjdmxpTEd3PT0=&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9) on our website with information on preventing fraud and scams, safely delivering legal services online and using lawtech to run your organisation effectively.

We have also produced an [article on video conferencing systems](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pZdzdpOFhFY2IzODU2ZGtaOW5Vb0doQkxnTGw5RmVrM09yeFJVZWM0WlR0bFJFWUJxQjBpZ1BtVk12ZVFkNm9IZ3E4NWI5amI1c2VIdG9pV08wMC9teDYrVEhJNGRUODdab1UrQUdqcVhxQ1RBK3NQanRHRzVDU3lCTTNEeTE1T2VzS3NTZGp2WURE&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9) and this week have released a podcast with our IT Director, Jane Deal, which explores the most common questions on delivering legal services online:

* [How safe are video conferencing systems such as Zoom, Teams and Webex?](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvTVlLbmFrWWRSTHRQUGpnZjJYeFhQVUpOaEFpRTF3Nll3czhWMnNXcXg4SjdYVitlYjBSZGxzZEY4UE15Q0Z3c1VkSCsyVzlGdEU3YkVDR3BPSzFzU3hycFZUUi85dlBFWT0=&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9)
* [What’s the difference between paid vs. free versions of videoconferencing systems or data transfer tools?](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvTVlLbmFrWWRSTHRQUGpnZjJYeFhQVUpOaEFpRTF3Nll3UTBGTFc2TVcxVDZacmVVMWs3eVNFcGlwYnFiMmlSK3FWek1ROGRnSEhLRWw2OForODNqdGNTK0xTYzFmZUQ3Yz0=&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9)
* [How to keep your firm safe when there’s multiple broadband users in one household?](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvTVlLbmFrWWRSTHRQUGpnZjJYeFhQVUpOaEFpRTF3Nll3T0RTUit6UWNCSGgvd2pCbm5Va3NiTlVuZDhlTTViWWNKNk0vU29ONzhXa3l4M0lQd1NnQ0RXM002K2I5VGdKbz0=&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9)

**Client confidentiality when working remotely**

We have published guidance on [cybersecurity when working from home](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvTVlLbmFrWWRSTHRQUGpnZjJYeFhQVUpOaEFpRTF3Nll6MlpmOXkzaDJBYkw0Mi9EOTdKdlRGL3BwTVBPalp6QWJ2enVDQjh3MTExTEZTT20zdmNYOXlvNVlLK05qL21JazFjZnFVaGhaQWJ6SVBzYm5WNHZJRA==&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9) and would also refer you to [the SRA’s information on compliance queries](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvTVlLbmFrWWRSTHRQUGpnZjJYeFhQVUpOaEFpRTF3Nll5MzRobEs4eEhqMVNJbW82SWo0NUlHTDBWeWd1OHFPVjdCQ2prWGNHNjBNZXhPYVRoZzRtUWJIdHBVZkphd2c2VT0=&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9) they have also published [cybersecurity Q&As](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvTVlLbmFrWWRSTHRQUGpnZjJYeFhQVUpOaEFpRTF3Nll3RHU1Um5pdEVjOGZ1eHNPdmdQMXNMNE1zY3Ntb1VyRG1oQThVUGs5OEpSdkoyYmxVRFRXRXM1aFJrejEydmg1Yz0=&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9).

**Open consultations**

**Police Powers: Pre-charge bail**- closing date for responses 29th April 2020- [Link to consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2hjeDNXdlp4Z05Ic0poVnB1ZzhONlpIbWZML09rUWtJaFJCakF4cWJBUGRKYTBiOWRFaWp0RHJZN00yWnpLRlMzQ3I2MW55N2JzVk1zbFZtNkF2c0pKQ0FDTWpLc1p4Yz0=&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9)

The government is consulting on changes to the pre-charge bail system, implemented in 2017, following considerable criticism of the way the police adapted to limits on pre-charge bail.

**The Transparency Review: The President of the Family Division’s Call for Evidence**- closing date for responses 30th April 2020- [Link to call for evidence](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvTTVyWUNZZGNEb3VwU2dIQVJONGtjMUZJd0toM0RTakpNYmZLWHlXT2FmR0xtSjhINnZmZVIxOUQ4ZE1FS2t6Y3ZkRVRBR2VaQ0N6U2JlTldxcXMxNFBqTzdVZ3hwZUs2dng4SnVQQW1ON1Q2YjZ5Zml6TnVUR1dFTFZOaDJKNFFac3k0M2Q1dmEyQlQ5cjJEclB4WXF4YTlDNkxlSUF1cUU9&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9)

The President of the Family Division is undertaking a review of the current arrangements which regulate access by journalists and the public to, and the reporting of, information concerning proceedings in the Family Court (‘the Transparency Review’).  This call for evidence invites any person or agency who wishes to submit evidence, advice or other material for consideration within the Transparency Review.

**Ongoing Competence**- closing date for responses 15th May 2020- [Link to call for evidence](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=U1RBMnRZdzFidmFhSFRLcGhYWmZnR1hyckNyZ3g3bFZUNTZmTVBadEtvT2cvTkIyUmEvN2pSaUxhMm5lQ3p0YWQvM3NYNkU3MDdWVmFIUS9rcnE0dFNqNk9NVHQzZWFEalBoanNCTkZxaHNUOVQ4dTFDbTVLOTFzdXRmNFM3Zk9jN09LMnlIZlFveGoxTnJyZjFkNW53Y2R6Z2xNY3dlMWN3NFVkd0x2RkZ5MEtnSVBHallEYWtDRFNYMkcwV2RY&rh=ff005fb9afeebe8b72662dda7144a865846663b9)
Policy Advisor Chenab.Mangat@lawsociety.org.uk

The LSB has launched a call for evidence, as a first stage before any consultation on this issue:
They have requested information on the following 4 key areas, identified by their earlier work in this area:

* Defining competence and competence assurance
* Consumer expectations of competence
* Competence assurance in the legal services sector
* Competence assurance in other sectors

 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,

Beth, Bhavni and Stuart.