

## LAWTECHUK PANEL MINUTES

Date: **11.08.2022**

Time: 16:00-17:00

Location: Video conference

### **Attendees:**

Christina Blacklaws (CB) – Chair

Chris Grant (CG), Lawtech and Legal Operations Consultant

Brian Liu (BL), CEO of BizCounsel, Inc.

Phoebe Clapham (PC), Head of Legal Services and Innovation, MoJ

Rachel Tocknell (RT), Head of Legal Services Innovation, MoJ

Daniel Simpson (DS), Senior Policy Advisor, MoJ

Rebecca Fitzgibbon (RF), Policy Advisor, MoJ

### **Apologies:**

Lord Bellamy QC, Justice Minister

Katie Atkinson, Dean of the School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science, University of Liverpool

Professor Sarah Green, Law Commissioner for Commercial and Common law

Rosemary Martin, General Counsel, Vodafone

John Heavens, Deputy Director, Legal Services Policy, MoJ

### **Recused:**

Professor Richard Susskind, Technology Advisor to the Lord Chief Justice

Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls

Alex Lennox, Director of LawtechUK, Tech Nation

### **Meeting minutes:**

#### ***Welcome***

- CB opened the meeting with introductions, noting that some members of the Panel had recused themselves due to potential conflicts of interest around the upcoming competition process, before introducing the MoJ update.

#### ***MoJ update***

- RT gave the Panel an update on the MoJ's announcement via press release on 1 August of a further £4m of funding to continue the LawtechUK programme. Of this funding, £706,000 has been awarded to Tech Nation to continue running the programme until the end of 2022, with the remaining £3.294 million to be awarded via a competitive process to find a provider to cover the period from January 2023 to March 2025.
- RT thanked the Panel for their valuable input in shaping the purpose and objectives for the new grant.

- RT noted that the MoJ were keen to get the Panel's input to help market the grant competition effectively. The meeting turned to discussion of the questions raised in advance by MoJ.

What are we looking for from a delivery provider?

- The Panel queried what types of services the provider would need to deliver. DS outlined that the scope and objectives have been revised as part of phase II, but that any successful bidder would likely undertake similar activities to those currently carried out by Tech Nation. This includes the provision of relevant expertise but also the ability to coordinate that to build the delivery plans. The provider should also be good at identifying projects to capture future opportunities.
- The Panel felt that a consortium approach could work well and that not-for-profit organisations would be most suitable.
- RT said that it was important that the provider could access industry networks and the Panel noted that they are well-placed to provide expertise and support in this area.
- The Panel asked if the current LawtechUK team would transfer to a new provider. RT clarified that this was not the MoJ's baseline expectation as the provider may have their own staff.
- Geographical location was discussed, and DS confirmed that the competition would be only open to UK-based organisations.
- The Panel felt that the delivery provider should be able to approach a PR challenge, run campaigns effectively and efficiently and have the correct infrastructure and support to do this.
- The Panel asked MoJ to set out how the delivery provider will fit in and the reporting structure with roles and responsibilities.
- The Panel felt that the provider should be able to hit the ground running straight away and suggested that the tendering questions should ask about transition plans.
- The Panel noted that the MoJ needs to set out clear essential criteria for the provider to meet.

Who do you suggest reaching out to ahead of the formal pre-competition engagement as potential bidders – including individuals, organisations or sectors?

- The Panel suggested a number of organisations that could be potential bidders and asked MoJ to pull together a list for further input by Panel members.

What is the best way of doing this – including where can panel members help? Can you help us amplify our messaging about the competition once we are ready to launch?

- The Panel agreed to help amplify any messaging but noted that anyone involved in the decision-making process should be sequestered from directly contacting potential bidders. CB confirmed she would be content with MoJ's proposal that she sit on the bid evaluation panel, so this would apply to her.
- The Panel asked MoJ to share appropriate elements of the competition prospectus with them for their input.
- The Panel noted that the Legal Geek conference and the British Legal Technology Forum in September could be a good opportunity to amplify the launch of the competition.

**AOB**

- CB thanked attendees for their input and, there being no further business, closed the meeting.