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Date: 10.6.2021

Time: 3pm - 5pm BST

Location: Video conference

Attendees:

Christina Blacklaws (CB) – Chair

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Vos (SGV), Master of the Rolls

Professor Richard Susskind (RS), President, Society for Computers and Law

Dr Anna Donovan (AD), Lecturer, Faculty of Laws, University College London

Chris Grant (CG)

Sarah Green (SG), Law Commissioner for Commercial and Common Law at the Law Commission

Katie Atkinson (KG), Dean of Electrical Engineering, Electronics, and Computer Science, University of Liverpool

Rosemary Martin (RM), General Counsel, Vodafone Group Plc

Brian Liu (BL), CEO, LegalZoom

Lord David Wolfson of Tredegar QC (LDW), Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice

Isla Scott (IS), Deputy Director of Legal Services Policy, Ministry of Justice

Charlotte Middleton (CM), Deputy Director (Job Share), Ministry of Justice

Jon Heavens (JH), Head of Legal Services and Innovation, Ministry of Justice

Lydia Morris (LM), Head of Legal Services Innovation, Ministry of Justice

Daniel Simpson (DS), Policy Advisor, UK Legal Services, Ministry of Justice

Samuel Allan (SA), Private Secretary, Judicial Office

Jenifer Swallow (JS), Director of LawtechUK, Tech Nation

Alexandra Lennox (AL), Head of LawtechUK, Tech Nation

Jack Cane (JC), LawtechUK Executive, Tech Nation

Emma Dearnaley (ED), LawtechUK Secondee, Tech Nation

Matthew Kimber (MK), Lawyer, Law Commission

Apologies:

Julia Salasky (JSI), CEO, Legl

Meeting Minutes:

Welcome

- CB opened the meeting and welcomed all.

MOJ Session - the Future of Innovation and Lawtech

- LDW reiterated his own and the MoJ's support for the work of LawtechUK and the year 2 plan, and congratulated the LawtechUK team on the launch of the LawtechUK Hub.
- LM presented on the desk research barriers for development of lawtech.

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- The Panel agreed on the criticality of digital transformation of legal services and dispute resolution over the next five years, and that there is an important role for LawtechUK and government to play in addressing the systemic impediments and opportunities. The Panel confirmed their commitment to addressing access to justice (A2J), something currently outside the scope of LawtechUK's remit, and the significant potential in directing the strategic and delivery impact of LawtechUK demonstrated over the last year, to the A2J arena.
- IS facilitated a discussion on the 5-10 year vision for the role of lawtech and innovation in meeting legal needs and supporting access to justice, by way of input into MoJ thinking. The discussion acknowledged the importance of strategic direction and ambition, with practical examples of necessary activity across legal and court services, building on emerging best practice, and focusing in particular on unmet legal needs.

Lawtech UK Report update

- JS led a discussion on the LawtechUK report and its strategic positioning for the future of legal and court services and the work of LawtechUK. She thanked all who had been involved in its drafting to date, including on testing ideas and providing case studies, acknowledging the wide range of cross-sector engagement and valuable input.
- The Panel discussed the leadership of the UK in lawtech, acknowledging that the public sector must not be left behind private sector development. The Panel reaffirmed the position that they have an ongoing part to play in ensuring that the legal sector participates in future development.
- JS observed the importance of data about the economic and societal impact of the law, legal and court services and lawtech. SGV confirmed LegalUK is evaluating this for the commercial end of the market, but noted this needs to go beyond business to focus on helping real people maximise their legal rights.

The Law Commission and the future

- SG provided an update on the Law Commission's work, noting the Law Commission as a facilitator of change and the importance of jurisdiction level change and strategy. The discussion explored the complementary strengths and activity of the Law Commission and LawtechUK, and the Law Commission's current and potential future priorities and projects.
- The Panel discussed the potential for boundaries within which innovators can develop solutions with confidence. The Panel discussed the greater focus on community engagement in the LawtechUK work programme now initial project development is established, including working closely with the Law Commission including on the global opportunity for digital trade and digital documents, noting the role of LawtechUK as convener and connector to accelerate industry progress.

AOB and Close