

## **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Date: 30.09.2021

Time: 4pm – 5.45 pm

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

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

Chris Grant (CG), LawTech Director, Barclays Ventures

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

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

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

Brian Liu (BL), CEO, LegalZoom

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

Lydia Morris (LM), Head of Legal Services Innovation

Daniel Simpson (DS), Policy Advisor, UK Legal Services

Samuel Allan (SA), Private Secretary

Jenifer Swallow (JS), Director of LawtechUK

Alexandra Lennox (AL), Head of LawtechUK

Jack Cane (JC), LawtechUK Executive

Emma Dearnaley (ED), LawtechUK Seconded

Felix Brown (FB), LawtechUK Manager

Chris Leaman (CL), Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Lead

### **Apologies:**

Julia Salasky (JSa), CEO, Legl

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

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### ***Welcome***

- CB opened the meeting and noted apologies.

#### ***Minister's remarks***

- LDW congratulated JS and the team for the successful launch and next stage of the Lawtech Sandbox, especially the range of the eight lawtechs selected for support.
- LDW stressed the need for a practical focus on how lawtech can have the most impact in the future and on ensuring the programme can be sustainable over time.

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### ***Programme update***

- JS presented on programme delivery, the purpose of LawtechUK, how it is meeting its objectives, and the delivery plan and workstreams, noting key sector barriers to growth and performance of the Hub. She thanked the individual members of the Panel for their support and involvement.
- RS suggested that a point for discussion was how English law can move from being a metaphorical platform to being a properly monetised technical platform providing legal services online and this along with the leadership of the UK jurisdiction was discussed. He commented that the work done by LawtechUK is fundamental and the commitment of those on the Panel is crucial to defining the future of the UK legal sector and the English legal system. The Panel discussed the work of Legal UK and areas of potential overlap and need for coordination.

### ***MoJ update***

- JH provided updates on funding, with spending review ongoing; the longer term; and cross-government coordination, confirming the support for - raised by KA - increasing awareness and engagement on lawtech across the National AI strategy, Office for AI and work of the Turing Institute.
- GV observed the importance across government of acknowledging the law feeds every sector of the economy and thus investment in this area is critical to the economic agenda and ambition is therefore critical on the current timeline. RM emphasised the importance of law as underpinning business.

### ***Preparing for March 2022 and beyond***

- JS provided updates on strategy, growth, sector collaboration, and progress towards goals, noting the statistics show 101% growth in lawtech over the last three years, faster than other tech sectors, demonstrating not only the UK economic contribution and growth, but the leadership position and further opportunity for the UK as a global hub for lawtech. The Panel discussed these topics and the structure and funding of LawtechUK as an organisation going forward.
- The meeting discussed the global dynamics of lawtech, highlighting the position in other jurisdictions.
- CG commented that LawtechUK is well positioned to provide a structured approach and guide people and suggested that it must think about how it can be leveraged and supported to enable all that is going on in industry to come together and how to work with others to maximise resources.
- The Panel discussed the possibility of extending the scope of LawtechUK to include access to justice.

### ***Next steps***

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- JS confirmed that the longer term strategy would be written up with RS and RM for further discussion.

### ***AOB and Close***

- RM thanked the LawtechUK team for the phenomenal amount they have achieved with such a small team.
- CB suggested the next meeting may be held in person, subject to government restrictions.