



HM Courts &
Tribunals Service

HMCTS Working Group on Legacy Notification Service – Meeting Summary

Ministry of Justice

Tuesday 5th March 2019

Attendees

Institute for Legacy Management

Matthew Lagden, CEO of Institute for Legacy Management (ILM)

Maria King, Chair of ILM and Head of Legacy Professional Partnerships at Cancer Research UK

Institute of Fundraising/Remember A Charity

Rob Cope, Director of Development and Remember A Charity

Alex McDowell, Head of Public Fundraising, RNIB

ACEVO

Chris Sherwood, CEO of the RSPCA

NCVO

Douglas Dowell, Senior Policy Adviser, NCVO

HMCTS

John Michalski, Commercial Director

Karen Kempton, Head of Commercial

Damian McLeave, Senior Head of Contracted Services

Greg Moffat, Change Directorate

Ed Owen, Communications Director

1	<p>Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendees were welcomed to the meeting followed by a round of introductions
2	<p>Working group arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that a Terms of Reference for the working group (WG) will be drafted by HMCTS and circulated to the group. ▪ It was agreed that the group should include a representative of smaller charities. ▪ It was agreed that the discussions between HMCTS and the sector should be as open and transparent as possible, and that summaries of these meetings should be made available publicly.
3	<p>Overview and update from HMCTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HMCTS is exploring options regarding the future arrangement for the legacy notification service. HMCTS is looking to establish interim arrangements to ensure that charities continue to receive a notification service beyond July 2019 while options for the longer term are considered. ▪ Current working assumption was that there was a need for an interim solution to be in place beyond July to ensure continuity of service to the sector. ▪ Engagement is on-going with Smee & Ford and HMCTS is working with them to ensure disruption to charities is minimised and to better understand current business processes. ▪ HMCTS reflected the legal position relating to the current arrangements.
4	<p>Feedback from sector representatives):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current notification service works well for many charities and was particularly important for those charities that received large amounts via legacies with respect to business planning and forecasting. ▪ Experience of the notification service is typically associated with a low level of errors and was an important fraud prevention mechanism.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not all charities subscribe to the notification service and some, for example churches and smaller charities, were not covered. ▪ Continuity of the service was essential to avoid negative impact on income forecasting and financial profiles, fraud prevention and relationships with executors. ▪ The market is changing with increasing diversity of organisations in receipt of legacies (arts and culture sectors are becoming beneficiaries for the first time). ▪ The sector would benefit from richer sources of data to understand these changes and formulate a broader consumer analysis. ▪ In terms of future development, access to charity bequests via a public database would be valuable and increasing public information and awareness of the service would assist fraud prevention and relationship-building with lay executors. ▪ Impact of the Law Commission’s reform of the law of wills should be taken into account for any future service changes (including online wills).
5	<p>Next steps</p> <p>The next meeting of the WG would be arranged once HMCTS had developed options for discussion.</p>