

**James Watson – Weber Shandwick**

**Q1 What are the advantages and/or disadvantages to businesses and/or individuals in the UK of EU civil judicial cooperation? You may wish to focus on a particular instrument.**

It makes divorce across jurisdictions easier. It also supports families who are split across boundaries.

**Q2 What is the impact of EU civil judicial cooperation on UK civil and family law?**

Positive, harmonisation of rules which makes things easier for us all.

**Q3 How is civil judicial cooperation necessary for the functioning of the internal market? Which aspects support and/or hinder it?**

Cross border small claims for consumers can benefit from judicial cooperation. It can support cross-border trade in online goods a growing economic area.

**Q4 Are there any areas where EU competence in this area has led to unintended and/or undesired consequences for individuals and companies in the UK? Please give examples.**

Not that I can think of.

**Q5 What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of the opt-in for the UK?**

No response.

**Q6 What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of the cross-border requirement for the UK's national interests?**

It helps UK business grow across borders. Provides more certainty on the laws that apply – rather than having 28 different ones to comply with.

**Q7 What impact might any future enlargement of the EU have on civil judicial cooperation?**

Improved rule setting for more markets.

**Q8 What future challenges and opportunities are there in the area of EU civil judicial cooperation?**

Challenges: recognition of our way of using precedent. Opportunities: improved judicial cooperation for cross-border consumer and business interactions.

**Q9 What are the advantages and/or disadvantages to the UK of the EU's powers to act internationally in this area?**

Advantages: safety in numbers, larger voice on an international scale.  
Disadvantages: loss of some specifications that are peculiar to the UK.

**Q10 What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages to the UK of action being taken at an international rather than EU level?**

International harmonisation is preferential – however there is always a greater danger to national particularities.