

REMEDIES PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (RPIG)

**Minutes of the first meeting of the RPIG
held on Thursday 19 January 2017**

<i>Attendees</i>	
Ann Wright – IPReg, CEO	Rachel Merelie – CMA, Acting Executive Director (Chair)
Lynn Plumbley – CLSB, CEO	Sharon Horwitz – CMA, Director
Helen Whiteman – CILEX Regulation, CEO	Paul Kellaway – CMA, Assistant Director
Sue Chandler – CILEX Regulation, Consumer Engagement and Policy Officer	Matteo Bassi – CMA, Manager
Dr Vanessa Davies – BSB, Director General	Ben Nuñez – CMA, Manager
Ewen Macleod – BSB, Director of Strategy and Policy	
Sheila Kumar – CLC, CEO	
Peter James – ICAEW, Head of Regulatory Policy	
Howard Dellar – Faculty Office, Registrar	
Neil Turpin – Faculty Office, Clerk	
Crispin Passmore – SRA, Executive Director for Policy	
Steve Brooker – LSB, Head of Research and Development	
Caroline Wallace – LSB, Strategy Director	

Introduction

1. The Chairman welcomed Members to the first meeting of the RPIG.

RPIG – terms of reference

2. The Members stated their broad support for the RPIG and its role as set out in the draft terms of reference.

3. The Members agreed that the CLC would Chair future meetings of the RPIG.
4. The CMA stated that it would be responsible for taking and publishing minutes of the first meeting of the RPIG. It was open to handing responsibility for this task to one of the other Members in relation to future meetings. It was also agreed that minutes would be agreed by correspondence and published as soon as possible after each meeting.
5. It was agreed that the RPIG would meet at least quarterly, with the scope to arrange further meetings to the extent necessary. The Members committed to review at the end of 12 months whether there was a need for further meetings of the RPIG.
6. There was support for attendance by the CEOs of the regulators at meetings of the RPIG. There was also support for involving consumer groups such as the LSCP, Citizens Advice and Which? in relevant workstreams, but it was agreed that they would not become standing Members of the RPIG.
7. Some additional minor drafting changes were suggested.

Action: the CMA agreed to make the changes set out above and to circulate a revised draft of the terms of reference to Members.

Transparency recommendations

Minimum disclosure requirements

8. The Members discussed their initial thinking around how to implement the CMA's recommendations on minimum disclosure requirements and agreed that it was feasible to work towards publication of action plans by the June 30 deadline stated in the CMA's market study report.
9. It was agreed that each regulator's approach to implementing the minimum disclosure requirements in terms of how much to include in rule books and how much in practice notes might vary.
10. However, the Members recognised the need for a degree of consistency in setting minimum disclosure requirements, particularly for services the providers of which could be regulated by different regulators.
11. It was noted as a possibility that the piloting of transparency requirements across a number of high volume service lines (the providers of which could be regulated by different regulators) could be used to facilitate implementation of the CMA's recommendations in other service areas.

12. The Members also agreed to engage their respective representative bodies, where relevant, to discuss how they could support the process of implementing the CMA's recommendations.

Action: the Regulators to start the development of action plans to implement the CMA's minimum disclosure requirements.

Legal Choices

13. The SRA said that as it currently hosts the Legal Choices platform it would be happy to coordinate the process of making the changes to that platform as recommended by the CMA. The Members agreed that it was sensible for the SRA to coordinate this workstream.
14. The Members agreed that it should be straightforward to make the links to the Legal Choices platform on their own respective websites more prominent.
15. The Members agreed that as part of this workstream there was a need for content on GOV.UK and other government websites to be updated to reflect the revised contents of the Legal Choices platform. The BSB stated that it would be happy to take a lead in liaising with GOV.UK for the appropriate changes.
16. The Members agreed that input from consumer organisations would be essential for the development of the content of the Legal Choices platform.

Action: the Regulators to take rapid action to amend their websites to ensure that there is a clear and prominent reference to the Legal Choices platform.

Action: the CMA to contact the Government Digital Service to identify the owners of content on GOV.UK which needs amending.

Action: the BSB to lead in securing the necessary changes to GOV.UK.

Action: The CMA to approach consumer organisations, including Citizens Advice and Which?, to involve them in the Legal Choices workstream.

Regulatory data

17. The SRA said that it is already undertaking a project to develop an online register of regulatory data. This register could serve as a common platform available for use by the other regulators for the purpose of implementing the CMA recommendation. The SRA noted however that delivery of the register could take around two years. It agreed to present further details about the expected timeframes for delivery of the register at the next RPIG meeting.

18. The SRA indicated that it would be willing to lead the workstream to deliver the online register of regulatory data. However, no decision was taken since the Members need first to seek approval from their boards to engage in the development of a common online register for regulatory data and to engage their Chief Information Officers on the practicalities of delivering this project.

Action: the SRA to update the Members on expected timeframes for the delivery of the register at the next RPIG meeting.

Action: the Regulators to seek approval from their respective boards to engage in the development of a common online register for regulatory data and to engage their Chief Information Officers on the practicalities of delivering this project.

Any other business

19. The CMA provided the Members with an overview of its recommendations to government on consumer protection and regulation.

Action: the CMA to monitor progress of the implementation of its recommendations to government on consumer protection and regulation and update the Members at the next RPIG meeting.