

**Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting**  
**held on 26<sup>th</sup> August**  
 Online, via Teams  
 2pm



Council members present: David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Kris Kilsby (KK), Amy Dunkley (AD), Nathan Cameron (NC) Jane Risley (JR), Sharn Khaira (SK) & Nicholas Lee (NL)

Also present: Carol Calver (CC) Head of Operations

The meeting started at 14:00

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	DBV welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Julian Caddick and Victoria Morrison-Hughes.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 16 <sup>th</sup> July meeting were an accurate reflection. Redacted items were approved.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	DBV updated Council that the Business Plan had been issued to members and featured within an article in Solicitors Journal. As yet no member feedback or comments.
4.2	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i> Council discussed ACL collaboration with WiC and the planned ACL Mentoring scheme. Council are keen to maintain an independent scheme focusing on newly qualified costs lawyers rather than all costs professionals. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i> Council suggested the scheme should include more than technical, day-to-day support that members are already likely receiving from Supervisors and should include mentorship in career progression. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	PR-AM updated Council on plans for the London Conference – speaker suggestions and invites. Sponsorship packages have been offered and Keynote invited.
5.2	Confirmation of the ACL sponsorship of the Costs Lawyer of the year Award at the 2026 Modern Law Awards. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality</i> DBV to be part of judging panel and present award.
5.3	CC provided an update on the survey of SiG members and numbers of interest for the new Special Interest Groups of Group Litigation and Mediation. Council decided that Mediation did

	not necessarily need a permanent, separate group and interest could be covered off by stand-alone sessions. An initial session will be provided and used to decide the approach for the future.
<b>6</b>	<b>Policy Committee Report</b>
6.1	KK updated Council on the working party revival for Prec G/S in September. Plan to present results at London Conference, possibly in collaboration with SCCO.
6.2	Survey for response to CPRC consultation on Part 6 achieving good response from members. Provisional response to be drafted and submitted by September deadline.
6.3	Policy have discussed with the CLSB the official process necessary to change the name of the ACL, the need for a formal discussion with the LSB and how we can better work with other members of legal profession who also do not have protected titles in order for the ACL to achieve protected title / chartered status. The CLSB are collating consumer complaints against unregulated costs professionals which can be used as evidence for protected title.
<b>7</b>	<b>Education Committee Report</b>
7.1	SK summarised an IT issue with the delivery of two CLPQ exams where connection via the TestReach system was interrupted or lost completely. ACLT had received complaints from students following the exam and had held a special CLSB / Academic Board meeting to consider the results of students adversely impacted by the technology issues. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i> The Academic Board concluded that ‘there was no overall impact on exam results that would justify an overall uplift in marks. Exam pass rates are consistent with previous sittings and top and bottom marks were not adversely impacted’ . <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
7.2	<i>Items 7.2 &amp; 7.3 are redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
7.3	
<b>8</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Internal Policy Committee Report</b>
8.1	CC informed Council the EoY accounts for 2024 had been submitted to Companies House and that investment value had recovered <i>redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>Operations Report</b>
9.1	CC updated Council on upcoming changes at Companies House and that all Directors will need to verify their identity and that personal ID such as passport or driving license will be required.
9.2	CC detailed the ongoing support provided by Operations and the LAG committee to the Legal Aid Group in light of the CCMS data breach. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
10.1	n/a
<b>11</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
11.1	The next meeting is Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September – 10am to 12pm, via Teams