



Association
of Costs
Lawyers



PR update report

Monthly report: January 2026

Three pages

Summary:

2026 has got off to a busy start with two press releases and two comments drafted and distributed, alongside the launch of the second In Conversation members' event having secured the deputy head of civil justice as our guest.

Elsewhere, BLC attended two meetings to help shape and inform the *Why Be?* campaign and finalised and circulated the article schedule for Council's regular legal press slots. The first article of the year was also published at the end of the month, with VMH's piece on the Solicitors Act appearing in *New Law Journal*.

Releases/comments:

Fixed costs extension has led to more damages deductions and unsustainable determination process, warns ACL, release drafted and distributed on 7/1.

Comment drafted and distributed from VMH in response to MoJ consultation on Interest on Lawyers' Client Accounts scheme, 7/1.

Fixed costs pressure and greater scrutiny on group actions – ACL anticipates a year of focus on costs, release drafted and distributed on 15/1.

Comment drafted and distributed from DVB in response to the CoA concerns re: detailed assessment in *Nigeria v P&ID* on 23/1.

Coverage:

[Legal Futures](#) (8/1) – client interest accounts

[The Legal Diary](#) (9/1) - client interest accounts

[Legal Futures](#) (12/1) – fixed costs extension release

[New Law Journal](#) (12/1) - client interest accounts

[Law Society Gazette](#) (16/1) – fixed costs extension release, page 16 magazine

[Law Society Gazette](#) (19/1) – above online

[Legal Futures](#) (26/1) – CoA concerns over detailed assessment

[New Law Journal](#) (29/1) – news story trailing VMH's article on Solicitors Act

[New Law Journal](#) (29/1) – VMH's article on Solicitors Act



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New Law Journal (29/1) – PDF of above

Additional activity:

5/1: Chased venue for In Conversation event on 17/2.

7/1: Contacted the following publications for article deadlines for 2026:

- *Thomson Reuters Dispute Resolution Blog*
- *Litigation Funding*
- *New Law Journal*.

Negotiated an increase in articles from two to four with *Thomson Reuters*. Schedules to be devised by *Litigation Funding* and *New Law Journal* and sent to BLC. KJ to keep tabs.

7/1: Chased NC on latest with Law Society DR hub; awaiting response.

12/1: Sent request to Council re: deadline for January *Litigation Funding* article; awaiting response.

12/1: Distributed deadlines and authors for *Thomson Reuters* article commitments.

12/1: Request from *Litigation Funding* editor for full consultation response submitted to CPRC consultation. Checked with KK and sent.

19/1: Press call from *The Daily Telegraph* re: interest on client accounts. VMH agreed to speak to journalists and sent contact details. Journalist did not call.

20/1: Followed-up with Clare Parnell, Synergy Costs re: case study. Sent dates for interview. Interview confirmed for 26/1.

20/1: Sent KK's previous article on Mazur to the *Association of District Judges Newsletter*. Await publication in Feb.

21/1: Liaised with the *Association of District Judges Newsletter* and agreed to write a short news story offering DJ's free access to the *Costs Lawyer* eBulletin. Copy drafted and sent, will appear in February issue.

21/1: Liaised with *Thomson Reuters Dispute Resolution Blog* to agree topic for next article. Details sent to NC.

21/1: Confirmed date for In Conversation as 25 March.

22/1: Call with CC and Sam Borrett to discuss 'Why be?', digital marketing campaign.

23/1: Light editing of KK's article for *Litigation Funding* and sent to publication.

26/1: Print proof of VMH's *New Law Journal* sent to publication. Will appear on 30/1. See above.

27/1: Article schedule for the 2026 confirmed and distributed to Council.



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27/1: Sent suggested ideas on behalf of DVB for next *New Law Journal* article due in February. Topic selected and sent to DVB.

27/1: Press invites for In Conversation sent to the following:

- John Hyde, Law Society Gazette
- Rachel Rothwell, Litigation Funding
- Jonathan Ames, The Times. Declined but suggested colleague Catherine should be invited.
- Catherine Baksi, The Times
- Maria Ward-Brennan, City AM
- Suzi Ring, The FT: Declined.
- Haroon Siddique, The Guardian

28/1: Attended meeting re: briefing for 'Why be?' campaign.

Planned activity for February:

- Chase attendees for In Conversation event.
- Follow-up consumer case study with *The Daily Telegraph*.
- Call with Synergy Costs to draft case study.
- Deliver articles for *Thomson Reuters* and *New Law Journal*.

ENDS