



The Costs Lawyer Standards Board, setting and maintaining standards in the profession

Costs Lawyer Newsletter 25

17 April 2020

Coronavirus support

We hope you are keeping safe and well in these challenging times. As the impact of coronavirus deepens in the UK, we are here to help you navigate the changing legal landscape. We have a [dedicated advice page](#) on our website, which we are updating regularly with new information.

If you have specific questions about your professional obligations, or need guidance on an ethical issue, please [contact us](#) and we will try to help. We want to support you in maintaining a high standard of service wherever possible.

New Disciplinary Rules and Procedures

Our new Disciplinary Rules and Procedures will come into force on 1 May 2020. The new rules will modernise and streamline our disciplinary processes, making them fairer for practitioners and complainants.

While the changes won't affect the way you work day-to-day, the new rules could be relevant to you in the context of a complaint. We will email you again with full information about the new regime when it is implemented.

Guidance updates

We recently made some targeted changes to the guidance in the Costs Lawyer Handbook.

[Guidance Note on Complaints Procedures](#)

- We have enhanced this guidance to make it clearer and more practical.
- It also contains new information about informing clients of their options for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). In light of this, we have revoked our separate guidance on ADR.

[Guidance Note on Reserved Legal Activity Rights](#)

- We have updated this guidance to make it more relevant and easier to follow.
- It contains new guidance on delegating work to colleagues who are not regulated practitioners (see "Can a Costs Lawyer delegate their right of audience?" on page 5). Please remember that, if someone attends court under your supervision, you remain responsible for all aspects of regulatory compliance and client outcomes. This includes having appropriate insurance in place.

All our Guidance Notes can be found in the [Costs Lawyer Handbook](#) on our website.

The business case for diversity

Our website now includes a page dedicated to [Equality and Diversity](#). We will update this page over time with advice and resources for the Costs Lawyer community.

To begin this process, we recently collaborated with the Solicitors Regulation Authority to publish a [Guide for Costs Lawyers on the Business Case for Diversity](#). The guide aims to assist you in thinking about the benefits of diversity in a professional setting and contains resources that Costs Lawyers can use to promote diversity within their own practice and the wider profession. We would encourage you to take a look.

Outcome of recent consultations

We have now [published the outcome of our recent consultations](#) on the Practising Rules and our approach to CPD. Many thanks to those who provided feedback – we have taken all comments on board in refining our proposals. We will now be seeking approval from the Legal Services Board to proceed with the reforms during 2020.

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