

Report on 5th Annual Conference of the Partnership, LLP and LLC Law Forum

The conference attracted 35 registered delegates, including academics, solicitors, barristers, and tax advisors. Speakers included representatives of BEIS and HMRC, partners from leading City and other firms, academics from other institutions and, in what is becoming a tradition for the conference, an investigative journalist. The diversity of speakers was explicitly praised in the post-Conference feedback and reflects an integral part of the Forum's mission, which is to promote debate on partnership law and the law relating to other business vehicles which provide alternatives to the limited company, and to develop collaboration between academics and practitioners researching and teaching in these areas of law and connected areas. It was also pleasing that two PhD students attended (and a third registered but did not attend).

The round table discussion which concluded the event considered that early/mid September continued to be the best time for the Conference to be held in the future – which may give rise to continuing problems with the venue. This year the only available room was in Dryden – which is a difficult location for external visitors to find, especially under the time constraints of travelling up for the day from a distant location, and where the rooms are not of a suitable layout or standard for an external conference venue (I went and looked at all those I was offered).

As usual the informal feedback was positive, although relatively few delegates completed the feedback forms. Comments included:

'An excellent selection of topics and speakers'

'Really fascinating – multidisciplinary – great event'

Administration (me and Ryan) described as 'perfect'

'Well done Elspeth'

I should like to record my thanks to Professor Jonathan Doak and NLS management for supporting this event, in particular speaker expenses and the attendance of NLS staff and students, but also a small subsidy for other delegates because the Crowne Plaza charged significantly more than our usual NTU venue (and we couldn't use NTU because of a block booking for almost the whole university; and had to use the CP in order to utilise spending which NLS had already incurred on an event there which had to be cancelled). There will be some offsetting from the fees received from delegates (approximately £810 paid in to the online store). I should also note that there was working being done to adjacent conference rooms which caused some noise disturbance, which was distracting and several delegates complained about this in the feedback (possibly especially a problem as there were no microphone facilities in the room) – I wonder if we can report this to CP and obtain a reduction in the fee?

I'd like to record also the contributions of NLS colleagues who provided extensive practical support on the day (in particular Ryan Cushley-Spendiff (Research Assistant), but also Kazi Ahamed (PhD student), and those who offered to so prior to Ryan's appointment (Katie Robertshaw).

Elsbeth Berry

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