



THE FACULTY OFFICE

Master's Speech to the Notaries Society, September 2023

It is a great pleasure to be with you and I would like to begin by thanking your President and his Committee for inviting me and members of the Faculty Office team to Chatsworth for last night's wonderful dinner and to your deliberations today.

I have a tenuous personal connection with Chatsworth House because the only real claim to fame of the small boarding school which I attended in North Wales was that it had been evacuated to Chatsworth early in the Second World War when most of the town of Colwyn Bay was taken over, in a highly secret operation called Yellow Move, by the Ministry of Food, apparently on the basis that, if there were to be an invasion, the Nazis would not think of looking for anything in Colwyn Bay¹! In one of the school's rooms there was a copy of a painting of girls in gym slips relaxing in their dormitory surrounded by the Georgian splendour of the building – I believe that the original is somewhere there to this day. Many of my teachers had been pupils during those war years and when I arrived in 1973, the principal objective seemed to be to run the school on lines as close to the glory days at Chatsworth as possible. This made for some somewhat eccentric rules, but also for a very happy place.

To the casual observer, the Faculty Office might appear to be rather like my school – a fundamentally pleasant place, steeped in the past, where not a lot happens. Professor Sir David Clementi clearly thought so when advising the Government about the proposals for regulation of the legal professions in the early 2000s; he alluded in his Report to the Faculty Office's observation that he had found the system to be '*somewhat anachronistic*'². In fact, nothing could be further from the truth – apart from the fact that the Faculty Office is very friendly, with staff who really care about what they are doing. In this presentation, I shall offer a report on the last year, starting with a snapshot of the 'state of the notarial nation' and the Faculty Office.

Facts, Figures and Progress

Last year I reported an increase in the numbers of practising notaries and encouraging statistics on those applying for admission, both numerically and in terms of age profile and

¹ William Sitwell, *Eggs or Anarchy* (Simon Schuster 2016) Chapter 6

² Sir David Clementi, Review of the Regulatory Framework for Legal Services in England and Wales, December 2004, p.42.

other diversity characteristics. I said that it was too early to tell whether this good news should be seen as a blip or the beginning of a trend. Doubtless statisticians would say that the addition of this year's figures does not make a trend, but I am delighted to report that we have continued to see an increase in the number of practising notaries; there are 762 notaries with a current practising certificate. 49 candidates passed the year 2 UCL exams of whom 39 have already been admitted or their application is in train. We have modernized the system for applying, considering and approving applications as, in most cases, this can now be done entirely online via Notary PRO. I still consider each application individually, assisted by the eagle-eyed Neil Turpin who always scrutinizes applications carefully before they come to me. As well as speeding things up (we estimate by, on average, 2 to 3 weeks) and saving on paper and postage, the new system also provides me with a photograph of the applicant, so if there are any newly admitted notaries here, I might be able to recognize you.

Financially, we have achieved our aim of accumulating six months' operating reserve a year ahead of schedule. As at 31st March 2023 the reserve stood at £272,716 (up from £90,072 at 31 March 2022). This equates to just over six months' operating costs, so there is now adequate cover in the event of unforeseen emergency circumstances, to ensure that regulation of the profession could continue. We have therefore been able, in this year's practising fee proposal, to cease the levy for this reserve fund. I am very pleased about this achievement, for two reasons. Firstly, because it properly assures the regulatory function against major difficulties (not that we expect them) and secondly, because the speed with which the reserve has been accumulated indicates that, in general, the profession is thriving, since contributions were banded according to income. As a body, you have outperformed the prudent but reasonable assumptions which the Faculty Office made about notarial income which is why it has been possible to address this need so swiftly; that is a fair indication that the profession is doing well, in spite of the very difficult macro - economic climate which we know is making life so difficult for many people both in the UK and in other parts of the world. It seems as though Brexit has had the effect of increasing the administrative requirements of private transactions between individuals and businesses in Britain and Europe and that this might account for the apparent buoyancy of the profession, but it may be that you have other perceptions and explanations and I look forward to hearing about those and discussing them with you.

I realise that, for some, the picture is not so rosy. I am very grateful to all 34 notaries who responded over the last couple of months to the Consultation on Practice Fees 2023/24 and Business Plan Update – July 2023. The response rate was more than twice what it was last year and we also received a response from the Legal Services Consumer Panel. I know that it can be a real effort to respond to consultations, perhaps at the end of a tiring week, but it is extremely encouraging and helpful when you do.

Whilst 91% of you expressed support for the proposed fees, 3% disagreed and we received 2 comments from notaries who were honest about the relationship of regulatory cost to their relatively low turnovers. Although the latter voices were in the minority, it is important that we receive these comments, not least so that the Faculty Office staff and I are aware of the marginal nature of some practices, but also because these responses provide hard evidence for us when we are in discussion with the Legal Services Board and the Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering ("OPBAS") about proportionality in regulation and supervision.

I would not want you to think that such comments will stem the flow of increased demands and expectations on the part of these external bodies, but it is useful if we have direct material from notaries, our regulated community, at our disposal in discussions with them. We will give some thought next year to establishing a new band for those notaries with these marginal incomes, as well as to whether it might be right to charge a top up for those who are practicing in conveyancing and probate as notaries, where the regulatory risk is perceived to be greater.

I must also highlight those of you who are providing a vital public service, perhaps for not very much financial reward, and to assure you that those of us in the Faculty Office, as well as members of the public, appreciate your work very much. I can give a couple of recent examples. I was contacted a little while ago by a very eminent former law tutor of mine, who is now in his eighties. His wife requires the services of a notary from time to time and he had found it difficult to locate one close to where they live. He emailed me to draw the situation to my attention and to stress the importance of provision of services across the main town centres. Fortunately, staff at the Faculty Office were able to locate 3 notaries closer to his home and I have passed on the information. The other case is more personal; my daughter, who is a working student on the Teach First programme, needed to have some documents verified from the time that she was working as a teaching assistant on an Erasmus project in Austria. Short of time, the prospect of a long and expensive trip to the Austrian embassy was unattractive and the instructions had indicated that notarization was an alternative route. She looked up notaries able to deal with German language documents in her area and was amazed to find one who was prepared to do the work immediately, for a very reasonable fee. I don't know whether or not she told him what her mum does, but these two rather humdrum instances illustrate the importance for individuals of the work that you do. I realise that, for some of you, continuing to provide the service may be a nuanced decision and a matter of real commitment and I want to thank you for sticking with it.

Given the clear support for the proposed fees, this is the table which has been put to the Legal Services Board for their approval:

Turnover	Practising Certificate Fee (Excluding the levy) 2022/23	Practising Certificate Fee (including the levy) 2022/23	Contingency contribution Fund (both 2022/23 & 2023/24)	Proposed PCF for 2023/24	Net change from 2022/23
Up to £15,000	£470	+ £75 = £545	£0	£505	-£40
Up to £50,000	£580	+ £85 = £665	£0	£625	-£40
Up to £90,000	£615	+ £135 = £750	£0	£665	-£85
Up to £150,000	£895	+ £135 = £1,030	£0	£965	-£65
Up to £300,000	£1,020	+ £250 = £1,270	£0	£1,100	-£170
Over £300,000	£2,270	+ £300 = £2,570	£0	£2,450	-£120

The table clearly demonstrates reductions from last year's rates for those in all bands, attributable to the cessation of the levy. As we note in our response to consultation, we continue to believe that the banding system is the best way of sharing the expense of regulation as equitably as possible and in such a way as to help those providing these important public services in rural or other less lucrative areas. The resultant figures are, of course, a balancing act but we draw comfort from the overwhelming majority of supporters amongst respondents. Once again, no contribution by way of contingency fee in respect of disciplinary processes is proposed this year; costs in the small number of relevant cases are being recovered by legal process where necessary. Members of the Society may be assured that, as ever, these figures reflect extremely careful review of expenditure and budgeting led by the invaluable Sue Goss. In particular, this year, advised by Sue, we have decided that it is prudent to make an allowance for anticipated inflation and this is reflected in the budgets, which have been drawn up for the years 2023/4, 2024/5 and 2025/6, in line with the 3 year Business Plan.

The purposes to which the income from practising fees may be put are prescribed by statute. The permitted purposes are:

- (a) the regulation, accreditation, education and training of relevant authorised persons and those wishing to become such persons, including—
 - (i) the maintaining and raising of their professional standards, and
 - (ii) the giving of practical support, and advice about practice management, in relation to practices carried on by such persons;
- (b) the payment of a levy imposed on the approved regulator under section 173;
- (c) the participation by the approved regulator in law reform and the legislative process;
- (d) the provision by relevant authorised persons, and those wishing to become relevant authorised persons, of reserved legal services, immigration advice or immigration services to the public free of charge;
- (e) the promotion of the protection by law of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (f) the promotion of relations between the approved regulator and relevant national or international bodies, governments or the legal professions of other jurisdictions.

The majority (in excess of 90%) of the Practising Certificate Fee income is spent on

- (a). The levy paid to the Legal Services Board and Office for Legal Complaints, which accounts for 4.4% and the levy paid to OPBAS which accounts for a further 1.6%, with the remainder split between items (c) to (f).

As those of you who heard or read my address to the 2022 Conference will know, my Priorities for 2022-2025 are grouped under the regulatory objectives set out in the Legal Services Act 2007, which are:

- (a) protecting and promoting the public interest;*
- (b) supporting the constitutional principle of the rule of law;*
- (c) improving access to justice;*
- (d) protecting and promoting the interests of consumers;*

- (e) promoting competition in the provision of services within subsection (2);*
- (f) encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession;*
- (g) increasing public understanding of the citizen's legal rights and duties;*
- (h) promoting and maintaining adherence to the professional principles³.*

My Priorities, and the Business Plan (2022-25) which we have developed to give effect to them, comprise the framework for discussions at the monthly internal meetings, quarterly Master's Council meetings and the meetings of the Audit Committee and Qualifications and Advisory Boards. The documents are available on the Faculty Office website⁴. You will also find minutes of the quarterly Council meetings from January 2020 there⁵. You will note, if you explore that section of the website, that there are more supporting papers publicly available than used to be the case. This change reflects and implements part of our response to the LSB 'well led' review, in which they sought greater transparency. I realise that the production of more supporting papers – even short ones, and there is much truth in the old joke to the effect that I'd have written a short essay if I had had the time to avoid doing a long one – means more work for Faculty Office staff. But we are all benefiting from the discipline of the exercise and it means that it is easier for notaries and other interested people to understand what is in our minds as we take and minute decisions and implement measures directed towards the achievement of the 8 regulatory objectives. This helps to keep us on track. I am immensely grateful to the staff for their positive response to this new way of working.

The Priorities are:

1. Entity Regulation and the conclusion of the required Order under Section 69 of the Legal Services Act.
2. Professional Indemnity Insurance – minimum terms and conditions and run-off cover.
3. A review of the Conduct and Discipline system.
4. A review and consolidation of the Notaries Accounts Rules.
5. Reinforcement of the sanctions regime as outlined in our action plan.
6. To build-up and maintain an appropriate level of operating reserves.
7. Work to increase the diversity of the profession.
8. A review of the post-qualification environment.
9. Promotion of wellbeing amongst the profession.

³ Legal Services Act 2007, s.1(1)

⁴ <https://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Appendix-I-Business-Plan-for-consultation.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/notaries/governance/board-council-meetings/>

10. Promotion of the notarial profession's rôle in upholding the Rule of Law.

11. Promoting and developing the Legal Choices project in conjunction with the other Regulatory Bodies.

We have produced a table setting out roles and responsibilities, as well as progress in respect of each of these Priorities and I set that out in the annexe.

Whilst this table is, hopefully, largely self-explanatory and there will be the opportunity to ask questions of the team shortly, I would like to say a few words about 4 of the Priorities.

Insurance

As you know, there is a requirement for a practising notary to hold PII and an Order was made in November 2012 requiring minimum cover of £1M. We strongly advise and encourage those carrying out certain categories of work, especially conveyancing and probate, to take out significantly more cover than the minimum, given property prices and the consequent value of many estates. The Faculty Office is considering both minimum cover and the following wider issues and we intend to consult on these in 2024.

- Should we consider introducing a set of basic minimum terms which all notarial PII policies must include and, if so, what model should this follow/what must be included?
- Should we consider increasing the minimum sum insured for notaries conducting conveyancing and/or probate work (given the average house price increases and the very significant number of properties worth in excess of £1m)?
- Should we require run-off cover to be obtained when a notary retires?

These are not straightforward questions. In principle, PII is good for the public, for notaries and their families and for the reputation of the profession, hence the existing Rules. Nevertheless, as I have already said, we realise the difficulties faced by practitioners providing a valuable notarial service but who are not reaping much in the way of financial rewards. The potential initiatives under consideration would undoubtedly strengthen the position of the public, individual notaries and the profession overall, but questions arise as to the availability of suitable products in the insurance market available at reasonable cost. Faculty Office staff are exploring this issue with brokers and we are grateful to the Society's Secretary for his collaboration in this regard. So there is work to be done and we look forward to receiving your input into this area of professional regulation.

Rules Review / Accounts Rules

A review is underway of the Rules relating to professional accounts. This is timely, as the current Rules were cast in 1989, albeit they have been amended since then. In fact, confusingly perhaps, there are three sets of rules, which we propose to consolidate.

Discipline

Putting in place and operating efficiently a professional discipline system is a critical part of many of the Regulatory Objectives. Fortunately, it has not been necessary to undertake many formal disciplinary processes. Recent experience, the details of which are confidential to

some extent, however, has indicated that it might be possible to make improvements to the system. We are exploring ways of making it more proportionate and swifter, which we believe would benefit all involved in such cases. Mainly this is to do with introducing administrative sanctions which mean that the less serious and less complex cases can be handled between the Faculty Office and the notary, rather than requiring a disciplinary tribunal in each case. Another topic for consideration is how best to support and equip those who have the task of bringing disciplinary proceedings in the Commissary Court. I am most grateful to the Commissary HHJ Graham Leonard KC and his Deputy, Tom Cosgrove KC, for their work on our behalf and for their engagement with us as we review the disciplinary system. I must also thank all nominated notaries who have undertaken the difficult role of bringing such proceedings and Mili Bhanji our Risk, Compliance and Investigations Officer, who plays a central role in these matters. Work is ongoing and we expect to be in a position formally to consult the profession in 2024. We will be preparing a call for evidence or consultation paper on this issue and will be welcoming your thoughts on this important topic.

Rule of Law

We broke new ground in March this year when the Faculty Office hosted a superb lecture on the Rule of Law given by the Senior President of Tribunals, Sir Keith Lindblom. Those who attended recognised that it was a tour de force which was inspiring and challenging to all of us as lawyers, in equal measure. After this success, we are considering a similar event next year which could look at comparative legal systems, especially the European dimension, a subject peculiarly relevant to notarial practice. I also feel very honoured to have been invited to speak at the forthcoming meeting to be held in London by the International Union of Notaries on the theme of the added value of the notarial act, particularly focussing on its probative or evidentiary effect. The event will be part of UINL's 'Dialogue between legal systems' initiative. I hope to learn more about the international dimension of notaries' work and develop an understanding of what would be useful for the Faculty Office to tackle in its next Rule of Law lecture.

INITIATIVES IN 2022-23

The Faculty Office undertook a desk-based review of 100 websites, details of which were supplied by notaries in their annual practising certificate renewal applications. The purpose of the review was to check the quality of the information available to the public against the criteria set out in the Notaries Practice Rules. Of those reviewed, 61 were in general compliance. The object of the exercise was not to catch people out, rather, to improve the quality of interaction with members of the public – clients and potential clients – and thus to enhance the standing of the profession generally. We would encourage you to get in touch with the Faculty Office if you are unsure about what you might need to add to your website, irrespective of whether or not you think that yours was one of the websites which was reviewed.

As you know, under the Notaries (Required Continuing Professional Education) (Anti-Money Laundering) Order 2022, at least one of the credit points required must be obtained in the subject of anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing applicable to the UK. This

Order, which was discussed at last year's conference, came into force in November 2022. It reflects the importance of this topic generally, especially in the current geopolitical situation and responds to the attention which the Government, through OPBAS, is now paying to this subject. Supervision is based on risk assessment and education in this field is an excellent way of reducing the risk profile of notaries, especially where they are engaged in higher risk areas of work.

The Faculty Office was reviewed by OPBAS at the end of 2022. They put forward a robust challenge to the way in which our supervisory system works, and we have learned a lot from that engagement. We are working to meet the points raised in the OPBAS report and have commissioned an independent review of operations by Fraser Sinclair, a Anti Money Laundering specialist consultant who has, in the past, worked for the Law Society of Scotland, helping them to respond to similar issues. Our supervisory role remains a paramount priority. We particularly want to disseminate good practice and highlight bad practice through our inspections, desktop reviews and through newsletters and our website. We value very much our engagement with the Notaries Society and the Society of Scrivener Notaries who do so much to propagate good practice amongst their members in fending off financial crime.

PEOPLE

I am hugely indebted to the Faculty Office team for their hard work, wisdom and cheerful co-operation. This year, we have welcomed a new Administrative Officer, Jaymisha Taylor, who is working alongside Neil Turpin, our Chief Clerk and Mili Bhanji, Risk, Compliance and Investigations Officer and Deputy Chief Clerk. The Deputy Registrar, Ian Blaney, continues to take the lead on many important areas of our work, including relations with the Ministry of Justice dealing with entity regulation and taking charge of our risk register. He is also very gifted at helping us to stand back and think strategically. He led an excellent half day 'away at home' session in which we looked at the characteristics which we want to inform our work and we now take care to devote some time to such reflection at our regular meetings.

We have also recently established a relationship with Jim Clifford OBE of Sonnet consultancy, who is carrying on the support work which Mark Craig assisted us with so successfully until his unfortunate illness. Jim has a great deal of experience helping charitable and regulatory bodies to undertake their functions to the best of their ability. We have already benefited from his wisdom as a critical friend – an external and very skilled pair of eyes assisting us in particular with our interaction with LSB and OPBAS.

I must, once again, thank our inspectors, Tony Martin, Nigel Harding, Janet Goode and Sanjay Gogia for all their work in the last year. Tony has decided to stand down this year, after 8 years of outstanding service as an inspector for which we are all very grateful. 19 inspections have been carried out since August 2022 and the inspectors' reported to me is imminent and will be published, in due course, on the website. They are a dedicated team who have the best interests of the profession and the public whom it serves at heart. They are there to help inspected notaries; nobody wants an inspection to be a stark exercise in passing or failing, rather, an opportunity for dialogue about the things which are difficult in practice, with the objective of finding a good way forward. That is very much what all of our inspectors are

about. I know that the inspectors have their own slot to speak to you today but I would just like to encourage you to consider whether you could take on this role; there is an advertisement on the Faculty Office website as we seek to recruit a successor to Tony, as well as one or more inspectors specifically with conveyancing experience. Mili Bhanji would be happy to speak to anyone who is interested in this work, as well as sitting as assessors in the Court of Faculties and becoming a nominated notary.

CONCLUSION

I must, as ever, express my personal thanks to the Registrar, Howard Dellar. His blend of common sense, legal principle, human intelligence and humour are invaluable, not only to me, but to everyone who works in the Faculty Office. Lastly, I want to end where I began, by thanking the Society. Of course, the relationship between regulator and the regulated profession must never become cosy, but it can be cordial and co-operative and that is what I experience in all my contact with the Society and the wider profession, for which I am truly grateful.

MORAG ELLIS KC

Master of Faculties

ANNEXE Action plan 2022-2025							
Priorities	Protecting and promoting the interests of the consumer			Staff lead / oversight	Committee lead / oversight and ongoing review	Timescale for delivery	Status at 14.7.22
1. Entity Regulation & S69 Order	<p>We will aim to complete the next phase of the Faculty Office's Entity Regulation project. We will continue to work with the Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders for the Order under section 69 of the Legal Services Act 2007 to enable the Faculty Office to have the legislative underpinning and begin its implementation. Brexit and Covid has delayed this project but this is an important priority for us and necessary for consumer protection. We will look to work with</p>	<p>In active development This remains a sizeable project and the Faculty Office is dependent on the MOJ in particular to progress the s 69 Order and the timetable remains uncertain. The Deputy Registrar is heading this work stream and will report on progress at each Quarterly Board meeting. The S69 order will also be reviewed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Board 		Deputy Registrar	Master's Council	March 2025	

	other regulators as entity regulation for the notarial profession is rolled out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's Audit Committee • Master's Council 					
2. Insurance minimum terms	Insurance minimum terms, run off cover and the level of cover all need consideration and relevant changes made to our rules following a suitable consultation and after taking into account the findings of the LSB's research into the state of the professional indemnity market.	<p>Consultation will be undertaken in the 2nd Quarter of 2023 with a rule change application 4th Quarter 2023/1st Quarter 2024</p> <p>Progress will be reviewed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's Advisory Board 		Chief Clerk	Master's Advisory Board	March 2024	Work has started and a paper has been presented to the Master's Advisory Board. Formal consultation delayed until later in 2024
Protecting and promoting the public interest and promoting and maintaining adherence to the professional principles.							
3. Discipline system review	The Faculty Office discipline system is due for a review and there will be a Call for Evidence. We will start with a listening and consultation exercise with the expectation that some changes could be made to it. Given most notaries are non-contentious practitioners there is a potential	Call for evidence will take place in the 2 nd Quarter of 2023; Consultation in the 1 st Quarter of 2024; Rule Change application in the 3 rd /4 th Quarter of 2024.		Deputy Registrar	Advisory Board	Dec 2024	

	shortage of suitably qualified “nominated notaries” (who act as investigators/prosecutors) for the range of disciplinary cases brought.						
4. Review of our regulatory arrangements – Modernisation of accounts rules	We will continue to review our regulatory arrangements with particular emphasis on the three sets of accounts rules: the Notaries Accounts Rules 1989 (as amended), the Notaries’ Accounts (Deposit Interest) Rules 1989 and the Notaries Trust Accounts Rules 1989, as they are in need of modernising and consolidation.	Consultation will take place in the 1 st Quarter of 2023 with a Rule Change application in the 3 rd /4 th Quarter of 2023.		Chief Clerk	Master’s Council	December 2023	Draft rules have been prepared and presented to the Advisory Board. Technical advice being sought from an accountant prior to formal wider consultation.
5. Sanctions	The Faculty Office will continue to re-inforce the sanctions regime as outlined in its sanctions action plan and keep this work stream under review.	Ongoing and will be reviewed at each Master’s Quarterly Board Meeting		Risk, Compliance and Investigations Officer and Deputy Chief Clerk	Master’s Council	February 2022	
6. Reserves	At the Faculty Office we will continue to build up the Faculty Office’s reserves to the equivalent of six month’s expenditure. Some additional	Ongoing and will be achieved by 31/03/2024 provided the FO budgets remain on		Registrar	Master’s Audit Committee	31/03/2024	Due to prudent budgeting and controlled expenditure,

	funding will be allocated towards governance improvements at the Faculty Office particularly around the clerking of meetings.	track. Progress will be reviewed at the Master's Quarterly Board meetings.					we have achieved our aim a year ahead of schedule. The operating reserve currently stands at £272,716 which is a little over six months of the budgeted expenditure for the current year
Encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession							
7. Diversity	Diversity – we will work with the profession and, in particular, with projects like the Notaries Society bursary scheme to widen the access to the notarial profession. We are committed to reviewing how to widen and diversify pathways into the profession and developing a proposal as to how this might be achieved and its impact on our regulatory arrangements.	Initial meeting with the Notary Society to discuss Notaries Society bursary scheme (4 th Quarter 2022). The Master will consider appointing a diversity champion in 1 st Quarter of 2023 to help the Faculty Office think through this		Chief Clerk	Advisory Board	December 2024	The Master has appointed a diversity champion to assist with this work. Our triennial diversity data collection will be undertaken in the Autumn.

		workstream and to work with the Qualifications Board to suggest any rule changes. Consultation 1 st Quarter 2024 with rule change 3 rd Quarter 2024 (if required).					
8. Post-qualification requirements – Conveyancing, wills and Probate.	Post-qualification requirements: we will consider the post-qualification environment for notaries who wish to practice in conveyancing and in wills, probate and administration to ensure that the right level of supervision is in place.	Plan: Qualifications Board to consider and report to the Master in the 1 st Quarter 2023.		Deputy Registrar	Master's Council	March 2024	
9. Well Being	Wellbeing: we will consider how to better promote wellbeing amongst notaries, seeking to mitigate poor mental health and decision making, for example through the regime of continuing professional education.	In the 4 th Quarter of 2022 the Registrar will seek a meeting with the CEO of LawCare to explore how as a regulator The Faculty Office can better support LawCare and to further raise its existence amongst		Registrar	Master's Audit Committee	March 2025	The Registrar has met with the CEO of LawCare and discussions are under way with a view to a CPE module for notaries

		Notaries. By 1 st Quarter of 2025 the Qualifications Board will have considered whether to require a CPE module on Well being and if so how often that should take place.					
Supporting the constitutional principle of the rule of law							
10. Rule of Law lecture	The Faculty Office is committed to education initiatives on this regulatory objective and we are looking to hold a high-profile seminar to explore the importance of notaries in upholding the rule of law.	Sir Keith Lindblom (Senior President of Tribunals) has been invited and accepted the invitation to speak at an event in Westminster in February 2023 on the rule of law.		Registrar	Master's Council	February 2023	The planned lecture took place in March 2023 and was very well received. A second lecture giving the European perspective is being considered
Increasing public understanding of the citizen's legal rights and duties and improving access to justice. Legal Education.							
11. Legal Choices	We remain committed to the Legal Choices project and developing it further	The Registrar will encourage notaries to write articles for		Registrar	Master's Audit Committee	March 2025	The regulators have shown through the

		<p>Legal Choices to widen the public's understanding of notarial services and their offering to the legal sector. He remains chair of Legal Choices.</p>				<p>Legal Choices project that they can work effectively together for the public's benefit. The registrar has used the Notaries Society Conference 2022 and will do again in September 2023 to remind the profession of the importance of engaging with Legal Choices and using it to widen the public's understanding of notarial services.</p>
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Status key:

Purple – not yet started

Red – under way but off track

Amber – under way

Green – under way and fully on track

Black – completed