

Annex A

Summary of Impact on Legal Sector since 15 September board meeting

The following is a summary of the ongoing impact of Covid-19 within the legal services sector. It is not intended to be comprehensive:

- On 21 September it was [reported](#) that a permanent shift to more homeworking is expected. However, firms are worried that closing flagship city offices will hit their market share and damage their local reputations.
- It was [reported](#) on 21 September that the Lowry Theatre in Salford would be among the newly revealed list of additional Nightingale Courts.
- 23 September - A [survey of Resolution members](#) found that Family law specialists are feeling more isolated and less connected to peers since the UK went into lockdown.
- TLS produced a research report [Law under lockdown](#) published on 25 September that stated some of the most vulnerable people have been left isolated and without proper access to solicitors due to the government response to the pandemic.
- Despite various issues with exams, it was [reported](#) on 25 September that the BSB stated that early signs indicated performance of BPTC students was broadly in line with the average.
- A survey conducted by Women in Criminal Law received almost 500 responses. The Law Society Gazette [reported](#) on 29 September that 311 respondents answered a question on Extended Operating Hours and 88% of those who responded were against it.
- On 1 October the Public Law Project published a [paper](#) on the impact of Covid-19 on access to exceptional case funding – a legal aid safety-net. It was [reported](#) that lessons must be learned by the government to make it more accessible during future lockdowns.
- On 2 October findings from Cardiff University business school were [reported](#) to have indicated that lockdown may have benefited disabled lawyers as attitudes to home working have changed.
- Health protection regulations introduced included an exemption allowing lawyers would be able to break self-isolation to attend court. It was [reported](#) on 2 October that TLS was concerned about the exemption.

- The backlog of employment tribunal cases hit a 10-year high as [reported](#) on 5 October. The MoJ has warned that the trend is likely to continue as the government's job retention scheme comes to an end this month. This had followed an earlier [report](#) on 18 September revealing that non-employment judges would be used to help ease the backlog.
- It was [reported](#) on 7 October that a group of LPC students had lodged an appeal with BPP following its refusal to refund tuition fees as a result of claims that it degraded the quality of its teaching during lockdown.