



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BAR 2010

To be held on 12 June 2010 at 10.30 am
in the Bar Council Offices

PROVISIONAL AGENDA (RESOLUTIONS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT)

1. **Opening Remarks by the Attorney General**

2. **Chairman's Address**

Report from Nicholas Green QC

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Report from Andrew Mitchell QC

4. **Chief Executive's Report**

Report from David Hobart.

5. **Resolutions**

First Resolution

Proposer: Christiane Valansot (representing BACFI)

Seconder: Alan Landsbury

The Bar Council Pension Scheme

This meeting noting:

the likelihood of substantial financial levies on practising members of the Bar to fund the deficit in the defined benefit pension scheme for Bar Council staff ("the DB Scheme"),

- (a) the DB Scheme remains open to future accrual for certain staff,
- (b) Bluefin, pension advisers, have been retained to advise the General Council of the Bar,
- (c) the obligation of the officers of the General Council of the Bar to be transparent in dealing with the difficult issues surrounding that deficit, and in particular to

recognise its responsibility to members of the Bar as well as to members of the pension scheme,

hereby resolves –

1. That, as a matter of utmost urgency, responsible officers of the General Council of the Bar will prepare and present to members of the Council an evaluation of all reasonable options for reducing the costs of future pension provision for members of the DB Scheme, including in particular the option of immediate closure of the DB Scheme as regards future accrual and replacing it with a defined contribution scheme (“DC Scheme”);
2. That responsible officers of the General Council of the Bar will make the Bluefin advice and report available to all Council members and to practising and subscribing members of the Bar on request (and subject to appropriate undertakings) and will provide to all practising and subscribing members of the Bar with a costed summary of all options in relation to both future accrual costs and past service liabilities arising from the DB Scheme; and
3. That responsible officers of the General Council of the Bar will ensure that the actions required in paragraphs 1 and 2 above are taken in time to enable proposals for dealing with the DB Scheme both as to the deficit for past service and the liability for future accrual to be debated at the earliest opportunity and no later than the October 2010 meeting of the Council.

Second Resolution

Proposer: Nigel Ley

Seconder: William M Rees

This Annual Meeting of the Bar hereby registers its strong disapproval of the new policy of the Legal Services Commission (LSC), whereby:

If a legally aided litigant recovers his or her costs against a non legally aided litigant, the LSC will now allow the solicitors to keep all of the money recovered including counsel’s fees, and the LSC will not pay counsel.

Third Resolution

Proposer: Nigel Ley

Seconder: William M Rees

This Annual General Meeting considers that in order to prevent complaints by the public of being kept in ignorance, all counsel acting under a civil legal aid certificate (or its successor in title) against a non-legally aided litigant should inform their lay client that they have a conflict of interest in that their remuneration is only guaranteed if they lose the case.

David Hobart
Chief Executive

25 May 2010