

MEETING NOTES

DATE: 8 April 2013 between 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm

SUBJECT: APIL East Anglian Regional Meeting

LOCATION: Ransones Europark, Ipswich

ATTENDEES: Gary Barker (Speaker), Rachel Benford, Howard Bush, James Davies, Richard Foyster, Richard Hayes, Diane Hilton, Diana Infanti, Helen Leggett, Siobhan McWhinney, Victoria Mortimer-Harvey (EC member), Sian Mullane, Nick Peake, Hannah Rutterford (Regional Co-ordinator), Tony Shord, Stevan Stratton, Mick Upton (Regional Secretary), Michael Wangermann, Geoff Young and Pamela Hoare

1 **Introduction by Hannah Rutterford (HR)**

HR welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced a speaker, Gary Barker (GB), who will be providing a talk on the recently introduced Jackson Reforms. She explained that there would then be a buffet and then an EC update from Victoria Mortimer-Harvey (VMH).

2 **Jackson – the facts by Gary Barker (APIL Costs Co-ordinator)**

GB gave an interesting and thought provoking talk about the Jackson Reforms. His talk covered the main changes made by the Jackson Reforms, changes in relation to funding of costs, costs budgeting, qualified one way costs shifting and how firms were going to have to change their practice in order to remain profitable.

We then had a break after the first part of GB's talk.

3 **EC update by VMH**

VMH provided a short update on EC activity.

The judicial review of the government regarding reduction of the RTA Portal fees was unsuccessful. APIL will continue to review all legal options. It was currently very difficult to get arguments heard in the current political climate.

The government's response on the small claims limit extension is expected in the summer of 2013. APIL are logging the government to argue that personal injury claims do not have a place in the Small Claims Court.

The government have now agreed to put in place a scheme which will allow Claimants to obtain compensation where they have suffered mesothelioma and where no valid insurer is identified. The compensation payable under the scheme will not be as high as compensation under a normal personal injury claim.

Introduction of the scheme will be announced in the Queen's speech.

Part 2 of GB's talk

GB continued to talk about the changes made by the Jackson Reforms and some of the key impacts these are likely to have. He discussed the issues of proportionality and how the factors taken into account, when considering proportionality, have now changed.

He discussed the introduction of provisional costs assessments, changes to Portal and the fact that the scope of the Portal is increasing both vertically in terms of the costs and horizontally to cover employer's liability and public liability cases. Gary also discussed the changes to Part 36, how firms should prepare themselves for the new costs regime and he covered various other changes in the rules which provide the Courts with additional powers.

Slides relating to Gary's talk are attached.