

6 March 2017

QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE

Stakeholder Event February 2017

The Registrar would like to thank all those who were able to join us (approximately 60 delegates) for the second annual stakeholder event held on 8 February 2017. The afternoon comprised of workshop for Compliance Officers where the Registrar discussed issues of ongoing compliance and set out expectations about the preparation of future guidance. The workshop included a demonstration on technical updates to the Register and the website.

This was followed by keynote presentations from the Registrar and Billy McLaren, the Lobbying Registrar for Scotland and a video from Chris Skidmore MP, Minister for the Constitution.



The event gave registrants an opportunity to network with colleagues and provide feedback and suggestions to the Office.

In response to registrants' requests for organisation-specific guidance, the Registrar offered to attend team meetings within organisations to help improve their awareness and understanding of their statutory responsibilities. This has already been taken up by some organisations and as a result the Registrar has a number of training and communication engagements lined up for the coming months.

If you would like the Registrar to visit your organisation, please email enquiries@orcl.gov.uk.



To highlight the success of the event, the Office was pleased to receive positive messages from delegates on their experiences, such as:

"I just wanted to thank all of you for organising yesterday's Stakeholder Conference and Compliance Officers meeting. I found both very helpful indeed and I have taken away a number of points that I intend to put into practice to improve our reporting."

"I found the clarification re over-declaring really useful."

"Thank you for the event... it was good to meet the team."

"We took away some really useful thoughts especially in terms of compliance issues"

The presentation slides are available on our website [here](#).

Update on Quarterly Information Returns for October - December 2016

At the end of 2016 there were 125 registrants live on the Register: of these, 122 submitted their Quarterly Information Return within the statutory deadline. The Office issued warning letters to three registrants for submitting their QIRs after the deadline.

The levels of compliance are the best they have been since the Register was set up but the Registrar wants to emphasise the importance of meeting statutory deadlines.

Registration Renewal and Payment for 2017

Following an audit of the Register the Office identified an issue with the payment process which led to some registrants encountering difficulties in paying. This problem can be caused when attempting to pay the fee by credit or debit card where the payer does not know the password for the card. Please do not attempt to start the payment process unless you know the password or you will not be able to complete the transaction.

There are still a number of organisations that have failed to pay the outstanding fee in full. If you were issued an invoice which included the recoupment of a previously failed payment please ensure that you pay the failed payment element of the invoice as well as the standard renewal fee. If you've logged in to your registration page to pay the total due it is only possible to pay the £1000 renewal fee through this renewals process: the remaining balance due must be paid via the instructions presented on the invoices sent.

Update on projects

The Registrar has been particularly busy during the past few weeks bringing her projects for new guidance for APPGs and codes of conduct to a conclusion. The APPG project has proved to be a particular challenge and very complex, necessitating further legal advice before new guidance can be issued.

The Registrar does expect however, that guidance from both projects will be issued by the end of March.