



Future Law Society

Governance Review – Third Stage

Securing a representative Council

Council Membership Committee Update

3rd October 2019

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CMC Update

- 2018 statistics – re affirm representational concerns
- CMC continue to consider points arising from July Council
- CMC now considering responses to consultation exercise
- Key points to be considering include
 - Regional boundary definitions
 - Interaction between RFs and Local Law Societies
 - External bodies representation on Council
 - Optimum lengths of Council service
 - Regional/Practice/Community issues
 - Good Governance in the context of the purpose and function of Council
 - Representational need

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Matters raised at Council on 3rd July 2019

CMC noted in particular

- Better engagement between CM and electorate demands ability to define constituency, communicate effectively with it and have less “pink”
- Any resource implications need to be understood and be deliverable
- There were concerns about non PC holders having to pay a levy
- The 12 year rule had implications for the “corporate memory”
- Some practice areas wanted more representation than proposed
- These were also raised in the post meeting responses including the need for TLS to have a full electronic data base of members and their interests

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Summary of responses sent to CMC

40 responses received on reform of Council 3 responses received on CM Job Description – Now redrafted

CMC analysis of responses continues but additional points raised include-

Moving to wholly work sector basis of representation

Splitting proposed regions into sectors to help CMs deliver

Reduce impact on LLS where cross region/different region

Need to ensure rural solicitor representation and a Human Rights seat

Need to avoid larger cities domination of regions

Regional Forums should meet less frequently and avoid adding further meetings

LLS risk losing independence and that should be avoided

CM accountability to constituency needs to be formalised

Divisions /communities should have just one representative each

Increase size of council rather than reduce geographic

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Proposed regions boundary issues

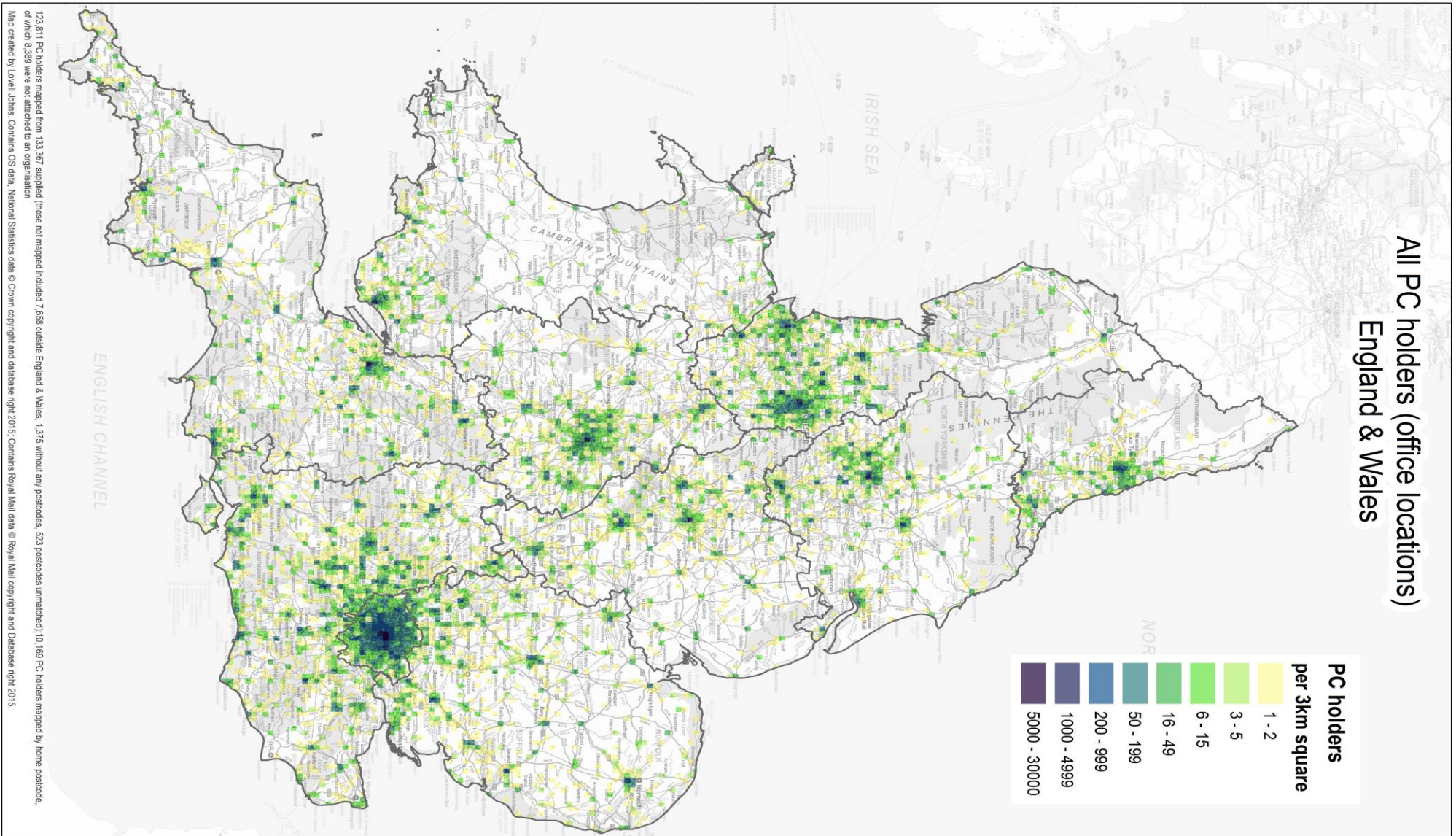
A number of responders raised detail points on proposed boundaries

- Area x is more traditionally/better associated with region A/D
- Some regions are too large and should be split
- Post codes needed clearer definition than at present
- Why not just use counties/combinations of counties
- Not enough CMs to cover some regions

CMC will consider the proposed boundaries and discuss with relevant CMs and LLS

We also now have a “heat map” of all PC holders locations

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External Bodies representatives on Council and Nominations/elections

- CMC's wish is that the reforms support the Solicitors brand and strength the TLS
- We therefore remain concerned at the presence on Council of automatic seats for external bodies which also representing other law disciplines.
- We encourage continuation of the links but believe those bodies must move to end nomination and set up solicitor only electoral colleges
- CMC believe all solicitors practicing within a defined area should have right to stand and vote for a council seat representing that area but recognise that change requires an effective TLS data base to be in place

Optimum Council Terms

Although arguments to the contrary are offered (corporate memory/more experienced) there appears to be significant support for 12 years as “good governance”

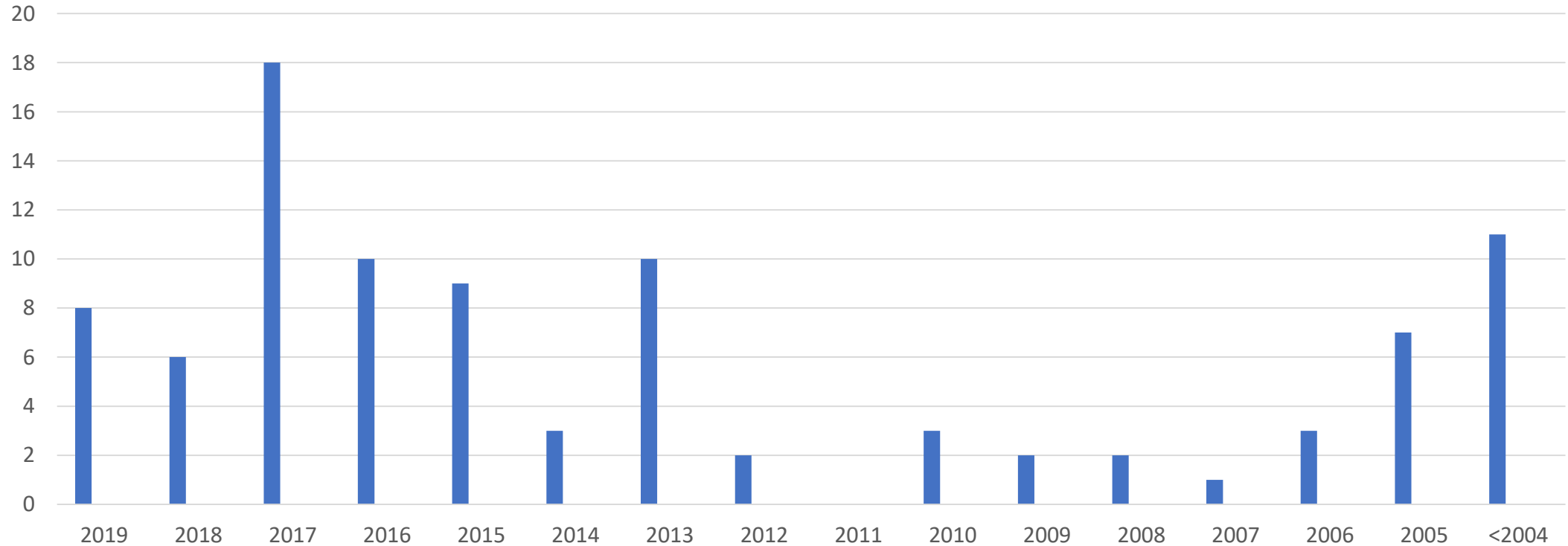
Some other suggestions are

- 8 years
- Allowing a return after a period of absence of at least 4 years
- A mandatory contested election after 12 years
- Limiting the number of CMS over 12 years

CMC will look at options

The data which follows may assist further consideration of issue

Current Council members by year of appointment



Interaction with Local Law Societies - CMC survey on engagement

- There are 90 LLS and 7 regional networks “known”
- About 55 LLS and 4 regionals appear to be active
- 38 responded to the Survey. 35-40 attend conferences.
- Majority of the 38 were stable/growing
- Most had regular constructive engagement with their CMs
- Contact with CM by email monthly was preferred
- Most were in an/or favoured some form of regional structure

Proposed Regional Forms - reflections

- Regional Forums could function with existing LLS regional structures providing there is an Council business /policy agenda item
- Where no current(active)regional network one ought to be established
- Will comprise the regional CMs and all other CMs working in that region when they can attend together with representatives of the Local Law Societies in the region
- Central Support to deliver mechanisms facilitating local communications and consultation with members, as well as research, enabling development of policy positions and submitting policy motions to Council

Regional/Practice sector/Communities issues

- Support for CMs being required to be working in the region and practicing in the work sector they represent unless temporarily not
- Also suggestions that CMs should be sufficiently “established “ in the relevant area
- Some concerns about numbers proposed for some communities and whether they are sufficiently established /structured to deliver representation
- Some definitions need further consideration including BIB and In House Corporate

CMC will look at these

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CMC Next steps

- CMC further consult on the proposed reforms and with CMs and communities
- CMC consider consultation outcomes and adjust proposals with regard also to good governance and form/function considerations
- The Joint working party review CMC proposals
- CMC make formal proposal to Council

Thank you



We look forward to receiving any further views
and contributions
..... by 16th October

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