

From: Richard Martin [<mailto:richard.martin@byrnedeane.com>]

Sent: 26 May 2021 15:20

Subject: MBC - follow up to signatory call on 20 May 2021

Dear All

I am following up on the signatory call on Thursday 20 May – thank you to everyone who was able to make the call and especially to Lizzy Stewart (4 New Square), Lynda Clark (Morton Fraser) and Moira Slape (Travers Smith) for their updates.

A recording of the call is in the members area of the website and the rolling record of signatory updates has itself been updated with a summary of what Lizzy, Lynda and Moira shared and is also available in the members area within Signatory Resources.

We discussed the annual evaluation. For those that joined in May 2019 or 2020 we have passed the anniversary of your signing up. I would invite you to use the annual evaluation as an opportunity to reflect on the commitment you gave, the progress you have made and what support you might want from the wider MBC community as you continue the journey. The form is attached and is also available in the members area. Signatories have found it useful as an opportunity to take stock and it will help us and the trustees think about the needs of the signatories going forward.

Finally, and this is directed at the law firms and legal teams among you, [this](#) is a link to the Times article we discussed about the hours worked by younger lawyers. It is now only available to those with a subscription but the overall thrust was that junior lawyers are being paid well but are working excessive hours and their health is being put at risk. There is a sense that a lot of the good intentions fall away in the face of big ticket corporate (and probably other) transactions. My question was whether law firm and legal team signatories feel there is the appetite for a serious and senior level taskforce to create some kind of MBC toolkit, blueprint or set of guidelines for how to manage this sort of work in more healthy, sustainable and efficient ways. Our thinking is that if it is to be credible and have teeth it will need to involve key transactional partners from major firms as well as representatives of the client perspective – the people who are responsible for doing and managing this sort of work.

Obviously this sort of work will continue to involve long hours and hard work but I am wondering whether now might be the time to try to rethink some of the assumptions and approaches to make it more sustainable.

As a first step, and so that we and the trustees can get a sense of the support (or lack of it) for this, can you please have a think and perhaps talk to relevant key people in your organisation, and then, being honest, please use the voting buttons at the top of this email to indicate whether your organisation would find this a useful and meaningful exercise. The voting buttons should be on the ribbon at the top of this message to the left of “Reply” (and on my screen just to the right of “Archive”) – I have allowed for yes, no and maybe as options.

Many thanks

Richard

Richard Martin

(he/him/his)

be brave.

