

From: Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Commercial & Traded Services
David Cockburn, Corporate Director for Business Strategy and Support

To: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee
– 6th December 2013

Subject: FT Innovative Lawyers 2013

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: KCC Legal Services' commended as Legal Industry Pioneers in FT Innovative Lawyers 2013.

Recommendation(s): The Committee is asked to note the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 FT Innovative Lawyers 2013 is the premier rankings report and awards for Europe-based lawyers. Shortlists for the awards comprise the top-ranked lawyers and law firms from all areas of the profession.
- 1.2 The FT and its research partner RSG Consulting have devised a unique methodology to rank lawyers on innovation. Law firms, in-house legal teams and other legal service organisations are fully researched through extensive telephone interviews. No entry appears in the FT report without a robust client or independent reference. Market experts are also called in to assess the submissions and the research. A list of the experts is available online and all the ranking tables from this and previous years can be found online at www.ft.com/innovative-lawyers.
- 1.3 The Legal Industry Pioneers and the In-House Lawyers rankings are drawn from nominations as well as submissions, but all entries require third-party validation and commendation.
- 1.4 Each entry is scored out of 10 points on originality, rationale and impact for a maximum score of 30. They are benchmarked against each other to arrive at the final rankings. Lawyers are ranked for delivering exceptional value to business.
- 1.5 For the FT Innovative Lawyers 2013 report, more than 600 submissions and nominations were received and almost 800 interviews were conducted with senior lawyers and executives. Submissions were received from 111 law firms, and an additional 48 in-house teams and 97 "legal industry pioneers" were studied. The research was conducted by eight RSG researchers between May and September 2013.
- 1.6 Last year, not only did the FT Innovative Lawyers awards name Geoff Wild as 'Legal Industry Pioneer', it also awarded Kent Legal Services the

highest accolade by naming it 'Legal Innovator of the Year' for its unique and ground-breaking collaboration with top 100 law firm, Geldards, in creating the 'Law:Public' affiliation, offering clients the best legal advice from both the public and private sectors. It was the first time that any public sector lawyers had been recognised in these awards.

- 1.7 This year, for the second year running, FT Innovative Lawyers 2013 commended Kent Legal Services as 'Legal Industry Pioneers', describing it as "a public legal provider run along private-sector lines, it has generated more than £3m of profits": <http://media.ft.com/cms/4aa3b5c6-2b12-11e3-8fb8-00144feab7de.pdf> (see page 23).
- 1.8 The Kent initiative was ranked higher than other notable names in the legal market, such as Parabis, Riverview Law, Berwin Leighton Paisner and Co-Operative Legal Services.

2. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to note the report.

3. Contact details

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