

ASSOCIATION OF COMPANY REGISTRATION AGENTS (ACRA) BOARD MEETING
at the offices of **the Stanley Davis Group, 41 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD**

MINUTES OF MEETING 23rd MARCH 2016, 1.00 pm

Present:

Stephen Curtis	
Malcolm Chettleburgh	Chettleburghs
Jeremy Cowdry	London Law
Andrew Davis	SDG
Sonia Dhesi	Appleton Company Services
Sam Lloyd	Company Registrations Online
Carol Prince	Jordans
Phil Vibrans	Company Registrations Online

1. Minutes from the last Board meeting, held 22nd October

The minutes were accepted.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Reactions to ACRA publications

There had been no evident reaction yet to the publication on the ACRA website of our arguments for more equitable AML treatment. Phil had, however, received a letter from the Chancellor (his constituency MP) on the topic. The Board reviewed it but felt it had missed a number of germane points. Phil would consider whether he would make a response.

The ACRA Newsletter had been welcomed by a number of members, and would be continued.

4. Meeting with the Registrar, 8th March

The Board noted the report of the meeting, which had been more open and cordial than some in the past. Companies House had, as promised, provided an update on 22nd March on the state of CHS. We were grateful for this but felt that insufficient priority continued to be given to making Resolutions available. Members were still having to pay for information through CHD. In addition, too little guidance was yet available on the procedures for obtaining documents over 6 years old for dissolved companies and on pre-95 documents. The Chairman would write to CH to make these points.

5. Company names for web-formed companies

Companies House had sent a compacted list of company names for web-formed companies. However, no director had been able to open the file. The Chairman would ask whether the list could be re-sent in a more accessible format.

6. PSC Register

The Board reflected on the complexity of this new piece of legislation. Directors had found that awareness of it in the market continued to be low. Companies House had provided some screenshots from their emerging new system. They would be sent to members.

7. Potential foreign companies register

The Board was content that the Chairman should respond to the current BIS consultation document.

8. Forum 2016

We would again ask the Registrar to take a session at the Forum. HMRC (both Brian Garcia and Pauline Akhurst) would be asked to conduct a second one. It was felt that the impact of the June EU referendum was likely to provide material for the third, and this would be kept under review. It was hoped a government Minister could be persuaded to give a keynote speech.

Marketing of the Forum should begin in July/August, rather earlier than last year.

9. Kevin Brewer correspondence with Sajid Javid

The Board noted the exchange of letters.

10. Entrepreneurial giving

The Registrar had asked us to consider this initiative and details had been sent to us.

It was felt not to be appropriate for ACRA. One reason for that was that we rarely have sufficient contact with the final entrepreneur: normally our work is conducted through an intermediary, such as a solicitor or an accountant. FayreShare would be wiser trying to tap that sector.

11. New members

There were three applications before the Board. It was able to approve one but required rather more information in the other two cases.

12. Any Other Business

- i. HMRC had written to us to let us know that they would soon be using their data gathering powers to try to obtain information on foreign companies from UK TCSPs. Members would be made aware of this in the next ACRA Newsletter.
- ii. More immediately, members would be alerted to the delay in changing the formations fee.
- iii. The Board welcomed the exchange of correspondence with Reuters.
- iv. The Board tried to understand the advice that had been received from Companies House on how the fee regime was going to operate when the confirmation statement replaced the annual return. It felt that it was both unclear and internally inconsistent. It seemed likely though that the new system would give rise to much more work than the old.
- v. ACRA's accounts would soon be filed. The Board would review the financial position of the Association in more detail at its next meeting.

13. Date of next meeting

To be fixed for end-May or early June.

Stephen Curtis
Chairman