

## **GROUP CIRCULAR 981/26**

**To: Branches, Groups and Executive Council**

**January 2026**

**Dear Colleague**

### **REVIEW OF CSPA STATUS – REGIONAL & BRANCH MEETINGS TO CONSULT MEMBERS IN GROUPS & BRANCHES ON OUR CURRENT LEGAL STATUS AND ALTERNATIVES (INCORPORATION)**

Motion A7/25, which was carried at our 2025 AGM, reads as follows.

*This AGM instructs the EC to investigate the costs, benefits and risks of establishing CSPA as a Company Limited by Guarantee or Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Members, Groups and Branches are to be consulted, and the EC is to report back to the 2026 AGM.*

As the GS emphasised, in moving the motion at the AGM on the EC's behalf, the Executive Council had not – and has not – pre-determined the outcome of the proposed review, which is to consider CSPA's status and the alternatives available to an organisation such as ours; however, the EC would like to hear from as many CSPA members as possible prior to taking any decisions on next steps.

The views of the wider membership are to be gauged via The Pensioner magazine's Spring issue (due out in early March). The survey questionnaire in the magazine will be accompanied by a short overview and a series of Frequently Asked Questions and answers, to help readers with their responses.

It would be helpful if Groups and Branches could encourage their members to participate by completing and returning the paper version of the survey in the magazine, or by filling out the online survey, which is to be circulated by email and promoted on the website, timed to coincide with the magazine's distribution.

### **Regional Meetings with Groups and Branches**

Plans have been put in place to hold a series of Regional Meetings to ensure that representatives from as many Groups as possible are given the opportunity to participate in the review, ask questions and provide their feedback.

Alongside these Regional Meetings around the country, separate meetings are being held with the CSPA Northern Ireland and Scotland Branches, to investigate the implications and alternatives for them.

To ensure consistency, all meetings are to be hosted by a panel comprising the General Secretary, National Treasurer and Bernard Seymour of Regulatory Solutions Ltd, who has been advising the EC on these matters of governance. Regional Representatives and other members of the EC will also attend the meetings in London, Manchester and Reading, and the Chair and Vice Chair will also be present at some of them, dependent on their availability.

## **Meeting Agendas**

The agenda for the meetings will be structured as follows:

11:00am – Welcome and Introductions

11:15am – General Secretary’s Update on Campaigns and work with Partner Organisations

11:30am – Presentation by Bernard Seymour LLB Law, Director of Regulatory Solutions Ltd and Affinity Resolutions Ltd

12:30pm – Lunch

1:30pm – Question and Answer Session

3:00pm – Close

Refreshments are to be provided, including teas, coffees and a light, sandwich lunch at all venues. Please advise CSPA HQ of any accessibility needs or special dietary requirements.

The attached note - *Briefing on CSPA Legal Structure* - has been provided for your information in advance of the meetings.

## **Speaker’s Profile**

Bernard Seymour’s career as a solicitor was varied, and he has been both a Managing Partner of a large law firm, and then Senior Partner. During his 35 years as a lawyer, he also sat as a Judge for 12 years on the Manchester circuit, where he gained a wealth of knowledge on a variety of legal areas.

Bernard Seymour is well acquainted with CSPA and many members who have attended AGMs will know him. He has supported the work of CSPA in many different ways, including advising and training us on GDPR requirements and

serving as our Data Compliance Officer, providing CSPA officers with HR advice and offering legal advice to our members as a benefit via Affinity Resolutions Ltd.

Bernard supported NARPO through their incorporation in 2023-24, and thus has recent, relevant knowledge gained from this experience to share with CSPA.

### Meeting Dates and Venues

Date and Times	Location/Venue	Branch/Regions
25 March 2026 – 11.00am to 15.00pm	Glasgow – <b>Maldron Hotel Glasgow</b> , 50 Renfrew Street, Glasgow, G2 3BW (Macintosh Suite)	Scotland Branch
14 April 2026 11.00am to 15.00pm	Belfast – <b>NIPSA HQ</b> , 54-56 Wellington Park, Belfast, BT9 6DP (Room 15)	Northern Ireland Branch
16 April 2026 11.00am to 15.00pm	Reading – <b>RISC</b> , 35-39 London Street Reading, Berkshire, RG1 4PS (Main Hall)	Midlands, SW and Wessex
21 April 2026 11.00am to 15.00pm	London – <b>Union Jack Club</b> , Sandell Street, Waterloo, London, SE1 8UJ (The Reserved Bar Lounge)	Eastern, Greater London and Southern
23 April 2026 11.00am to 15.00pm	Manchester - <b>Central Hall</b> , Manchester Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ (Lincoln Room)	N Wales Group, NE and NW Regions

Although it would be best if all meetings are held ‘in person’, it may be possible to arrange for members with particular individual needs to join a meeting online, upon request and by agreement, although it may not be possible to facilitate their ‘live’ contributions to the discussions, dependent on the facilities available at the various venues. Any queries in this regard should be sent to the General Secretary, Sally Tsoukaris, by email to [sally.tsoukaris@cspa.co.uk](mailto:sally.tsoukaris@cspa.co.uk) or by letter to CSPA Head Office. Phone queries may be made to 020 8688 8418.

## **Costs and Expenses (Travel & Subsistence Policy)**

The Executive Council understands that the total estimated cost for this review, including the cost of consultation meetings, the accountants' and legal advice, is likely to be around £30,000. CSPA has a separate fund for one-off projects such as this, which is held in an interest account. That fund currently has £169,000, and the cost would be drawn from it, in line with the Reserves Policy.

The EC has agreed to cover the **cost of travel and subsistence for up to two representatives from each Local Group and Branch**, to enable as many active members as possible to participate in the Regional Meetings. Groups may decide to send additional representatives, if they wish to, but their travel and subsistence costs would need to be met from Group funds.

The intention is to cover the cost of day return trips (reasonable travel and subsistence) to the venues only, without overnight stays, but exceptions will be considered. Where it is felt that an overnight stay is required, please contact the National Treasurer with details for approval before making any reservations. The reimbursement of travel costs will be in line with the EC policy: standard class train fare, at the cheapest most suitable rate, or mileage at 45p per mile. An Expense Claim Form will be prepared and sent to Group and Branch representatives ahead of the meetings.

Any queries should be sent to the Treasurer, Mike Sparham, by email to [M.Sparham@cspa.co.uk](mailto:M.Sparham@cspa.co.uk) or by letter to CSPA Head Office. Phone queries can be made by calling 020 8688 8418.

**RSVP - Please Confirm Attendance by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (at the latest)  
Providing the Following Information:**

- 1) The Date and Venue of the Meeting
- 2) The Number of Representatives attending from your Group/Branch
- 3) The Name/s of the Group/Branch/EC attendees
- 4) Any Dietary or Accessibility Needs to be accommodated

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If you have any questions or require any further information about the matters covered by this Group Circular, please don't hesitate to contact me, either by email at [sally.tsoukaris@cspa.co.uk](mailto:sally.tsoukaris@cspa.co.uk) or by telephone on **020 8688 8418 (Office)**.

Yours sincerely

*Sally T.*

Sally Tsoukaris, General Secretary