

DEAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM YEAR 2026

A dhaoine uaisle, T.S. Eliot in his celebrated and significant poem “The Waste Land” tells us that April is the cruellest month, cursing it for its cruelty in bringing back to life things and thoughts that were best left dead and buried, thereby subverting the traditional celebration of spring. This is in contrast to Celtic rites in April which focus on the prelude to Beltane or Bealtaine, the major festival marking the beginning of summer on the 1st of May. It welcomes the warmth of the summer sun, the return of life to the land and the end of the dark part of the year. After an arduous winter we look forward to April, cruel though it may be.

I am about to complete the third year of my term of office as Dean. It has been a busy third year. Your Faculty is in good hands. Your board of directors known as the Governing Council, comprised of a broad range of talents, continues to serve your Faculty well. The sub-committees including Finance, Education, Professional Practice, IT, and DFA continue to report into the Governing Council. This commitment is invaluable. Without it your Faculty could not function. I thank all those who serve on the committees for their trojan efforts over the last twelve months.

The Institute of Notarial Studies continues to provide through the expertise of Course Director Iain-Ostrowski Rogers the Diploma course to candidate notaries. This practical course which provides invaluable preparation for the challenges of practice through workshops and exercises. Iain is assisted in this by our Registrar in his other role as Administrator of Education. The Institute is currently running a preparatory course for the academic year 2025/26 and we will have a conferring ceremony in October 2026 for the successful candidates. It is hoped that the Chief Justice will attend this ceremony. Your faculty continues to engage with The Supreme Court Office as required.

Continuing education and training is provided to members through the provision of webinars and workshops. These have been well organised by Iain and Ross. These webinars, similar to that of Ms. Suzanne Marriott and Mr. Jonathan Coutts at this year’s AGM, allow members to attend without the need to travel to Dublin.

We continue to engage with the Department of Justice on regulation and supervision further to AML obligations. We maintain a strong, positive relationship with the Department of Foreign Affairs. Their recent drafting of a Policy Guidelines Handbook on the Legalisation of Irish Public Documents was a welcome development. As meetings occur, the Faculty will report back on real areas of interest or concern as expressed in the members forum in the following newsletter.

On the Global side, the Faculty continues to engage with fellow common law Notaries Public through the “UK and Ireland Forum” and the Common Law Association of Notaries (CLAN). In addition, we are in contact with the Scriveners Society and the International Union of Notaries (UINL) with a view to fostering a mutually rewarding relationship between our organisations. This included attending at, and delivering a paper on behalf of the Faculty at their annual conference last September at Edinburgh.

I would remind and urge all members to attend the A.G.M. and not to miss the CPD lectures of Ms. Suzanne Marriott, president of the Notaries Society of England and Wales on ‘Acceptance and effects in a common law country of a prenuptial agreement made before a civil law notary’ and Mr. Jonathan Coutts, Society of Scrivener Notaries on the topic of ‘Act issued from a common law

country: the adaptation of the act to foreign requirements'. I would urge all members to attend. The annual dinner afterwards in the Grand Hotel, Malahide Co. Dublin, is a great opportunity to mix, learn, create new connections and strengthen relationships with notarial colleagues both from Ireland and Great Britain.

In conclusion, the Faculty, its officers and fellow members whether privately or through the Forum are available to help. The modest annual subscription is a small price to pay for the service the Faculty provides. With the exception of the Registrar, the Secretary and the Course Director all members of the Board and the committees are volunteers. The door is open: if you are interested in making a contribution please contact the Registrar. Particular thanks to our esteemed Secretary Michael Moran for marking my card on the finer points of Company Law and to Ross and Mayara for the kind, helpful and diligent manner in which they run the Faculty Office on behalf of all the members.

Ní neart go cur le chéile agus go raibh maith agaibh.

Nigel Allen March 2026