

Our expertise,
your way



PowellsLaw 

Autumn 2016

Our Autumn seminar with Close Brothers Asset Management

A huge thank you to everyone that attended our Autumn Seminar, which we co-hosted with Close Brothers Asset Management on the 27th September.

The attendees of the event benefited from hearing Close Brothers' views on structuring their client's investment portfolios since the EU referendum and their outlook as we approach Brexit.

It was great to hear from Ian, Jenny and Daniel as we focused on the importance of keeping your Wills under review and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

We will let you know when the next seminar is to take place but if you would like to speak with any of the Private Client team please contact us on **01934 623501** or visit www.powellslaw.com.



PowellsLaw is Re-Accredited with the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme

We are delighted to announce that we have been re-accredited with The Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS) for the fifth consecutive year. The CQS has created a trusted community which has helped year on year to deter fraud and continually improve standards across the residential conveyancing sector.

This re-accreditation is confirmed recognition for PowellsLaw and provides reassurance that we meet the highest standards of technical expertise and client service. Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest transactions that people undertake and with CQS you can be confident that PowellsLaw has the skills and expertise to provide you with the best possible residential property advice.

If you are looking for property advice, contact our expert team on **01934 637920**.



We welcome SMEs to our first Bite-Size breakfast

On Thursday 6th October, we welcomed local businesses to our first Bite-Size breakfast which proved a great success. We discussed any issues they were struggling with, their future plans and what they were interested in hearing about in future. The consensus was that there is a distinct shortage of such events in the area and a monthly networking event would be welcome.

To find out more information about our Bite-Size breakfast visit www.powellslaw.com or to register for our next event please email helpforyourbusiness@powellslaw.com



Making legal services accessible for SMEs

For some time now, small and medium-sized businesses have been telling legal firms that they're reluctant to use their services. This is usually down to being nervous about costs – cost associated with the initial call, spiralling costs should the issue drag on, hidden costs for administration work etc.

This growing disconnect was illustrated in a study by the Legal Services Board (LSB), which surveyed 9,000 smaller businesses in the UK. It found that less than 13% of SMEs felt that lawyers provided a cost-effective means of resolving legal disputes and that 50% would only call on legal advice as a last resort. Indeed, cost appears to be one of the main obstacles for smaller companies – 20% suggest they can't afford a lawyer, only 8% retain the services of a legal firm and just 9% reported using a solicitor.

Perhaps more startling for the law firms, is that five times as many SMEs turn to their accountants for legal advice, than use a lawyer.

But at the same time, SMEs are still confronting legal issues that require the specialist expertise of a lawyer - including partnership agreements, non-disclosure agreements, privacy policies, employment disputes, licences to occupy business premises, and agreements for the supply of goods yet firms are choosing to exhaust all other (usually cheaper) alternatives and only calling on legal advice as a last option. All of which suggests law firms need to make themselves more attractive to SMEs and provide services that are more in tune with the modern marketplace. With this in mind, Powells Law has launched a new service, which provides access to a lawyer for a fixed monthly fee of £30.

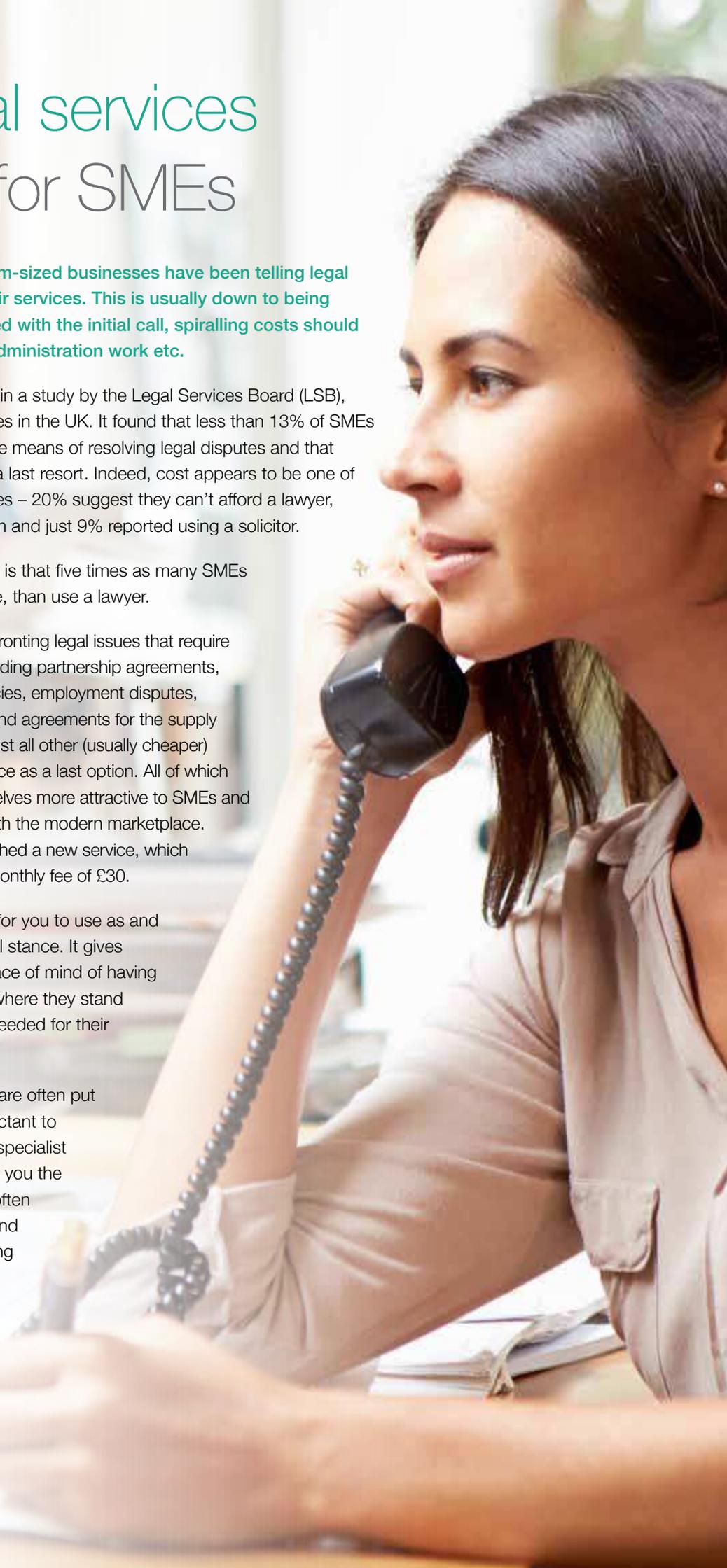
'Law on Call' is a cost-effective service for you to use as and when you need to understand your legal stance. It gives business owners and managers the peace of mind of having a contact on-hand, so they can check where they stand and find out whether the legal route is needed for their individual circumstances.

As the LSB's research suggests, SMEs are often put off by legal fees, which leaves them reluctant to even pick up the phone – even when a specialist is needed. That's why Law on Call gives you the opportunity to call our legal experts as often as you need to discuss your situation, and understand your options without worrying about spiralling costs.

To find out more about this new service and how Powells could affordably help your business get in please get in contact on

01934 623 501 or visit

www.powellslaw.com/legal-help-business/law-on-call/



Reported Family case

Roberta Ferrari the Partner in charge of our Family Law Department was recently involved in a very unusual case, which has been reported upon.

The case was centred on the wishes of a Hungarian mother, living and working in the UK, who wanted to have her baby adopted in England and Wales and not sent to Hungary to be adopted as was the wish of the Hungarian Consulate. The court upheld her wishes which were advocated by the Local Authority and the Court appointed CAFCASS officer.

Family law can be very complex and it really pays to consult the advice of a specialist with a proven track record, PowellsLaw have an experienced team who can help you with any queries.

If you would like to contact the team please contact Ruth Slader on **01934 637917** or email rslder@powellslaw.com



Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning

We had a great coffee morning on Friday 30th September, raising money and eating cake for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you to all our kind bakers who created us a wonderful selection for the day, to those who got involved in "Spot the Cake" competition and to those staff and clients who happily had a piece!

In total we raised £150.

Look out for our next fundraiser for Children in Need on 18th November.



Weston super Mare AFC sponsored match

PowellsLaw sponsored a Weston super Mare AFC match in September. Weston super Mare played Hungerford Town and despite the game finishing 0-1 to Hungerford, Weston played well and was the stronger of the two sides during the first half.

We proudly presented the Man of the Match Award at the end of the game and wish the team all the best with upcoming matches.



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