

UK's place in global economy underpinned by strong legal sector

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Issues which support the future success of the legal sector must be addressed as part of Brexit negotiations, the Law Society said today as it published its latest thinking on the UK's relationship with the EU.

"English law is one of our greatest exports and has helped put Britain at the heart of the global economy," said Law Society president Robert Bourns.

"And because the legal sector underpins the success of the UK economy, it is vital we get the future relationship with the EU right.

"In every part of UK PLC, business relies on the expert advice and support of solicitors.



"The legal sector is worth £25.7 billion to the economy, contributing £3.6 billion to net exports. It represents a large and robust contributor to our economic prosperity. A 1% growth in the legal sector creates 8,000 jobs, while an additional £1 of turnover stimulates £1.39 in the rest of the economy. In 2015, the legal sector grew by 8%.

"English and Welsh contract law sets the gold standard across the world and has a global reputation for excellence based on its commonsense approach - that and our widely respected judiciary makes England and Wales the jurisdiction of choice."

The Law Society has conducted a widespread consultation with the solicitor profession in the wake of Brexit and has worked with partners across the legal and other sectors, including the creation of our Brexit taskforce. We have been speaking with government and parliamentarians at the most senior level and across the political divide about the priorities for the legal sector and our justice system.

Our key priorities - based on this work - include:

- continued access for UK lawyers to practise law and base themselves in EU member states
- maintain mutual recognition and enforcement of judgments and respect for choice of jurisdiction clauses across the EU in civil cases
- maintain collaboration in policing, security and criminal justice
- work effectively with the legal services sector to promote England and Wales as the jurisdiction of choice, and
- ensuring that legal certainty is maintained throughout the process of withdrawal.

This article has been taken from the Law Society Website from their Press Releases section

<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/press-releases/uks-place-in-global-economy-underpinned-by-strong-legal-sector/>