

SRA BOARD

17 July 2019

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Legal Access Challenge Update

Progress with the Legal Access Challenge is positive, with the awards component of the Challenge attracting more 85 expressions of interests from entrepreneurs, legal professionals, technologists, law schools and charities in the first month.

Alongside the £250,000 development awards for successful participants, our work during the shaping phase has resulted in a comprehensive package of access to expertise for all participants. This will support participants design their products in a way that is consumer-focused, aligned to broader digital initiatives, protects data privacy and can attract investment and support.

The third core component of programme is driving development by bringing people together, including through a dedicated online community, to help build new networks and opportunities for collaboration. The aim is to build a sustainable platform for wider technological innovation across the legal sector, helping to widen access to legal services.

Further work includes exploring the barriers to technology innovation in the legal sector and developing resources to assist with securing investment.

Regulators’ Pioneer Fund award funding

The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) criteria for the funding, favoured collaborative bids made with partner organisations. We have partnered with Nesta on the Legal Access Challenge. The separation of costs between ourselves and Nesta was made clear in our application for the funding and BEIS has been fully sighted on it.

A breakdown of the funding is shown below.

Cost	Amount	Covering
Development grants and final award	£250,000	Four £50,000 development grants to support innovators generate new digital products and services and final award of £50,000
Nesta costs	£300,000	Engagement with stakeholders to design the Challenge and provide a package of expert support for participants Establishing opportunities for collaboration and new partnerships between entrepreneurs, legal professionals, technologists, law schools and charities Supporting innovators to access investment expertise and funding Running the Challenge Evaluation and insight to create an enduring collaborative platform for wider technological innovation in legal service market
Raising awareness	£45,000	Website costs, workshops, innovator recruitment and marketing

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Technical and legal expertise	£55,000	Technical and legal expertise and due diligence on applications
SRA costs	£50,000	Dedicated programme administration to manage the grant, monitoring and auditing requirements