

PDF | THE PROFESSIONAL DEPUTIES FORUM

Each year at the PDF Annual Conference, representatives from our key stakeholders join us to share updates and answer questions. Following the success of last year's approach, the PDF Committee has again submitted questions to stakeholders in advance. This gives them time to prepare, gather relevant information and provide considered answers during the sessions.

We hope this approach makes discussions more productive and engaging for everyone.

The submitted questions can be found below:

Panel Questions 2026

COP – HHJ Carolyn Hilder

1. Looking ahead over the next three to five years, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing the Court of Protection and professional deputyship, and where would you most like to see change or innovation in practice?
2. The Mental Capacity Act contains a requirement to take all practicable steps to support a person to make their own decisions before concluding that they lack capacity, yet many commentators argue that supported decision-making remains underdeveloped in practice. What more, if anything, can the Court do to encourage a culture of support rather than substitution?

SCCO – Master Whalan

1. The PDF understands that there are internal guidance notes that costs officers and judges are following on assessments (ie. Lumb). Practitioners do not have sight of this guidance and are not aware of how assessments may be undertaken and it would be helpful to have greater transparency from the SCCO and likely assist with assessment process. Please can you advise why this internal guidance only and if there is scope for this guidance to be shared with practitioners?
2. The short form bill threshold hasn't been increased since 2004. This was previously introduced by the SCCO. Can the SCCO increase this to make lower value bills quicker to assess and ease the burden on the SCCO? For example, would an inflationary increase/annual increase in line with GHR rates be appropriate?

OPG – Andrew Scott

1. Are you able to list the top 3 things a professional Deputy could do to avoid the potential for challenges to arise with P, ensure the OPG has the information they need to support etc?
2. What challenges do you perceive the OPG will meet over the next 5 to 10 years?



To submit your own questions for answers at the conference, follow the QR code to Slido.