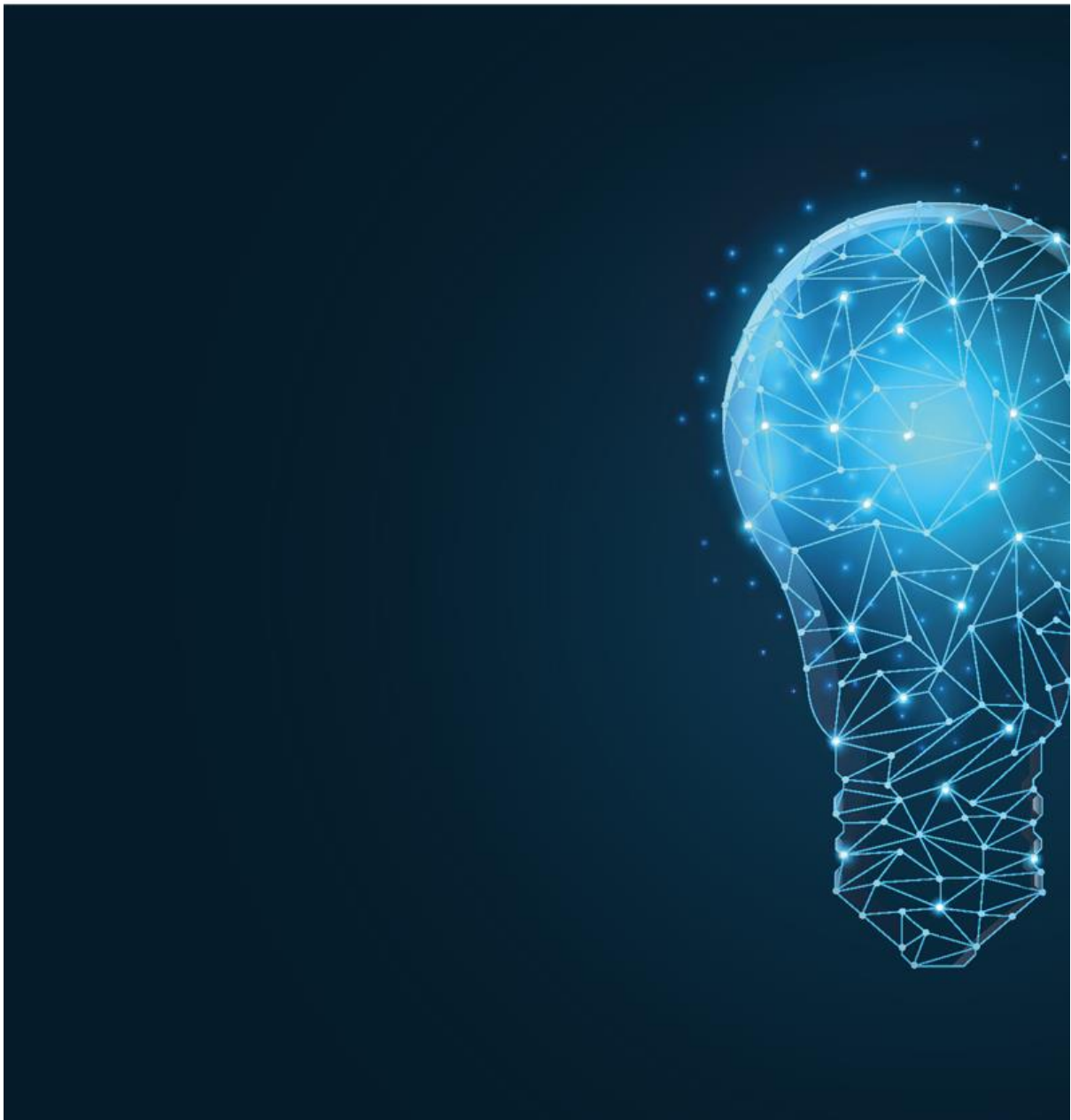




Law Society  
of Scotland



## **Project Overview – improving the buying process for legal tech**

**March 2020**

### **Background**

One of the strategic goals identified by LawscotTech is to understand and address technical barriers to the adoption of new products and technologies by the profession.

In working with members and the LawscotTech community, a barrier identified to adoption is in the high levels of due diligence and data privacy required by law firms, and the ability of new technology companies to demonstrate compliance with these.

Quite often a large burden is put onto these companies (often start-ups) in filling in long questionnaires from law firms before they will consider sharing data with any new platform or system. These will vary by firm and require much duplication of effort.

Members in smaller firms may not have the knowledge or access to IT resource in order to even evaluate whether the use of new technologies will expose them to any information security or privacy risks.

### **Benefits of an improved buying process**

If we can create a much more efficient diligence and compliance process, it will assist member firms to consider adopting new technologies with confidence. It will also allow technology companies to demonstrate compliance in a much more efficient way and with standard collateral and reduce the burden in terms of time and effort involved. Essentially this should encourage confident adoption of technology and innovation in the industry.

### **Project scope**

It is proposed we do this in two stages:

Stage 1 – publish a “Buyers Guide” document which will outline the main areas and questions to ask when adopting any new technology or platform. This will enable technology companies to check their own compliance against this guide and consider their own collateral. It will also allow member firms of any size to confidently consider new technologies and adopt them more quickly.

Stage 2 – the development of a published framework for compliance which would enable technology companies to be assessed and compliance demonstrated at a relatively low cost. This would be based around a recognised Information Security Framework (the National Cyber Security Centre’s Cyber Assessment Framework) but also benchmarked around the existing needs of member firms to ensure it will meet the majority. Member firms can benefit from standardised collateral being available at an early stage to enable new technologies to be adopted quickly and with confidence.

### **Next steps**

Creation of a “Buyers Guide” document to be published on the LawscotTech website to assist members with the buying process. Work on a framework is already under way with three members of the community to help them with their own collateral. A workshop to develop the first draft is scheduled on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Further and open consultation with member firms and tech companies will ensure suitability of

the proposed framework and with information security companies to approve such a framework and ensure assessment would be cost effective for community members. It is proposed that information security companies who are already accredited to perform Cyber Essentials certification would be considered appropriate assessors for the proposed framework.

### **Future development**

There is a consideration that a published framework could also allow tech companies to exhibit a LawscotTech “badge” that they have achieved the assessment. We will need to consider whether this would be restricted to LawscotTech community members only and if such a framework would be a pre-requisite for any Preferred Supplier.