

# WU07

## Notice of progress report in a winding-up by the court



Companies House

For further information, please  
refer to our guidance at  
[www.gov.uk/companieshouse](http://www.gov.uk/companieshouse)

### 1 Company details

Company number 0 5 9 0 7 9 9 2

Company name in full MLL Limited

#### → Filling in this form

Please complete in typescript or in  
bold black capitals.

### 2 Liquidator's name

Full forename(s) Michael Colin John

Surname Sanders

### 3 Liquidator's address

Building name/number 6th Floor

Street 2 London Wall Place

Post town London

County/Region

Postcode E C 2 Y 5 A U

Country

### 4 Liquidator's name ①

Full forename(s) Steven

Surname Illes

#### ① Other liquidator

Use this section to tell us about  
another liquidator.

### 5 Liquidator's address ②

Building name/number 6th Floor

Street 2 London Wall Place

Post town London

County/Region

Postcode E C 2 Y 5 A U

Country

#### ② Other liquidator

Use this section to tell us about  
another liquidator.

WU07

Notice of progress report in a winding-up by the court

**6** Period of progress report

From date	<sup>d</sup> 0	<sup>d</sup> 7	<sup>m</sup> 1	<sup>m</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 0	<sup>y</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 2
To date	<sup>d</sup> 0	<sup>d</sup> 6	<sup>m</sup> 1	<sup>m</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 0	<sup>y</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 3

**7** Progress report

☒ The progress report is attached

**8** Sign and date

Liquidator's signature

Signature

X 

X

Signature date	<sup>d</sup> 0	<sup>d</sup> 1	<sup>m</sup> 0	<sup>m</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 0	<sup>y</sup> 2	<sup>y</sup> 4
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**Presenter information**

You do not have to give any contact information, but if you do it will help Companies House if there is a query on the form. The contact information you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

Contact name **Aron Williams**

Company name **Macintyre Hudson LLP**

Address **6th Floor**

**2 London Wall Place**

Post town **London**

County/Region

Postcode **E C 2 Y 5 A U**

Country

DX

Telephone **0207 429 4100**

**Checklist**

**We may return forms completed incorrectly or with information missing.**

**Please make sure you have remembered the following:**

- ☐ The company name and number match the information held on the public Register.
- ☐ You have attached the required documents.
- ☐ You have signed the form.

**Important information**

**All information on this form will appear on the public record.**

**Where to send**

**You may return this form to any Companies House address, however for expediency we advise you to return it to the address below:**

The Registrar of Companies, Companies House,  
Crown Way, Cardiff, Wales, CF14 3UZ.  
DX 33050 Cardiff.

**Further information**

For further information please see the guidance notes on the website at [www.gov.uk/companieshouse](http://www.gov.uk/companieshouse) or email [enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@companieshouse.gov.uk)

**This form is available in an alternative format. Please visit the forms page on the website at [www.gov.uk/companieshouse](http://www.gov.uk/companieshouse)**

MLL Limited (“the Company”)  
(in Compulsory Liquidation)

**JOINT LIQUIDATORS’ PROGRESS  
REPORT TO CREDITORS AND  
MEMBERS**

For the period ending 6 December 2023

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## STATUTORY INFORMATION

Company name:	MLL Limited  (Formerly T J Legal Limited from 16 August 2006 to 9 January 2019)
Known trading names	MLL, Linder Meyers, Terry Jones, T J Legal, Donnelly & Elliott, Parrott & Coales
Company number:	05907992
Trading address:	Syer House Telford TF3 3BD
Registered office:	6th Floor 2 London Wall Place London EC2Y 5AU
Former registered office:	Sale Point 126-150 Washway Road Sale M33 6AG
Principal trading activity:	Legal Services
Joint Liquidator's name:	Michael Colin John Sanders and Steven Illes
Joint Liquidator's address:	6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, 2 London Wall Place, London, EC2Y 5AU
Date of appointment:	7 December 2022
Court name and reference:	In The High Court of Justice Business And Property Courts Of England And Wales Number 003437 Of 2022

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A summary of the current positions are detailed below:

Asset Type	Estimated to realise as per <b>Director's Statement of Affairs</b> (£)	Realisations in the Reporting Period (£)
Bank Interest Gross	Nil	4,176.10
Book Debts	Nil	83,312.76
Franking Machine Refund	Nil	451.22
Insurance Refund	Nil	2,332.76
IT Equipment	Nil	12,710.00
Motor Vehicles	Nil	833.33
Office Furniture & Equipment	Nil	650.00
Rates Refund	Nil	34,869.86
Utility Refund	Nil	210.97
Will Bank	Nil	67,200.00
Work In Progress	Nil	232,590.21
Total	-	439,337.21

Expense Type	Total Expenses incurred in the Reporting Period (£)	Total Expense paid in the Reporting Period (£)
Office Holders Fees	164,917.90	164,917.90
Office Holders Expenses	359.33	359.33
Storage of Records	687.34	687.34
Agents Fees	4,058.42	4,058.42
Corporation Tax	835.22	835.22
Cheque Fees	0.30	0.30
Employment Agents Fees	7,220.00	7,220.00
Pension Agents Fees	2,300.00	2,300.00
Insurance of assets	411.48	Nil
Legal Expenses	224.00	74.00
Legal Fees	94,200.00	94,200.00
OR's Administration Fee	5,000.00	5,000.00
OR's General Fee	6,000.00	6,000.00
Petitioners Costs	2,679.20	2,679.20
Property Audit Agents Fees	8,628.97	7,008.19
ISA Banking Charges	90.70	90.70
Software Usage Fees	1,500.00	1,500.00
Statutory Advertising	94.30	94.30
Will Bank Storage Costs	35,000.00	35,000.00
Total	334,207.20	332,024.60

Dividends	Distribution/ dividend paid to date (£)
Secured creditors	Nil
Preferential Creditors	100p/£
Unsecured creditors	Nil

## **JOINT LIQUIDATOR'S ACTIONS SINCE APPOINTMENT**

The Company was part of a group under the ownership of Metamorph Group Limited ("Group"). The Company operated as solicitors, and other subsidiaries of Group also acted as solicitors.

Group encountered financial problems during the lockdown period of 2020 caused by COVID, and in November 2022 the directors resolved to place the Company into liquidation together with a number of the other subsidiaries. A Special Resolution to wind-up the Company was passed by its members on 29 November 2022, however, this was superseded at a subsequent winding-up hearing on 30 November 2022, whereby the Company be wound up by court order. Owing to the significant employee issues and in an attempt to secure the assets of the Company, the Joint Liquidators sought an expedited appointment with the Official Receiver, such that Michael Sanders and Steven Illes were appointed Joint Liquidators on 7 December 2022.

Subsequent to our appointment as Liquidators, the Solicitor's Regulation Authority ("SRA") intervened in respect of the Company and their intervening agent, Gordons LLP, immediately seized all Company client records and took control of the Company's Client Account. The reason for this intervention was to protect the clients of the Company and ensure that any ongoing matters were dealt with appropriately.

Immediately upon appointment the Joint Liquidators notified all relevant parties of their appointment including HM Revenue & Customs and Companies House.

At the time of appointment there remained an outstanding balance due to the Company's IT service provider, who was the sole entity with centralised access to all of the Company's systems including but not limited to, the email server, staff information, asset details and financial records.

The Joint Liquidators were unable to settle the amounts outstanding to the IT service provider owing to a lack of funds, and accordingly have been unable to access the records of the Company. This has severely impacted the Joint Liquidators ability to conduct their investigations into the affairs and dealings of the Company.

A significant amount of time has been spent in the Reporting Period in dealing with issues arising with the Company's former employees. This included making the necessary submissions to the Redundancy Payments Services ("RPS"), to allow the former employees to lodge claims. To assist with this, the Joint Liquidators instructed specialist Employment Rights Act agents, Evolve Limited ("Evolve") to assist the employees with making submissions to the RPS. The assistance of Evolve was deemed necessary due to the quantum of employees that were initially thought to have been made redundant, being 178 employees.

In addition to the above, the Joint Liquidators were made aware of issues with the Company's payroll submissions in that the payroll for the month of November 2022 had been processed and submitted to HM Revenue & Customs ("HMRC"), despite payments not been released to all employees. It later transpired that only a few employees actually received payment this month. Due to the lack of funds available, and the issues with the Company's IT access, the Joint Liquidators were not in a position to instruct a payroll specialist to re-submit the November 2022 payroll.

Accordingly, HMRC were written to in order to advise them of the last known date that all former employees received their monthly salary, and notifying them that the November 2022 payroll was incorrectly submitted for a significant majority of the former employees.

Since to the Joint Liquidators' appointment, they have been approached by various law firms advising of outstanding work in progress and debtor balances due to the Company. Recoveries have been made into the Liquidation estate in the Reporting Period in respect of the same.

There is certain work that I am required by the insolvency legislation to undertake in connection with the Liquidation that provides no financial benefit for the creditors. A description of the routine work undertaken since my appointment as Joint Liquidator is contained in Appendix 3.



## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

My Receipts & Payments Account for the Reporting Period is attached at Appendix 2. All amounts are shown net of VAT. I have reconciled the account against the financial records that I am required to maintain and with the Insolvency Services Account ("ISA") operated by The Insolvency Service in respect of the Liquidation.

The balance of funds is held in an interest bearing account at the Insolvency Service.

## ASSETS

The Joint Liquidators' agents, Axia Valuation Services Limited ("Axia"), were instructed to dispose of whatever physical assets were economic to uplift. Their receipts are shown in the Receipts and Payments account.

### IT Equipment

Within the Reporting Period, the Joint Liquidators were able to realise IT Equipment totalling £12,710.

No further realisations are anticipated in respect of this class of asset.

### Motor Vehicles

Within the Reporting Period, the Joint Liquidators were able to realise a total of £833.33 in respect of Motor Vehicles.

No further realisations are anticipated from this class of asset.

### Office Furniture & Equipment

Within the Reporting Period, the Joint Liquidators were able to realise office furniture and equipment totalling £650.

No further realisations are anticipated from this class of asset.

### Book Debts

As a result of the issues set out above concerning issues accessing the Company's accounting records, the Joint Liquidators have not been able to obtain a ledger of the Company's outstanding book debts, and as such it is currently uncertain what level of debts remain to be collected.

During the Reporting Period the Joint Liquidators have realised book debts of £83,312.76.

### Franking Machine Refund

A rebate in the sum of £451.22 has been received in the Reporting Period from the Company's franking machine account provider.

No further recoveries are anticipated from this class of asset.

### Insurance Refund

The Joint Liquidators were contacted by the Company's insurance provider, BUPA, who informed them that a refund was due to the Company. Accordingly, the sum of £2,332.76 was received in the Reporting Period.

No further realisations are anticipated from this class of asset.

### Rates Refund

Following their appointment, the Joint Liquidators instructed a firm of property rates auditors, CAPA, to undertake a review of the business rates paid by the Company and liaise with the Valuation Office Agency to determine if there were any refunds due to the Company.

During the Reporting Period the Joint Liquidators were refunded the sum of £34,869.86 in respect of Rates Refunds.

No further realisations are anticipated from this class of asset.

### Utility Refund

The Joint Liquidators were contacted by the Company's utility provider, OVO Energy, who informed them that a refund was due to the Company. Accordingly, the sum of £210.97 was received in the Reporting Period.

No further realisations are anticipated in respect of this class of asset.

### Will Bank

During the Reporting Period, the Joint Liquidators were made aware of Will Bank, a collection of approximately 105,000 Last Wills and Testaments ("the Will Bank"), relating to the clients of the Company and a connected company Browns Solicitors (Buckinghamshire) Limited, that had been acquired by a connected Company, QS Legal Limited ("QSL").

Following protracted negotiations, the Joint Liquidators were able to negotiate an agreement whereby the Will Bank was purchased by an unconnected third party, Right Legal Group Limited ("RGL") for the sum of £480,000. The payment terms agreed in respect of the Will Bank upon completion, was the lump sum payment of £67,200, followed by deferred consideration to be paid as follows:

- 6 months after completion, RGL will make monthly payments of £12,000; and
- A lump sum payment of £100,000 payable immediately on completion of RGL on "PE/refinancing deal".

Upon completion the following was received:

Description	Amount (£)
Completion Funds Received	67,200
LESS: Legal Fees	(19,200)
LESS: QSL Storage Costs	(35,000)
LESS: Legal Fees – Deed of Surrender	(900)
Balance Received	12,100

The monthly receipts of £12,000 are due to be received from March 2024 onwards.

### Work In Progress

As a result of the issues encountered by the Joint Liquidators in accessing the Company's accounting records, the Joint Liquidators have not been able to obtain a ledger of the Company's outstanding Work in Progress ("WIP"), such that it is currently uncertain whether further realisations will be achieved.

During the Reporting Period the Joint Liquidators have realised WIP of £232,590.21.

### Cash at Bank

Immediately following the Joint Liquidators' appointment the Company's former bankers Lloyds Bank plc ("Lloyds") were requested to remit any credit balances held, which was understood to be £128,682.51.

Despite the Joint Liquidators written requests, Lloyds decided to, upon the request of the SRA, to transfer the full balance of the cash held in the Company's account to them. Despite not specifically relating to client matters, the SRA have not elected to transfer these monies to the Liquidation, as the monies taken were required fund their works.

The Joint Liquidators have been advised that it would be uneconomical to undertake legal action to pursue to SRA. As such, no funds have been realised in this regard.

### Bank Interest Gross

Bank Interest Gross of £4,176.10 has been earned on funds held in the ISA. This has attracted a tax of 20% deducted at source, of £835.

### Petitioner's Deposit

This "asset" represents the funds paid by the petitioning creditor as a deposit for their action taken against the Company.

## LIABILITIES

### Secured Creditors

An examination of the Company's mortgage register held by the Registrar of Companies, showed that the Company has granted the following charges:

Charge Holder	Type of Charge	Date Created	Date Registered
HSBC Bank plc	Fixed and floating	24 December 2018	27 December 2018

The Company's indebtedness to HSBC Bank Plc ("HSBC") amounts to £3.233 million, in accordance with a claim submitted by HSBC.

The legislation requires that if the Company has created a floating charge after 15 September 2003, a prescribed part of the Company's net property (i.e. the money that would otherwise be available to the charge holder) should be ring-fenced for distribution to unsecured creditors. In this case, there were creditors secured by a floating charge such that the prescribed part provisions do apply.

Details regarding the prospect of a dividend being paid, in accordance with the prescribed part provisions, is provided later in this report.

### Preferential Creditors

#### Ordinary Preferential Creditors

Information provided to the Joint Liquidators prior to their appointment, detailed the Company had 178 employees, of which 25 were not transferred under TUPE regulations or resigned of their own accord prior to the commencement of the Liquidation.

It is estimated that there will be claims for arrears of wages for the month of November 2022, together with potential claims for unpaid holiday pay.

The Joint Liquidators have not yet received the RPS' final proof of debt in this regard, such that the quantum

of these claims is unknown.

#### Secondary Preferential Creditors

Information provided to the Joint Liquidators prior to their appointment estimated the sum of £1.170 million being owed to HMRC in respect of their secondary preferential creditor status.

HMRC have since lodged their final proof of debt, totalling £1.466 million, in relation to unpaid VAT, PAYE, Employees NIC and Student Loan deductions.

#### Non-preferential unsecured Creditors

Information provided to the Joint Liquidators prior to their appointment estimated that there were eight non-preferential unsecured creditors with an estimated liability of £10,947,010, of which £10,419,146 related to companies connected by way of common directorship and or control.

During the Reporting Period, the Joint Liquidators have received claims from 34 non-preferential unsecured creditors totalling £7,377,156.

in addition to the above, there will likely be claims arising from the former staff members of the Company in respect of; arrears of wages (over the statutory limit paid by the RPS); Pay in Lieu of Notice; and Redundancy Pay.

As stated above, the Joint Liquidators have not yet received the RPS' final proof of debt form such that these amounts are currently uncertain.

#### DIVIDEND PROSPECTS

##### Fixed charge creditors

There are no assets subject to a fixed charge.

##### Ordinary Preferential creditors

It is currently uncertain if a dividend will be payable to the ordinary preferential creditors.

##### Secondary Preferential Creditors

It is currently uncertain if a dividend will be payable to the secondary preferential creditors.

##### Floating charge creditors

A dividend will not be payable to the creditor holding a floating charge.

##### Non-Preferential Unsecured creditors

As previously advised, the Company gave a floating charge to HSBC on 24 December 2018 and the prescribed part provisions will apply. On the basis of realisations to date, together with estimated future realisations, and after taking into account the costs of the Liquidation to date, the net property of the Company is nil, such that the prescribed part of the net property for unsecured creditors is also nil.

For the avoidance of doubt, a dividend will not be payable to the non-preferential unsecured creditors.

#### INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY

I undertook an initial investigation into the Company's affairs to establish whether there were any potential asset recoveries or conduct matters that justified further investigation, taking account of the

public interest, potential recoveries, the funds likely to be available to fund an investigation, and the costs involved. I am required by the Statements of Insolvency Practice to undertake such an initial investigation and the work detailed below has been undertaken in connection with that initial investigation.

From my initial investigation, I have identified a number of matters that require further review, however I do not propose to provide specific details of these investigations within this Progress Report lest this prejudice any potential future legal action.

## JOINT LIQUIDATOR'S REMUNERATION

My remuneration was approved on a time cost basis based on a fees estimate of £235,758. The fees estimate acts as a cap and I cannot draw remuneration in excess of that estimate without first seeking approval from the creditors.

My total time costs to 6 December 2023 amount to £229,809, representing 492 hours of work at an average charge out rate of £467 per hour.

The actual average charge out rate incurred compares with the estimated average charge out rate of £427 in my fees estimate. There is a difference in the average rate charged, compared with the estimated average rate because a greater amount of time has been spent by employees with a higher charge out rate in dealing with matters such as the negotiation of the sale of the Will Bank and liaising with the various law firms in respect of the recovery of the WIP/ debtor balances due to the Company.

I have drawn remuneration totalling £164,917.90 in the Reporting Period.

A detailed schedule of my time costs incurred to date, compared with my original fees estimate, is attached at Appendix 3.

As can be seen, my incurred time costs of £229,809 have not yet exceeded my fees estimate of £235,758. However, I envisage that within the next Reporting Period, my time costs will have exceeded the fees cap. As set out above, various aspects of the case (notably the handling of the Will Bank sale and dealing with employee related matters) have taken considerably longer to conclude than was originally envisaged.

As it is likely that time costs incurred will exceed that which was approved by creditors in my fees estimate, the Joint Liquidators will consider seeking an increase to their fees estimate, within the next reporting period.

The following sub-contractors have undertaken work on this case within the Reporting Period:

Sub-contractor	Nature of Work	Fee Arrangement
AADD Ltd CAPA	Conversion of Bank Statements Property Rates Audit	Fixed Fee % of realisations

AADD Ltd were instructed to convert the Company's bank statements from a PDF format to an excel format. I sub-contracted this work because, due to the large quantity of statements provided by the Company's former bankers it was cheaper than performing this task in house, and has allowed for a swift analysis of such statements.

To date I have paid £1,500 plus VAT, to AADD Ltd for work done. I have reviewed the charges they have made and am satisfied that they are reasonable in the circumstances of this case. I do not anticipate that any further payments will be made to AADD Ltd in this case.

CAPA were instructed to undertake an audit of the Company's business rates payments in relation to a number of the Company's trading premises. I sub-contracted this work because CAPA are specialists in this field.

To date I have paid £8,628 to CAPA for work that they have undertaken. I have reviewed the charges they have made and am satisfied that they are reasonable in the circumstances of this case. I do not anticipate that any further payments will be made to CAPA in this case.

The choice of sub-contractors was based on my perception of their experience and ability to perform this type of work and the complexity and nature of the assignment. I consider that the basis on which they will charge their fees represents value for money.

Further information about creditors' rights can be obtained by visiting the creditors' information micro-site published by the Association of Business Recovery Professionals (R3) at <http://www.creditorinsolvencyguide.co.uk/>. Details about how an office holder's fees may be approved for each case type are available in a series of Guidance Notes issued with Statement of Insolvency Practice 9, and they can be accessed at <https://www.mha.co.uk/?/guides-to-fees/>. There are different versions of these Guidance Notes, and in this case please refer to the most recent version. Please note that we have also provided further information about an office holder's remuneration and expenses in our practice fee recovery sheet, which is enclosed at Appendix 4

## JOINT LIQUIDATOR'S EXPENSES

Expenses are any payments from the estate which are neither an office holder's remuneration nor a distribution to a creditor or a member. Expenses also includes disbursements. Disbursements are payments which are first met by the office holder and then reimbursed to the office holder from the estate. Expenses are split into:

- Category 1 expenses, which are payments to persons providing the service to which the expense relates who are not an associate of the office holder; and
- Category 2 expenses, which are payments to associates or which have an element of shared costs. Before being paid Category 2 expenses require approval in the same manner as an office holder's remuneration.

I have incurred total expenses of £169,312.01 During the Reporting Period. I have been able to recover totalling £165,020.02. A summary of the expenses incurred in the Reporting Period is shown below:

Type of expense	Amount incurred/ accrued in the Reporting Period (£)
Travel	339.33
Bonding	20.00
Storage of Records	687.34
Agents Fees	4,058.42
Corporation Tax	835.22
Cheque Fees	0.30
Employment Rights Act Agents Fees	7,220.00
Employment Rights Act Pension Agents Fees	2,300
Insurance of assets	411.48
Legal Expenses	224.00
Legal Fees	94,200.00
OR's Administration Fee	5,000.00
OR's General Fee	6,000.00
Petitioners Costs	2,679.20
Property Audit Agents Fees	8,628.97
ISA Banking Charges	90.70
Software Usage Fees	1,500.00
Statutory Advertising	94.30
Will Bank Storage Costs	35,000.00
Total	169,312.01

I have used the following professional advisors in the Reporting Period:

Professional Advisor	Nature of Work	Basis of Fees
Axia Valuation Services Limited	Asset valuation and disposal	% of realisations
EvolveIS Limited	Employee Claims	Fixed per number of employee
EvolveIS Limited	Pension Claims	Fixed per number of employee
Pinsent Mason	Solicitors	Time Costs
HCR	Solicitors	Time Costs
Ashtons Legal	Solicitors	Time Costs

The choice of professionals used was based on my perception of their experience and ability to perform this type of work, the complexity and nature of the assignment and the basis of my fee arrangement with them. I also confirmed that they hold appropriate regulatory authorisations. I have reviewed the fees they have charged and am satisfied that they are reasonable in the circumstances of this case.

Details of the Category 1 expenses that I have paid to date are included in the Receipts and Payments account attached.

Nature of expense	Estimated expenses (£)	Expenses incurred to date (£)
OR Company Administration Fee	5,000	5,000
OR General Fee	6,000	6,000
HMRC Petition Costs	10,000	2,679.20
Joint Liquidators' Expenses - Travel	100	339.33
Joint Liquidators' Expenses - bonding	500	20.00
Legal fees - Pinsent Masons LLP	30,000	32,805.00
Legal fees - HCR Sprecher Grier LLP	50,000	41,295.00
Legal Fees – Ashton Legal	0.00	20,100.00
Legal Expenses	5,000	224.00
Agents/ Valuers Fees	5,000	4,058.42
Agents/ Valuers Expenses	1,000	0.00
Agents Fees - Employee Claims	7,220	7,220.00
Agents Fees - Pension Claims	2,300	2,300.00
Corporation Tax	0.00	835.22
Cheque Fees	0.00	0.30
Property Audit Agents Fees	0.00	8628.97
Software Usage Fees	1,500.00	1500.00
Statutory Advertising	94.00	94.30
Insurance of Assets	500.00	411.48
Storage Costs - Company Records	500.00	693.34
Storage Costs – Will Bank	0.00	35,000.00
Quarterly Banking Charges	264.00	90.70
ISA Payment Fees	50.00	0
Total	125,028	169,295.26

As you can see above, the total expenses I have incurred in this matter to date have exceeded the total expenses I estimated I would incur when my remuneration was approved.

The reasons I have exceeded the estimate of expenses are principally due to incurring the costs associated with the Will Bank. These relate to costs incurred by QS Legal Limited t/as Quality Solicitors for storing the Will Bank during the sale negotiations.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

An unsecured creditor may, with the permission of the Court, or with the concurrence of 5% in value of the unsecured creditors (including the creditor in question), request further details of the Liquidator's

remuneration and expenses within 21 days of their receipt of this report. Any secured creditor may request the same details in the same time limit.

An unsecured creditor may, with the permission of the Court, or with the concurrence of 10% in value of the unsecured creditors (including the creditor in question), apply to Court to challenge the amount of remuneration charged by the Liquidator as being excessive, and/or the basis of the Liquidator's remuneration, and/or the amount of the expenses incurred as being excessive, within 8 weeks of their receipt of this report. Any secured creditor may make a similar application to Court within the same time limit.

To comply with the Provision of Services Regulations, some general information about MHA can be found at <https://www.mha.co.uk/legal-disclaimer/>

## SUMMARY

The Liquidation will remain open until all funds in respect of WIP, debtors and the Will Bank have been realised where possible and the Joint Liquidators have fully concluded their investigations and any legal action which might arise as a result. Once these have been completed the Joint Liquidators will assess if there are sufficient realisations to pay a dividend to the preferential creditors. I estimate that this will take approximately 10-12 months and once resolved the Liquidation will be finalised and my files will be closed.

If creditors have any queries regarding the conduct of the Liquidation, or if they want hard copies of any of the documents made available on-line, they should contact Aron Williams by email at [aron.williams@mha.co.uk](mailto:aron.williams@mha.co.uk), or by phone on 0207 429 4100.



MICHAEL COLIN JOHN SANDERS  
JOINT LIQUIDATOR  
AUTHORISED TO ACT IN THE UK BY THE INSOLVENCY PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION



## Appendix 1 – Estimated Outcome Statement

Appendix 2 – Receipts and Payments for the Reporting Period

**MLL Limited  
(In Liquidation)  
Joint Liquidators' Summary of Receipts & Payments**

Statement of Affairs £	From 07/12/2022 To 06/12/2023 £	From 07/12/2022 To 06/12/2023 £
ASSET REALISATIONS		
Bank Interest Gross	4,176.10	4,176.10
Book Debts	83,312.76	83,312.76
Franking Machine Refund	451.22	451.22
Insurance Refund	2,332.76	2,332.76
IT Equipment	12,710.00	12,710.00
Motor Vehicles	833.33	833.33
Office Furniture & Equipment	650.00	650.00
Rates Refunds	34,869.86	34,869.86
Utility Refund	210.97	210.97
Will Bank	67,200.00	67,200.00
Work In Progress	232,590.21	232,590.21
	<u>439,337.21</u>	<u>439,337.21</u>
COST OF REALISATIONS		
Agents Fees	4,058.42	4,058.42
Corporation Tax	835.22	835.22
DTI Cheque Fees	0.30	0.30
Employment Rights Act Agent's Fees	7,220.00	7,220.00
Legal Expenses	74.00	74.00
Legal Fees	94,200.00	94,200.00
Office Holders Expenses	359.33	359.33
Office Holders Fees	164,917.90	164,917.90
Official Receiver Administration Fee	5,000.00	5,000.00
Official Receiver General Fee	6,000.00	6,000.00
Petitioners Deposit	(1,600.00)	(1,600.00)
Property Audit Agent's Fees	7,008.19	7,008.19
Sec of State Fees	90.70	90.70
Software Usage Fees	1,500.00	1,500.00
Statutory Advertising	94.30	94.30
Storage Costs	687.34	687.34
Will Bank Storage Costs	35,000.00	35,000.00
	<u>(325,445.70)</u>	<u>(325,445.70)</u>
	<u><b>113,891.51</b></u>	<u><b>113,891.51</b></u>
REPRESENTED BY		
ISA NIB		110,854.82
Vat Payable		(59,968.60)
Vat Receivable		63,005.29
		<u><b>113,891.51</b></u>

## Appendix 3 – Detail of Work Undertaken During the Reporting Period

### 1. Administration

This represents the work involved in the routine administrative functions of the case by the office holder and their staff, together with the control and supervision of the work done on the case by the office holder (and their managers). It does not give direct financial benefit to the creditors, but has to be undertaken by the office holder to meet their requirements under the insolvency legislation and the Statements of Insolvency Practice, which set out required practice that office holders must follow.

- Case planning - devising an appropriate strategy for dealing with the case and giving instructions to the staff to undertake the work on the case.
- Setting up electronic case files.
- Setting up the case on the practice's electronic case management system and entering data.
- Issuing the statutory notifications to creditors and other required on appointment as office holder, including gazetting the office holder's appointment.
- Obtaining a specific penalty bond.
- Convening and holding a decision procedure to approve the officeholder's remuneration.
- Supervising the work of advisors instructed on the case to assist in dealing with pension schemes; obtaining reports and updates from them on the work done; and checking the adequacy of the work done.
- Dealing with all routine correspondence and emails relating to the case.
- Maintaining and managing the ISA.
- Creating, maintaining and managing the office holder's cashbook.
- Undertaking regular bank reconciliations of the bank account containing estate funds.
- Reviewing the adequacy of the specific penalty bond on a quarterly basis.
- Undertaking periodic reviews of the progress of the case.
- Overseeing and controlling the work done on the case by case administrators.
- Preparing, reviewing and issuing an annual progress report to creditors and members.
- Filing returns at Companies House.
- Preparing and filing VAT returns.
- Preparing and filing Corporation Tax returns.

### 2. Creditors

Employees - The office holder needs to deal with the ex-employees in order to ensure that their claims are processed appropriately by the RPS. The office holder is required to undertake this work as part of their statutory functions.

Claims of creditors - the office holder needs to maintain up to date records of the names and addresses of creditors, together with the amounts of their claims as part of the management of the case, and to ensure that notices and reports can be issued to the creditors. The office holder also needs to deal with correspondence and queries received from creditors regarding their claims and dividend prospects as they are received. The office holder is required to undertake this work as part of his statutory functions.

- Obtaining information from the case records about employee claims.
- Completing documentation for submission to the RPS.
- Corresponding with employees regarding their claims.
- Supervising the work of advisors instructed on the case to assist in dealing with employee claims; obtaining reports and updates from them on the work done; and checking the adequacy of the work done.
- Liaising with the RPS regarding employee claims.
- Dealing with creditor correspondence, emails and telephone conversations regarding their claims.
- Maintaining up to date creditor information on the case management system.

3. Investigations

- Liaising with the Company's IT service provider regarding access to the company's internal accounting and systems.
- Liaising with the Company's former bankers, HSBC Bank Plc and Lloyds Bank Plc, regarding the closure of the Company's accounts and provision of copy bank statements.
- Undertaking an analysis of the bank statements obtained.
- Overseeing the collection Company records from the trading premises.

4. Realisation of Assets

- Instructing Axia to assist with the inspection, valuation and disposal of the company's tangible assets including IT equipment, Office Furniture & Equipment and Motor Vehicles.
- Requesting the transfer of credit balances held in bank accounts operated by the Company.
- Corresponding with the SRA's regarding the cash at bank collected by them and the prospect of those funds being remitted to the ISA.
- Instruction of CAPA to assist with conducting a property rates audit, resulting in a number of refunds due to the Company.
- Recovery of insurance, franking machine and utility refunds due to the Company.
- Recovery of trade debtor balances owed to the Company by other legal practices.
- Recovery of WIP owed to the Company by other legal practices.
- Negotiating the sale of the Company's Will Bank.

Appendix 4 – Tabular comparison of Time Costs actually incurred with the Fees Estimate

	Fees Estimate			Reporting Period		
SIP 9 Category	Estimated time costs £	Estimated No. of hours	Average charge out rate £	Time costs incurred £	No. of hours	Average charge out rate £
Administration and Planning	60,634.00	188.80	321.15	16,818.75	54.05	311.17
Case Accounts	-	-	-	810.00	1.80	450.00
Case Review and Case Diary Management	-	-	-	633.50	1.40	452.50
Cashiering	-	-	-	17,427.65	58.87	296.04
Communication with Creditors	61,175.00	135.90	450.15	15,917.25	37.85	420.54
Corresponding with Employees	-	-	-	13,800.50	28.90	477.53
Employees	-	-	-	16,837.75	34.25	491.61
Floating Charge Realisations	-	-	-	2,090.50	3.70	565.00
Identifying, Securing and Insuring Assets	-	-	-	1,505.50	3.00	501.83
Investigations	20,870.00	51.00	407	7,006.00	16.60	422.05
Management of Operations	-	-	-	14,690.00	26.00	565.00
Meetings	-	-	-	584.00	1.60	365.00
Realisation of Assets	93,169.00	175.90	529.67	115,304.50	206.80	557.57
Secured Creditors	-	-	-	975.50	1.70	573.82
Statutory Reporting Matters	-	-	-	5,408.00	15.30	353.46
Strategy Case Planning	-	-	-	5,245.00	10.90	481.19
Totals:	235,758.00	551.60	£427.41	229,809.40	491.82	467.26

## SIP 9 analysis of Time costs incurred during the Reporting Period

### MLL Limited (Winding up by the Court)

Analysis of time costs for the period 07 December 2022 to 06 December 2023

Classification of Work	Partner		Director		Manager		Administrator		Assistant		Cashiering		Total Hours	Time Cost	Average Hourly Rate
	Hours	Cost (£)	Hours	Cost (£)	Hours	Cost (£)	Hours	Cost (£)	Hours	Cost (£)	Hours	Cost (£)			
Administration and Planning	1.15	655.75	1.00	585.00	6.20	2,702.00	25.70	8,202.00	20.00	4,864.00	0.00	0.00	54.05	16,818.75	311.17
Case Accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.80	810.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.80	810.00	450.00
Case Review and Case Diary Management	0.30	178.50	0.00	0.00	0.80	360.00	0.30	99.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	633.50	452.50
Cashiering	0.50	260.00	0.30	169.50	1.50	659.00	28.20	9,552.00	6.97	1,469.65	21.40	5,257.50	58.87	17,427.65	296.04
Communication with Creditors	2.05	1,170.25	9.40	5,431.00	3.60	1,584.00	22.80	7,732.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.85	15,917.25	420.54
Corresponding with Employees	10.70	6,045.50	7.00	4,030.00	0.30	126.00	10.90	3,598.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.90	13,800.50	477.53
Employees	0.00	0.00	22.35	12,693.75	2.60	1,118.00	9.30	3,026.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.25	16,837.75	491.61
Floating Charge Realisations	0.00	0.00	3.70	2,090.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.70	2,090.50	565.00
Identifying, Securing and Insuring Assets	0.00	0.00	2.10	1,204.50	0.00	0.00	0.90	391.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	1,595.50	531.83
Investigations	0.70	365.50	4.90	2,818.50	0.20	88.00	10.80	3,708.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.60	7,008.00	422.05
Management of Operations	0.00	0.00	26.00	14,690.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.00	14,690.00	565.00
Meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	344.00	0.80	249.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.60	593.00	365.00
Realisation of Assets	36.60	20,889.00	149.90	87,489.50	0.20	88.00	20.10	8,861.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	206.80	115,304.50	557.57
Secured Creditors	0.00	0.00	1.70	975.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	975.50	573.82
Statutory Reporting Matters	0.00	0.00	1.40	791.00	0.30	126.00	13.60	4,488.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.30	5,408.00	353.46
Strategy Case Planning	1.60	1,073.50	3.10	1,844.50	3.40	1,468.00	2.50	829.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.60	5,245.00	481.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.60</b>	<b>30,869.00</b>	<b>232.25</b>	<b>134,800.25</b>	<b>19.60</b>	<b>8,691.00</b>	<b>147.70</b>	<b>49,444.00</b>	<b>26.97</b>	<b>6,163.65</b>	<b>21.40</b>	<b>5,257.50</b>	<b>491.82</b>	<b>228,809.40</b>	<b>467.26</b>
<b>Average Hourly Rate: £</b>		<b>569.54</b>		<b>578.91</b>		<b>438.73</b>		<b>334.76</b>		<b>228.54</b>		<b>245.68</b>			

## Appendix 5 – MHA's Fee and Expense Recovery Policy

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### Restructuring and Recovery - CHARGE OUT RATES

The below information is to assist creditors in making an informed decision on any resolution seeking approval of the office holder's remuneration.

MHA's Restructuring and Recovery charge out rates (exclusive of VAT).

Our current charge-out rates which may be amended from time to time are as follows:

Position	Rates from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023	1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024
Partner	565	595
Director	475 - 565	595
Manager	350 - 450	450 - 475
<b>Administrators</b>		
Senior Administrator	235 - 330	350
Administrator	250 - 310	220 - 325
Assistant	190 - 195	220
Cashier	205	250

It is the firm's policy to recharge all disbursements properly incurred to the relevant insolvency case where there is identifiable specific expenditure. Any costs which may involve an element of shared or allocated costs or are for services provided by the firm, are detailed in the firm's receipts and payments accounts as 'Category 2 Disbursements'.

MHA's Restructuring and Recovery disbursements charges (exclusive of VAT).

Our current disbursement charges which may be amended from time to time are as follows:

Disbursement	Charge £
Photocopying	15p per copy
Postage	per current postal charges
Travel	As per cost
Car Mileage	48p per mile
Document storage (internal)	70p per box per month
Storage	£5 per box per month
Room Suite 1 & 2 half day/evening hire	£150
Room Suite 1 & 2 full day	£300
Room Suite 1, 2 & 3 half day/evening	£200
Room Suite 1, 2 & 3 full day	£400

Please note that no charge is made relating to the recovery of the firm's overhead costs.

#### Contact

Should you require clarification on any of the above, do not hesitate to contact us on **+44(0)20 7429 4100** or email: [MHARestructuringRecovery@mhllp.co.uk](mailto:MHARestructuringRecovery@mhllp.co.uk)

[mha.co.uk](http://mha.co.uk)

MHA is the trading name of Macmillan Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership registered in England with registered number 062 32 13. A list of partners names is open for inspection at its registered office 221, Salisbury Square, London EC4A 3DF.



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