

## Clarity breakfast on 3 February: Alternative ways to present legal information

Lawyers, consultants, Parliamentary Counsel and information designers were all playing with coloured pens, to clarify 5 lines of confusing instructions by presenting the information visually. Suggested solutions ranged from the purely visual to the purely verbal. We supported meaning with colours, icons, logos, shapes, sizes, underlining, layout and pictures. Parliamentary Counsel showed us how the instructions would look if drafted as a clause in a Bill. A publisher showed us how they could look in a one-page poster, combining logos, table, layout and flowchart. Others compiled flow charts, compiled tables and drew pictures.

### Points that emerged from the experience

- Tables worked well for those who understood the information and knew what to look for. They gave a structured overview.
- Flowcharts worked well as a guide for the occasional user, guiding them through to an answer.
- The full complexity of a question-and-answer flow chart could be offputting, unless hidden from the user by an on-screen process.
- An important question was where to begin: which question should go at the top of the flowchart? The answer was not always obvious. It might depend on which was the easiest to answer, or the most common situation, or would lead to fewer branches further down the chart.
- All the visual solutions had advantages over the text-only.

### Published visual solutions to legal information

- Incoterms 2010 (standard contract rules covering delivery and insurance, illustrated by a diagram): <http://www.iccwbo.org/products-and-services/trade-facilitation/incoterms-2010/>
- Creative Commons licences identified by initials and logos: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>.
- [Disconnect.me](http://disconnect.me) hack day in 2012 supported by Mozilla, working on data privacy alerts: <https://icons.disconnect.me/icons>
- Parliamentary hackathon in 2013: <http://rewiredstate.org/hacks/uk-parliament-hack-2013>

- Helena Haapio's work on contract visualisation: <http://www.lexpert.com/en/visualisation/index.htm>
- Candy Chang's visual version of regulations for New York street vendors: <http://candychang.com/street-vendor-guide/>
- Stefania Passera's Legal Design Jams: <http://legaldesignjam.com/author/stefania/>

**More on visual presentation of legal information: half day seminar on 9 April 2014**

Clarity is joining forces with the Simplification Centre and the Information Design Association to present a half-day programme on visual design of legal information, from 1.00 to 5.30pm on Wednesday 9 April in central London. For more information, go to [Clearer Legal Information](#). Clarity members who sign up before 15 March get a reduced rate.