

Nick Gould: Director of SME Alliance. Partner at Gunner Cooke

" Being in a lawyer dominated environment today and indeed this week, I believe no one should ignore the apparent role that the profession continues to have on the matters being discussed during this specific session Sadly I think I need to make it abundantly clear (and there seems to be plenty of real evidence to back this up) that many lawyers in the uk are seen as supporting (without questioning) the management of certain banks etc as they continue to declare what can only be described as a scorched earth policy against many SMEs, pouring tens of millions of pounds into legal fees to take on the SMEs, instead of agreeing to look for a fair and sensible solution. The fact that over \$200 billion in fines against the banks worldwide has been levied so far , makes the point. Neither of the SRA or the Law Society in the uk, or indeed many of the relevant law firms themselves, are doing anything to provide any positive or redeeming features, in the face of what appears to many members of smealliance as well as on a much wider basis to be a profession in crisis. The piece I read from Nick Gould (himself a lawyer) earlier, mentioned the so called silo effect. Without many more of you and many others here this week, understanding the damage that a part of the legal profession is doing to a very significant number of businesses , we think the profession will continue to sink, as it has been doing for several years now. It is also why we would urge more academics to take an interest in what smealliance members are saying. Lectures , seminars and debates about company law, governance, transparency and financial services are all well and good, but again won't and can't work in a vacuum."

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