

Margaret Hope
Solicitors Regulation Authority
DX 19114 Redditch

26 November 2008

Dear Ms. Hope,

Response to Legal Services Act - Consultation paper 12 – Fee Raising Policy for 2009

Birmingham Law Society (BLS) responds to this consultation paper as follows:

1. Paragraph 13 appears to round the proportionate split of the fee in favour of regulation at the expense of the compensation fund. A precise split in the ratio set out in para 9 produces £167 for regulation and £133 for the fund. BLS believe that any “rounding” should be in favour of the fund and not regulation, especially given the experience of the demands on the fund in the last recession. There is no justification for “rounding” against the fund.
2. Other detailed points are considered to be de-minimis having regard to the short transitional period and the cost involved in a more sophisticated approach. BLS therefore supports the paper save for the point in the paragraph above.
3. BLS urges strongly that consultation should take place as soon as possible, and in any event with plenty of time for detailed consideration, in respect of the “significant change” (para 2) predicted for 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Coates
President
Birmingham Law Society