**RESPONSE OF BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY (“BLS”) TO SRA CONSULTATION PAPER**

**ANNUAL KEEPING OF THE ROLL EXERCISE**

**MAY 2013**

BLS welcomes this paper and accepts in its entirety the reasons which lie behind the proposal. It has long considered that the process of making yearly applications places an unnecessary burden on retired and non-practising solicitors whilst serving very little purpose for the regulator. Indeed, the paper recognises that the process carries with it costs which, it is suspected, are barely covered by the fee and diverts valuable resources away from far more important areas of regulation. The problem of the Roll becoming gradually outdated as solicitors die appears to have little, if any, impact on regulation and would be rectified when the SRA uses the proposed residual power to conduct the exercise at appropriate intervals.

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**Eileen Schofield**

**President**

**Birmingham Law Society**

 **May 2014**