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Dear Jonathan

Law Society press release on McKenzie Friends consultation

I read the press release that The Law Society issued on 9 June 2016, which accompanied your response to the JEB consultation on McKenzie Friends. I was and am concerned that your press release attributed views to the LSB that do not reflect what we said in our response.

In particular, the following extracts from your press release do not accurately represent our position:

- *Proposals to curtail the ability of 'McKenzie Friends' to recover fees in the wake of a successful court action were today backed by the Law Society of England and Wales which warned that the Legal Services Board (LSB) and the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) were wrong to suggest legal aid cuts could be offset by unleashing non-professionals on the courts.*

Our response does not mention legal aid at any point.

- *"Cuts to legal aid have left many people unable to afford professional legal advice when they need it. But the Legal Services Board (LSB) and Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) are wrong to say that the best way to mitigate the damaging consequences of legal aid cuts is to allow non-professionals, who do not need to meet any standards of knowledge or performance, and do not offer clients the same rights of redress if something goes wrong, to charge vulnerable clients a fee.*

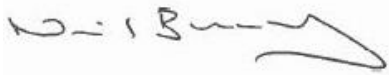
As above, our response does not reference legal aid cuts and does not present McKenzie Friends as a means of mitigating the impact of such cuts. This reference is very misleading.

- *It is disappointing to see the LSB and SRA promoting the false assumption that fee-charging McKenzie friends are cheaper than lawyers.*

Again, there are no grounds for this comment, as our response does not comment on the relative cost of different providers.

I am disappointed that The Law Society has commented on the LSB's response in such a way that it could mislead other stakeholders and the public about what we have said. We intend to publish this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Buckley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil Buckley
Chief Executive

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