

By e-mail only



**LEGAL SERVICES
BOARD**

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Mr P F B Beesley and Mr H J Dellar
Joint Registrars
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18 August 2014

Dear Peter and Howard

Application under Section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007

On 6 August 2014 we received your application under Section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007 seeking approval of for the practising certificate fee for Notaries for the year commencing 1 November 2014.

I am pleased to inform you that the 2014/15 practising certificate fee, including the contribution to the contingency fund, has been approved. This decision has been made under the authority delegated to me as the Chief Executive.

In reaching our decision there is one matter I would like to comment on, which is in respect of the increase in contribution level from £40 to £80. The LSB understands the rationale for increasing the contribution, and recognise it is sensible for there to be sufficient contingency for the next two years. Nonetheless, concern was raised in the assessment about how the Master of the Faculties will minimise the risk of further such large calls on the fund from disciplinary cases.

We were therefore reassured by your statement in the application that the Master of the Faculties was exploring ways of ensuring that costs in future disciplinary cases are kept to more realistic levels while maintaining a process that is fair and accountable, both to complainants and the profession. We also hope that the additional inspection powers which the Faculty Office now has will enable you to gather evidence which can inform the way in which disciplinary cases are managed and pursued in the future.

I would be grateful if you could keep the LSB informed, perhaps through the regulatory standards work, about how your approach to inspections and disciplinary procedures is being reviewed and managed efficiently and fairly.

Yours sincerely



Chris Kenny
Chief Executive

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Cc Neil Turpin, Clerk, The Faculty Office