

Mr S Crowne
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27 January 2017

Dear Stephen

Approval of 2016/17 Practising Certificate Fee (PCF) application made by The Bar Council to the Legal Services Board (LSB) under section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007

I am now able to confirm that the levels of the 2017/18 practising certificates fees as set out in the application of 13 December 2016 have been approved by LSB. We are content that the information provided met the criteria of LSB's Practising Fee Rules 2016. This decision has been made under the authority delegated to me as the Chief Executive.

In approving what is a significant increase in the PCF levels, we have given close consideration to the financial demands on the Bar Council. We recognise that the Bar Council is responsible for making the payments to address the deficit in the defined benefit pension scheme and has in recent years done so without having to rely on PCF income. We are approving this application on the understanding, as set out in the application (section 3), that once the pension deficit has been discharged, then £1.3m will be removed from the PCF calculation.

We will continue to have a close focus on regulatory costs and, as expressed in our decision letter for the 2016/17 PCF application, our view is that these should be going down not up. Where opportunities for savings and efficiencies are identified and realised, we expect to see these reflected in future applications.

I have sent a letter, in identical terms to Vanessa Davies, Director of the Bar Standards Board (BSB), and we will publish a copy of each letter on the LSB's website in the next few working days.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Buckley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil Buckley
Chief Executive

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