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07 November 2017

Dear Fran

Application by Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg) under section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007 for the approval of the level of the practising fees 2018

Thank you for your application on behalf of IPReg under section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007 (the Act) and the Legal Services Board's (LSB) Practising Fee Rules 2016 (the Rules).

I am pleased to inform you that the 2018 practising fees have been approved. This decision has been made under the authority delegated to me as Chief Executive by the LSB.

We are pleased that the PCF for 2018 remains unchanged.

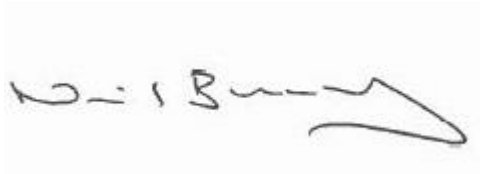
I have just one issue to comment on. Our decision letter for the 2017 fee expressed the hope that there would be scope to reduce PCF levels rather than transfer surpluses to reserves. We note and were encouraged to see that the IPReg Board did consider whether to reduce the level of reserves this time. It decided, however, that it would maintain them at the current levels to ensure that IPReg is able to respond appropriately to events as they occur during the coming year. The application referred to the examples of changes required as a consequence of the General Data Protection Regulation and/or changes needed to ensure the effective operation and maintenance of the Registers.

It is not for the LSB to determine the spending priorities and budgets of approved regulators as part of its section 51 role. We nonetheless hope that the Board will continue to consider reducing PCF when it can. I am glad therefore that the IPReg Board has committed to keeping its reserves policy under review.

We will be publishing a copy of this decision letter on our website in the next few working days. Please contact Paul Greening (paul.greening@legalservicesboard.org.uk or 020 7271 0075) if you have any questions.

I am copying this letter to Lee Davies at CIPA and Keven Bader at CITMA for information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end.

Neil Buckley
Chief Executive