Sheila Kumar
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The Chief Executive's Office Legal Services Board One Kemble Street London WC2B 4AN

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4 September 2018

Dear Sheila

Approval of the application made by the Council for Licensed Conveyancers (CLC) to the Legal Services Board (LSB) under section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007 (the Act) for the level of practising fees for 2018/19

I am pleased to inform you that the 2018/19 Licence Fee and Practice Fee levels as set out in your application of 3 August 2018 have been approved by the LSB. This decision has been made under the authority delegated to me as Chief Executive by the LSB Board.

We are content that the information that you have provided meets the criteria set out in the LSB's Practising Fee Rules 2016. We note that the level of the licence fee charged to CLC lawyers providing conveyancing and/or probate services remains unchanged and we welcome the reduction in the practice fee rates.

The CLC did not receive any responses to its 2018 consultation on fees. When we meet on 14 September 2018, I would like to discuss measures that the CLC could take to improve engagement with its consultation process. For example, fee consultations would usually include an expenditure projection and clear fee proposal for consultees to consider and respond to. There are parallels here to issues raised on consultation process in our decision notice of 30 August 2018 on CLC transparency changes.

The application also contained the proposed levels of Compensation Fund contribution for 2018/19, at the same levels since 2011. Compensation Fund contributions are not within the definition of permitted activities and so do not require approval under section 51. Provisions for the future levels of contributions do, however, need to be approved or exempted as alterations to regulatory arrangements. An Exemption Direction (issued under paragraph 3 of Schedule 4 to the Act) is issued today approving this contribution level.

We were grateful for the additional information provided in the course of the assessment.

Please contact Chris Nichols (chris.nichols@legalservicesboard.org.uk or 020 7271 0083) if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Neil Buckley

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Chief Executive

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