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27 October 2011

Dear Ann

Approval of the application made by the Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg) to the Legal Services Board (LSB) under section 51 of the Legal Services Act 2007 for 2012

I am pleased to inform you that the 2012 practising certificate fee (PCF) levels, as set out in your application of 6 October and supporting documents received 20 October 2011, have been approved by the LSB. This decision was made under the authority delegated to me as the LSB's Strategy Director after taking the advice of the LSB's Chairman. Under the LSB's Scheme of Delegations, the authority of the Strategy Director is enacted in the absence of the Chief Executive, whom the LSB Board delegated powers to approve PCF applications.

We are content that the information you have provided indicates that the criteria within the Board's Practising Fee Rules 2009 have been met. I am grateful for the additional information received on 25 October, clarifying that control of the income raised through the PCF and to be applied to the cost associated with an application to become a Licensing Authority, lie with IPReg. We also thank you for your reassurance that there is no compulsory element to the membership fees of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) or the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (ITMA), when applying or renewing a practising certificate with IPReg.

We look forward to maintaining dialogue with IPReg to ensure we continue to improve the process for next year's application. Below, we highlight two issues which we would expect to be addressed for next year's PCF round.

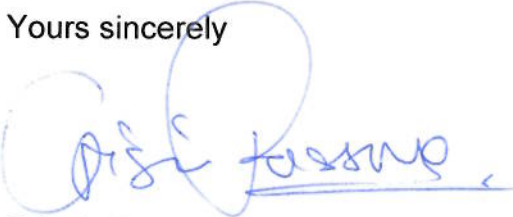
First, we note that the application included a full consultation with individuals and entities regulated by IPReg, but there was no specific mention of any consultation undertaken with non-commercial bodies. Although we take the view that it is likely that there are few charities involved in intellectual property as providers, all future applications should include consultation with non-commercial bodies as a general rule or give an explanation as to

why their views have not been sought, which might refer to the relevance of charities providing legal services within IPReg's regulated community.

Second, as part of the LSB's internal review of the PCF process for 2011, we will seek further assurance from all approved regulators on their levels of reserves; in particular, an explanation that the funds are adequate for the upcoming budget year.

If you have any further questions please contact Sonya Gedson, Regulatory Associate sonya.gedson@legalservicesboard.org.uk or 020 7271 0073.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Crispin Passmore', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Crispin Passmore

Strategy Director (on behalf of Chris Kenny, Chief Executive)

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