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30 October 2013

Dear Ann,

**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 fee 2014**

Thank you for submitting an 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 2009 (the Rules) on 9 October 2013. We were grateful for such a clear and comprehensive application.

I am pleased to inform you that the 2014 practising fee has been approved. This decision has been made under the authority delegated to me as Chief Executive by the LSB.

In reaching our decision, we had two observations, which I set out below and which we would be grateful if you could consider when making the application for the 2015 practising certificate fee.

We note that IPReg still intends to consult specifically on a possible move to practice fees for firms based on turnover. As stated last year, we would welcome such an approach as long as IPReg is able to introduce the change in a way that is not disproportionately complex. The consultation to be undertaken will need to be detailed and wide-ranging, including an assessment of the likely impact of the change on individual entities.

Consultation is a key part of the PCF process and even if IPReg decides not to consult on the move to practice fees for firms based on turnover we would expect it to consult with its members on the level fee for 2015.

Last year I wrote that the IPReg Annual Report 2011 referenced the LSB having approved IPReg's budget and pointed out that this was not the case; we approve the practising certificate fee not the budget. IPReg's Annual Report 2012 also states at page 13 in the table header that the LSB approve the budget. Please can you ensure that this comment is borne in mind when drafting the Annual Report for 2013.

We will be publishing a copy of this decision letter on our website in the next few working days. Please contact Matt Daykin, Regulatory Associate, ([matthew.daykin@legalservicesboard.org.uk](mailto:matthew.daykin@legalservicesboard.org.uk) or 020 7271 0054) if you have any questions.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Kenny". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Chris Kenny**  
Chief Executive