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**Date** 24 April 2014

**DX** 146765 LONDON

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Consultation: “Are regulatory restrictions in practising rules for in-house lawyers justified?”**

I am responding to the above consultation on behalf of the Government Legal Service (“GLS”) Bar Network. Our response solely relates to GLS barristers. It has been approved by senior leadership within the GLS including the Treasury Solicitor.

The GLS and its constituent departments are not authorised bodies for BSB purposes. The BSB Handbook provides that practising barristers working as employees of non-authorised bodies may supply legal services to their employer and to any employee, director or company secretary of their employer in a matter arising out of or in relation to that person’s employment.

GLS barristers may also supply legal services to:

1. Other public authorities on behalf of which the employer has made arrangements under statute or otherwise to supply any legal services or to perform any of that other public authority’s functions as agent or otherwise,
2. Any Minister or Officer of the Crown.

Most GLS lawyers are employed by the Government Legal Department (“GLD”) and provide services not to their employer but to other public bodies and Ministers. The ability to provide legal services in this way is essential to the GLS.

GLS lawyers (including barristers) are bound by the Civil Service Code and act under the professional supervision of the Treasury Solicitor and Attorney General and as such are subject to professional safeguards which do not apply to the generality of employed barristers.

Given the above we do not foresee any circumstances in which a GLS barrister will find themselves needing to provide legal services to anyone they are not permitted to do so. The current regulations do not therefore cause GLS Barristers any known difficulty.

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on this matter and would be happy to discuss it further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Camilla Crane'.

**Camilla Crane**  
**On behalf of the GLS Bar Network**