

To:	Legal Services Board	
Date of Meeting:	14 July 2016	Item: Paper (16) 46

Title:	Response to Legal Services Consumer Panel report on 'Priority areas of law'
Work stream(s):	Unmet legal need
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Status:	Unclassified

Summary:
<p>In July 2015, the LSB asked for the Panel's advice in focusing our 2016/17 projects on the areas of law in which our work could have the biggest impact for consumers. We gave the Panel freedom to determine its approach to identifying priority areas of law, including the methodology it used and the priority it placed on different consumer characteristics, including vulnerability.</p> <p>In its report (a copy of which is available for information at this link [Priority areas of law], the Panel concluded that the LSB should consider three areas of law as a priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and relationships • Housing • Asylum and immigration. <p>The Panel also highlighted criminal law and mental health as areas where data is not available to assess the scale of unmet legal need, but where detriment might be similar to those highlighted in the report.</p> <p>Annex A is the proposed LSB response to the Panel that the Board is required to publish. The report is a useful resource, and will form part of the evidence base used when considering work prioritisation. It is important for the Panel to know how their work is used, and this letter highlights the areas in which we see the report being immediately useful. We have not responded to each 'regulatory consideration' because the Panel does not suggest undertaking any specific work.</p> <p>In terms of future use, the Panel's report provides helpful information to be considered as part of the wider evidence base the LSB uses when scoping and prioritising work.</p>

Recommendation(s):

- As a response to an LSCP commission is a matter reserved to the Board, the Board is invited to sign off the draft letter in Annex A.

Risks and mitigations**Financial:** N/A**Legal:** N/A**Reputational:** It is important we respond to recognise the Panel's work, and it is anticipated that this approach will be well received by the Panel and maintain our cooperative working.**Resource:** N/A

Consultation	Yes	No	Who / why?
Board Members:		X	
Consumer Panel:		X	
Others:	N/A		

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol)

Para ref	Fol exemption and summary	Expires
Annex A	Section 22: information intended for future publication	