

Annex B:



Ministry
of Justice

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REVIEW OF THE LEGAL SERVICES REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The complexities of the current legal services regulatory landscape have been raised with Ministers by a number of different stakeholders and through the Red Tape Challenge, and Ministers have asked officials to undertake a review, looking at what could be done to simplify the regulatory framework, and reduce unnecessary burdens on the legal sector, whilst retaining appropriate regulatory oversight. This review will encompass the full breadth of the legislative framework, covering at least 10 pieces of primary legislation and over 30 statutory instruments. We are also open to comments on the interaction between the legislative framework and the detailed rules and regulations of the approved regulators, licensing authorities and of the Legal Services Board and Office for Legal Complaints, although we recognise that these are not owned by MOJ.

We will now be taking this work forward, starting with this initial 'call for evidence' from stakeholders, which we will use to identify ways in which the framework might be simplified. The outcome of this stage in the review will be a report for Ministers in the Autumn, proposing next steps. While the details will depend on the analysis of the evidence provided, this report may include proposals for changes to the wider statutory framework, including to primary legislation, on which we may seek to consult more generally and which would take time to implement. In addition, it will consider where it might be possible to make changes more rapidly, within the existing statutory framework.

We are seeking views from a range of stakeholders across the legal services sector including, the representative and regulatory arms of each of the approved regulators and licensing authorities, and

those applying to be approved regulators/licensing authorities, the Legal Services Board, Office for Legal Complaints, Legal Services Consumer Panel, Office of Fair Trading, consumer bodies, legal academics and the judiciary. We will also be seeking views from persons providing legal services, through the Ministry of Justice and Red Tape Challenge websites, in addition to the contributions from representative bodies.

We would be interested in hearing from the listed stakeholders about concerns with and ideas for reducing regulatory burdens and simplifying the legal services regulatory framework. We would be interested in ideas covering the overall legislative framework, and any specific provisions or aspects within it, whilst retaining appropriate regulatory oversight. I would ask that you respond by **2 September 2013**, to the email or postal address above.

In addition, we would be happy to meet with stakeholders, to discuss the review and views and ideas for reducing the burden. If you are interested in meeting with us, please contact me on 0203 334 4568, or at jenny.pickrell@justice.gsi.gov.uk, to arrange a suitable time.

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