

To:	Board	
Date of Meeting:	13 December 2010	Item: Paper (10) 96

Title:	Legal Services Act 2007: Part 5 – Impact assessment
Workstream(s):	Workstream(s) 5B: Widening access to the legal market
Presented by:	Fran Gillon, Director of Regulatory Practice fran.gillon@legalservicesboard.org.uk / 020 7271 0087
Author:	Luke Mcinerney, Regulatory Associate luke.mcinerney@legalservicesboard.org.uk
Status:	Restricted

Summary:
<p>We are developing an impact assessment for the commencement of Part 5 of Legal Services Act 2007, which will allow alternative business structures (ABS). The attached presentation sets out the background and the key conclusions. Although this is work in progress and does not have to be finalised until March 2011, we would value early comments from the Board on our approach.</p> <p>We intend to discuss the impact assessment in detail with Council for Licensed Conveyancers (CLC) and Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), who have provided data during the course of its development. We plan to hold one or two workshops in January for interested parties to discuss the draft findings. Board Members will be most welcome to attend.</p> <p>The working draft will be circulated post-meeting for initial comment by 7 January.</p>

Risks and mitigations	
Financial:	Low.
FoIA:	Impact assessment – s22 (intended for future publication).
Legal:	Low.
Reputational:	Medium – the impact assessment is a key document to support commencement of Part 5 and is likely to be subject to significant external scrutiny.
Resource:	High – significant resource has been used in preparing the impact assessment and is likely to be required to finalise it between now and March 2011.

Consultation	Yes	No	Who / why?
Board Members:	✓		Early draft sent to BS and DW.
Consumer Panel:		✓	Insufficient time before deadline – we will update the Board at its meeting on any particular issues.
Others:	Copy sent to Ministry of Justice on 30 November.		

Recommendation(s):

The Board is invited:

- 1) to note and to comment on the presentation about the draft impact assessment of the commencement of Part 5 of Legal Services Act 2007; and
- 2) to agree to comment individually post-meeting on the draft impact assessment of the commencement of Part 5 of Legal Services act 2007.