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Chair
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18 July 2016

Dear Elisabeth,

Priority areas of law

The Board welcomes the Panel's response to the second commission set out in our 2015/16 business plan: Priority areas of law. We asked for the Panel's advice on which areas of law should be priorities for the LSB's work in order to enable the market to best meet the demand for legal services.

The Panel concluded that the following three areas of law were areas the LSB should consider as a priority:

- Family and relationships
- Housing
- Asylum and immigration.

It is also helpful that the Panel has highlighted criminal law and mental health as areas where data may not be available to assess the scale of unmet legal need, but detriment might be similar to those highlighted above.

The Board welcomes the findings of the report. We anticipate that it will be a useful resource not only for us, but for many of our stakeholders in prioritising work, including the regulators and the Legal Ombudsman.

The report provides the LSB with a good foundation on which to start prioritising work, and the LSB will use information we hold, such as the data we collected through the Legal Needs survey, to further develop the evidence base and provide stakeholders reassurance that any decision to consider these areas priorities is sound.

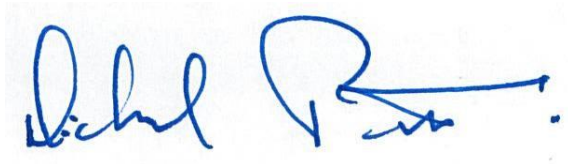
Regarding the LSB's 2016/17 work plan, we envisage this report proving immediately helpful to us on three projects; our work on vulnerable consumers, emerging market risks and open data. The report is likely to be most useful to us as part of the wider evidence base we use when framing this work.

We hope the regulators will find the further regulatory considerations useful when prioritising their work, and we are aware that the SRA and BSB have work on-going on immigration. With specific regard to the three regulatory considerations addressed to the LSB, we will take these into account when developing our 2017/18 business plan.

We will also discuss with the regulators what work they have carried out, or plan to carry out, in these priority areas at our regular CEO/CEO meetings.

On behalf of the LSB, I thank the Panel for its considered advice.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Pitt". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sir Michael Pitt
Chairman