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LSB Draft Business Plan 2011 / 2012

Dear Sirs,

I write further to your letter dated 7 December 2010 which advised the LSB Draft Business Plan 2011 / 2012 was open for consultation. We note the Draft Business Plan is headed “*putting consumer and public interests at the heart of legal services regulation*” and on that basis comment as follows.

At over 40 pages long, it isn't perhaps the most succinct of documents for the public to analyse and interpret. We are pleased however, to note that the plan identifies the need to address our concern that in certain areas of the regulated professions, it is possible to practice outside the scope of regulation. We believe this to be little known by consumers and the public and that addressing this concern sooner rather than later is fundamental to “*consumer and public interest.*” On that basis, we welcome the stated initiative to look into addressing this with options such as extending the scope of reservation or the protection of professional title. In terms of importance, we would like to see this high on the LSB's prioritisation list.

On page 9, reference is made to the Association of Law Costs Draftsmen (ALCD) on the approved regulators list. With effect from 1 January 2011, the ALCD became known as the Association of Costs Lawyers (ACL). It also states in the same sentence that the LSB regulates costs draftsmen, this should now read Costs Lawyers. To avoid public confusion, we would be grateful if you would clarify these changes accordingly on page 9 and wherever else such reference is made in the document.

Other than the above, we have no further comments or issues on the draft.

Yours faithfully,

Lynn Plumbley
Chief Executive