



JUDICIARY OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD JUDGE

LEGAL SERVICES  
05 MAR 2013  
BOARD

David Edmonds CBE  
Chris Kenny Esq  
Legal Services Board  
Victoria House  
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London  
WC1B 4AD

1 March 2013

Dear *Davin*,

Together with the Master of the Rolls and the President of the Queen's Bench Division, I welcome the opportunity to respond to the Legal Services Board's draft Business Plan for 2013-2014.

We are appreciative of all the work that the Legal Services Board has done in connection with QASA and the contribution that will make to the administration of justice in the courts. However, we regret to say that we are disappointed by the limited reference that the draft Business Plan makes to the effective functioning of the courts. One of the primary reasons for the regulation of the legal profession is to ensure that lawyers adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and expertise. High standards, in the conduct of litigation and advocacy in particular, are necessary to support the effective and efficient functioning of the courts and the work of the judiciary. They reduce the cost of the justice system, both to the state and to litigants, through fewer and shorter court hearings. They strengthen the rule of law. It is insufficient to make unelaborated, passing reference to "*being reassured that the regulators' activities [such as promoting the rule of law] are already delivered with vigour*" (p 16) and to "*measures to improve quality*" (p 7). The maintenance of high standards should play a central role in the Legal Services Board's activities.

The absence of references to the effective delivery of justice through the courts is also evident in the Legal Services Board's 2012-2013 draft Business Plan and the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan.

The absence of consideration given to how the Legal Services Board's regulatory plans will affect the operation of the courts and the effective administration of justice underlines our very serious concerns about the current regulatory structure. We set these out in our response to the triennial review of the Legal Services Board, a copy of which we enclose. We look forward to hearing how our concerns are to be addressed given the critical importance of the professions to the administration of justice.

Yours,  
Jgm