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Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs

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Dear Matthew

Thank you for your letter of 30 January, which enclosed the Scottish Legal Complaint Commission's ("the SLCC") proposed budget and operational plan for 2015-16.

The proposal to reduce the levy for all practitioners will, I'm sure, be welcomed by all of the profession. I also recognise that the SLCC continues to build upon the operational efficiencies identified in previous years, meaning that cases are being resolved more quickly than before which is to the benefit of those who seek assistance.

In relation to the proposed Operational Plan, I note that whilst this sets out how the SLCC will deliver its three strategic objectives, the question of how the SLCC's work aligns to the aim and objectives of the Scottish Government including the National Performance Framework, Corporate Expectations and the Justice Strategy for Scotland also arises. As you will be aware the Scottish Government set out its priorities regarding its ambitions for reform under the Programme for Government ("One Scotland") published on 26 November. The role that public bodies should play in the delivery of the Programme and their relationship with the Scottish Government going forward is currently under consideration. There will be further engagement with public bodies on this over the coming months and my officials will work with the SLCC in light of that engagement.

I note that this will be your last budget before you step down as Chief Executive of the SLCC. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable contribution to the SLCC and the clear focus that has been, during your tenure, on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the complaints procedure and to wish you all the very best for the future.

Kindest regards

PAUL WHEELHOUSE

