



# FACULTY OF ADVOCATES

14 February 2013

Ref: A09-1/RSK/GA

Mr Mathew Vickers,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Scottish Legal Complaints Commission,  
The Stamp Office, 10-14 Waterloo Place,  
Edinburgh, EH1 3EG

Dear Sir,

**Consultation on the SLCC's Budget for 2013/14**

I refer to your letter dated 31 January 2013 with respect to the budget for the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission (SLCC) for the operating year from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

You enclose with your letter a copy of the SLCC draft budget dated 22 January 2013. In addition you enclose a document which is entitled as "SLCC Operating Plan – Jan 2013 to Jul 2014". This contains what could reasonably be regarded as a series of platitudes.

You also enclose with your letter the Annual Report 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012, which was laid before the Scottish Parliament in December 2012. This expensively produced document extends to 36 pages which contain within them a great deal of filler and a very limited amount of fact. There are some very fine photographic views of Edinburgh,

THE DEAN OF FACULTY

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including the Castle, Princes Street and Victoria Quay. What purpose these serve is not clear to me.

The complaints statistics begin at page 27. I wonder if I may trouble you to expand just a little upon the statistics that you have produced. You say that in the year 2011/12 1264 complaints were received. How many of these pertained to members of the Faculty of Advocates? You say that 289 eligible service complaints were dealt with and closed by SLCC. How many of these pertained to members of the Faculty of Advocates? You say that at the end of the year there were 783 complaints in hand. How many of these pertained to members of the Faculty of Advocates? You say that there were 144 eligible conduct complaints referred to a professional body for investigation. How many of these pertained to members of the Faculty of Advocates? You say that of the cases settled by an investigation report, 26 were either fully or partly upheld. How many of these pertained to members of the Faculty of Advocates?

Allowing for an increase in staff costs of more than 20% you anticipate that the Faculty of Advocates will require to pay you £73,386 to cover expenditure. Based upon the figures for 2011 can you please advise how much that is per service complaint against a member of the Faculty of Advocates as handled by the SLCC. Can you please advise how many complaints you have budgeted to deal with from the Faculty of Advocates during the forthcoming year. Can you please advise how the individual Advocates levy of £162 has been arrived at? I appreciate that it is exactly one half of the levy upon a solicitor with more than three years' experience. However is there something more scientific to your allocation of the levy?

As you may have inferred I am not impressed by your letter; your draft budget; your "Operating Plan"; or your Annual Report. However once you have answered the questions posed above I would be pleased to respond further with respect to your budget proposals. For the avoidance of doubt you should regard this letter as the initial stage of my formal response as requested in the penultimate paragraph of your letter dated 31 January 2013.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Keen Q.C.

Dean of Faculty