

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission
The Stamp Office
10 – 14 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh, EH1 3EG
Tel 0131 201 2130
Fax 0131 201 2131
www.scottishlegalcomplaints.org.uk
Legal Post, 86, Edinburgh 2



Mr Paul Wheelhouse
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

9th April 2015

Dear Minister

Consultation on the Operating Plan and 2015/16 Budget for the SLCC

Thank you for your letter of 19 March and your observations upon the SLCC's proposed budget and operational plan for 2015/16, which we considered at our Board Meeting on Tuesday 24 March.

My Board welcomes your recognition of the efficiencies which the SLCC continues to deliver for the benefit of both the general public and legal practitioners throughout Scotland.

We also recognise your desire for greater alignment of the SLCC's work with the objectives of the Scottish Government. This is an issue which we have discussed in the past with our Sponsorship Team. We welcome any guidance which enables us to incorporate elements of these objectives into our activities, as appropriate. This was certainly our stated objective in our most recent annual report.

You will, of course, appreciate that there are two constraints on how far we can incorporate government thinking into our plans.

The first is our independence, established by statute, as a complaint handling and investigation organisation. You will wish, as we do, to ensure that this independence is not compromised.

The second relates to cost. As you are aware, the SLCC is entirely funded by a levy on the legal profession in accordance with the statute enacted by the Scottish Parliament. No taxpayer funds are involved.

We must be mindful of both these factors; to the extent that our independence is not compromised nor our costs increased, we shall be pleased to consider how far we can accommodate government thinking.

Yours sincerely

Bill Brackenridge
Chairman of the Commission