

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission
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William Alexander
The Association of Commercial Attorneys
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28 January 2011

Dear Mr Alexander

SLCC Draft Budget 2011/12

As you are aware, the SLCC has a duty to publish its draft budget in January, in respect of the next financial year, for consultation. The draft budget sets out the SLCC's anticipated expenditure, anticipated income, the amount of the general levy and the scale for the complaints levy.

Please find attached the SLCC's proposed budget for the financial year 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. The main points I draw to your attention are:

- The level of expenditure has been kept to the same level as the current year.
- It should be noted that the expenditure figure includes increases in staffing and the number of Members and reflects general price rises associated with inflation and the increase in the rate of VAT (which the SLCC cannot recover).
- Although the level of expenditure has remained the same, the SLCC aims to deliver a wider range of functions, particularly in relation to developing our oversight function.
- The SLCC has set the general levy below the amount required to recover the full expenditure costs. The general levy has reduced in real terms since last year by £26, from £235 to **£209** (at the top end of the scale).
- The SLCC has released £1,000,000 of its reserves, cutting them to three and half months of running costs in line with our Reserves Policy.
- It is the release of reserves that has enabled the cut in the general levy and it should be emphasised that this level is unlikely to be sustainable in future years.

Your comments and observations on the budget are welcomed. It would be very helpful if you could let me have your formal response by Friday 11 March 2011 at the latest. This will enable the SLCC to consider and publish all the responses it receives by 31 March 2011, prior to laying the finalised budget before the Scottish Parliament by 30 April.

You are invited to meet with the Board on the morning of 14 February 2012 to discuss the proposed budget. It would be helpful if you could confirm as soon as possible whether you would like to take up this offer. In the meantime, I am more than happy to answer any questions, which should be directed to me at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Agnew
CEO & Accountable Officer
Scottish Legal Complaints Commission