



FACULTY OF ADVOCATES

17 March 2014

Ref: A09-1/WGJ/GA

Mr Mathew Vickers,
Chief Executive Officer,
Scottish Legal Complaints Commission,
The Stamp Office, 10-14 Waterloo Place,
Edinburgh, Eh1 3EG

Dear Mr Vickers

Consultation on the Operating Plan and 2014/15 Budget for the SLCC

The Dean of Faculty has asked me to reply to your letter of 3 February regarding the Operating Plan and 2014/15 Budget for the SLCC.

As in previous years, the information you provide serves to illustrate that, so far as the Faculty of Advocates is concerned, the proposed Commission levy is disproportionate.

The levy for advocates collectively has decreased in this current budget, by only £723, when the year 2013/2014 so far has generated only one eligible conduct complaint, which was then remitted to the Faculty to be dealt with in line with section 6 of the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007, and one hybrid complaint. These complaints were generated from the work of over 450 practising advocates. The cost to advocates collectively per eligible service complaint is £72,663 on this basis. The low number of eligible complaints against advocates does not justify a levy of that order.

THE VICE-DEAN OF FACULTY

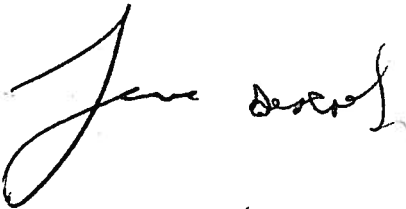

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Against that background could you please tell us the basis for the figure of £159 being identified as the amount to be levied on each individual advocate? As you will be aware we have asked this question in earlier years but as yet without response.

Please regard this letter as the Faculty's formal response to the draft budget as requested in your letter of 3 February.

Gordon Jackson QC