

Minister for Community Safety

Fergus Ewing MSP



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2 March 2011

Dear *Rosemary,*

Thank you for your letter of 28 January enclosing the SLCC draft budget and proposed levy rates for 2011/12.

I am pleased that the SLCC has been able to take account of the representations from the legal profession and plans to keep a tight rein on running costs for 2011/12, estimated at just under those for the current year. I note this has allowed the top-end annual levy to be reduced by a further £26 and I am sure this will be welcomed by the profession.

I am aware that reducing the amount held in reserve, closer to the minimum of three months running costs recommended by your independent auditors, will put pressure on the levy rates for future years. To reduce this risk, I expect the SLCC to continue to look for further efficiency savings, and I am pleased to note that you are exploring options including the provision of shared services with other public bodies. Jill Clark and her sponsorship team in Legal System Division remain available to help in any way they can with this process.

Officials hope to continue dialogue with you towards the end of the year when you are considering setting the rate for the levy for 2012/13.

Yours sincerely

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Fergus
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