



FACULTY OF ADVOCATES

Wednesday 20 March 2013

Our Ref: A09-1/WJW/KV

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

Dear Mr Vickers,

Consultation on the SLCC's Budget for 2013/14

The Dean of Faculty has asked me to reply to your letter of 25 February 2013.

The information which you have provided illustrates that, so far as advocates are concerned, the proposed Commission levy is disproportionate. I do not accept that it is misleading to assess the amount of the levy by reference to the number of service complaints handled. The fundamental purpose of the Commission is to investigate and adjudicate upon service complaints against members of the legal profession.

Of the 18 complaints against advocates which you received in 2011/2012 only two were assessed as eligible service complaints, with one hybrid complaint. In effect, the cost to advocates collectively per eligible service complaint of the Commission's work is over £24,000.

You observe that: "The proportion of complaints to transactions is in fact marginally higher for advocates than it is for solicitors". The concept of a "transaction" is not readily applicable to the work of advocates. In any event, surely the more relevant comparison is that the year 2011/2012 generated only two eligible service complaints and one hybrid complaint from the work of some 460 practising advocates.

THE DEAN OF FACULTY

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You have not responded to the Dean's request for an explanation of the basis upon which the figure of £162 has been identified as the amount to be levied on each individual advocate. I renew that request. On the face of it, the very low number of eligible service complaints against advocates does not justify a levy of that order.

Yours sincerely



W. James Wolffe, QC

P.S. I look forward to the meeting which is being set up!
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