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Gordon Jackson QC
Dean of Faculty
Faculty of Advocates
Parliament House
Edinburgh EH1 1RF

31 March 2017

Dear Gordon

SLCC Consultation on Operating Plan and Budget for 2017-18

Many thanks for your letter of 2 March responding to our consultation.

As you may be aware, the SLCC Board met on 21 March to make a final decision on our proposals and all responses – including your own – were fully considered at that meeting. After much discussion, our Board decided to implement the proposals, including the 12.5% rise in the SLCC levy for next year.

Our Board gave very careful consideration to the you point raised on the proportionality of imposing this increase across the whole of the profession, and agreed that a more risk-based charging mechanism should be explored. To that end it has been proposed that a project be added to the Operating Plan for 2017-18 to investigate options for a more sophisticated and proportionate charging regime, and we would of course intend to engage with Faculty as part of that exercise.

Whilst I appreciate that this will only have potential benefits for members of Faculty in future years, it is perhaps worth noting that the rise in the annual levy next year from £150 to £169 represents a return to the level which was in place in 2012/13 and a significant reduction from the level of £248 which was in place in 2008/09.

Finally, I should like to thank you again for contributing to our consultation and I look forward to working further with you, and your colleagues, in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Stevenson
Chief Executive

Cc:
Angela Grahame QC – Vice Dean
Carole Ferguson-Walker – Faculty Solicitor