



FACULTY OF ADVOCATES

27 February 2024

Mr Neil Stevenson
Chief Executive
Scottish Legal Complaints Commission
By email only: Neil.Stevenson@scottishlegalcomplaints.org.uk

Dear Neil

Draft operating plan and budget for 2024-25

Thank you for your letter of 29 January sharing the draft operating plan and budget.

We note that this has been prepared against the legislative uncertainty arising from the current progress of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill and accordingly we agree with your overall approach of a one-year extension of the existing plan in a cut down strategy. We look forward to engaging with you further when you enter your next four year strategic cycle.

We note the proposal to increase the general levy by 13%.

Whilst all businesses are having to redefine budgets to meet inflationary pressures this increase, running at well above current inflation levels, feels excessive. That is particularly the case given the work that has been done on cost containment, especially in relation to your property overhead.

From your consultation document we have identified two areas which we believe may be contributing to the scale of the proposed increase.

Those are:

- The anticipated activity arising from the collapse of WW & J McClure Limited; and
- The high levels of non-compliance with requests (by solicitors) for files for investigation.

Whilst we do not doubt that these matters may lead to an increase in costs they are of course not matters that relate to members of Faculty.

On that basis we do not believe that members of Faculty should also be facing a 13% increase, rather that the costs of these anticipated solicitor specific matters should be borne by the solicitor side of the profession.

Yours sincerely

Roddy Dunlop
Dean of Faculty

DEAN OF FACULTY

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