



CROWN OFFICE  
& PROCURATOR  
FISCAL SERVICE

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE

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Our ref: JTL/19/LB

14 March 2019

Dear Neil

**SCOTTISH LEGAL COMPLAINTS COMMISSION  
CONSULTATION ON DRAFT OPERATING PLAN AND BUDGET 2019/20**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond, on behalf of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service ("COPFS"), to the SLCC's consultation on its draft operating plan and budget for the period June 2019 to June 2020.

As you are aware, COPFS is in a unique position as a consequence of its public functions. COPFS employs a very significant number of in-house solicitors and trainee solicitors to discharge important responsibilities in the public interest, but is unable to absorb a levy increase by raising additional funds.

We note the proposed approach to the general levy for 2019-20 and welcome the proposal that the existing discounted rate for in-house solicitors be frozen at its current rate. Should this proposal not be adopted, we remain in favour of the position we have put forward in previous years that a narrower exemption from the increase be applied to public prosecutors employed by COPFS or in-house solicitors working in the public sector.

We look forward with interest to the outcome of the consultation exercise in due course. Meantime, we look forward to continuing to work closely with the SLCC.

Yours sincerely

JOHN T LOGUE  
Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support



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