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25 November 2011

Dear Chris

RE: Regulatory Independence

Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2011.

The documents attached to my letter of 21 November set out the agreed proposals, as well as providing a series of assurances confirming that we believe the new arrangements will resolve the issues of the past. We consider that this response should provide you with the information and explanation that you require to be assured that the new arrangements will comply with both the Legal Services Act and Internal Governance Rules - subject to the completion of the proposed amendments to the General Regulations, which we will share with you. There are no "side agreements".

The relevant SRA Board paper simply repeats the (now agreed) proposals and asks for the Board's endorsement. The Board approved the proposals, subject to any minor amendments agreed by the Chair and me, at their meeting on 19 October 2011.

As far as the agreed implementation timetable is concerned, this is set out below.

November 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment consultants for Director of Organisation Services appointed
Early December 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advertisement for the Independent Business and Oversight Board members published
14 December 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Regulations made by Council
By 31 December 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Director Organisation Services identified and employment offer issued ▪ Assess need to appoint interim Director Organisation Services and appoint as necessary
Late January 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent BOB members appointed
1 February 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commencement of BOB (shadow arrangements having been adopted earlier)
By 29 February 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First BOB meeting held

We will be working closely with the Law Society to ensure that we secure the approval of the necessary regulations and delegations so that we can press ahead with establishing and implementing the Business and Oversight Board by 1 February 2012.

We will be sending you a copy of the revised General Regulations in time for your Board meeting.

Finally, please find enclosed a copy of the signed abridged Regulatory Independence Certificate as requested.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antony Townsend'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'T'.

ANTONY TOWNSEND
Chief Executive, SRA

Copy: Des Hudson