

Sent by email

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22 October 2020

Dear Ed

SDT Budget 2021

Following our Board meeting on 20 October 2020, I am writing to confirm our approval of the SDT's operating budget of £3,150,607 for the calendar year 2021.

I am grateful to SDT colleagues for making the time to attend the challenge panel, which was a new addition to the process this year. I was pleased to hear that the process allowed more detailed scrutiny of the application and discussion of current issues than would ordinarily be possible during a regular LSB Board meeting. Therefore, with your agreement, we intend to repeat this process next year.

In accepting the advice of the challenge panel, the Board agreed on the following areas that it wishes the SDT to address:

- we wish to see a downward trajectory in the cost per court.
- we wish to see new Key Performance Measures on equality, diversity, and inclusion as well as user satisfaction operationalised for 2021. I understand that you have already sent us some new KPMs for our consideration.

The Board also welcomed the SDT's decision to achieve parity of remuneration of lay and professional members.

Finally, I would like to recognise how the Tribunal has responded to the challenges posed by Covid-19 restrictions by moving quickly to offering virtual hearings. This has helped to minimise delay in cases coming before the Tribunal, which has been important in maintaining public confidence in the disciplinary system for solicitors.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Phillips". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Helen" and the last name "Phillips" clearly legible.

Dr Helen Phillips
Chair

cc: Geraldine Newbold, Clerk and Chief Executive Officer of the SDT