

The Rt Hon Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd
Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales
Room C111
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**LEGAL SERVICES
BOARD**

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27 June 2017

Dear Lord Chief Justice

Your advice on the applications from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Thank you for meeting with Neil Buckley, Chief Executive of the Legal Services Board, and me on 16 June. It was a very helpful and informative meeting.

I wanted to thank you again for the considered advice that you provided on the most recent applications from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

After careful consideration, the Board has made its final decision, and it has recommended to the Lord Chancellor that ICAEW be designated as an approved regulator and licensing authority for the additional reserved legal activities.

I wanted to emphasise that your views weighed heavily in the Board's deliberations and in assessing these applications the Board considered very carefully the points that you made in your advice. The issues you raised and how the Board took them into account are set out in the enclosed Decision Notice for the application. The letter of recommendations to the Lord Chancellor was sent to him on 23 June and a copy is also enclosed with this letter. Our assessment was that, on balance, there would be effective controls and mitigations to address the significant issues that you raised. The Board's existing and planned work on regulatory performance is designed to ensure that a minimum acceptable standard will continue to be achieved by all regulators, including the ICAEW.

In our meeting, we discussed more broadly the desirability of engaging with you at an early stage on key issues so as to enable us to understand the Judiciary's views and any concerns. We would very much welcome such an approach.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Phillips', followed by a small checkmark or flourish.

Dr Helen Phillips
Interim Chair, Legal Services Board

Enclosures