

**Costs Lawyer Standards Board (CLSB) comment dated 13 April 2019 in response to Association of Costs Lawyers (ACL) correspondence dated 2 April 2019**

Many thanks for your email, and the opportunity to comment.

In respect of the first paragraph, we are both aware of the extension notice the LSB served on the CLSB dated 21 February 2019. No doubt you will reply to the ACL advising them of this.

In respect of the standard/threshold statement ACL refer to:

**Rule history in relation to standards**

31 October 2011 to 29 June 2017: Training Rules were effectively silent on standards.

July 2014: Upon receipt of a CLSB commissioned independent audit report, the CLSB became aware ACL Training had undertaken work in terms of defining standards. The Independent Auditor and CLSB CEO made comment on this work as a result of that audit report. However, neither the Independent Auditor or the CLSB CEO had any authority to approve a standards statement and neither ever did so. ACL Training never approached the CLSB for CLSB board approval of the standard it defined and communicated out. If it had, and the CLSB board had approved it, action would have been taken for it to have been embedded into CLSB rules.

1 February 2017: The CLSB initiated a consultation process on proposed revised Training Rules. The draft new rules attached to the consultation paper included the following in relation to standards: *“These Rules aim to ensure those who seek to achieve Costs Lawyer status (Trainee Costs Lawyer) through study of the Costs Lawyer qualification achieve detailed knowledge of costs law and practice, develop skills of legal analysis, reach a high level of competency and learn valuable transferable skills.”*

21 April 2017: ACL Training made no comment on this statement in relation to standards in its response to the consultation.

29 June 2017: The LSB approved new Training Rules which included the following in relation to standards: *“These rules replace all other Training Rules previously issued by the Costs Lawyer Standards Board (CLSB). They aim to ensure those who seek to achieve Costs Lawyer status through the Costs Lawyer qualification (Trainee Costs Lawyer) achieve detailed knowledge of costs law and practice, develop skills of legal analysis, reach a high level of competency and learn valuable transferable skills.”*

We hope this clarifies our position.