



11 January 2017

Sir Michael Pitt
Chairman
Legal Services Board
1 Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

Dear Michael

Vision for legislative reform of the regulatory framework for legal services in England and Wales

As you are aware ICAEW has been closely following the debate around reform of the regulatory structure for legal services. We were present at the meeting with Chris Grayling in 2014 and contributed to the discussions culminating in the letters to Shailesh Vara in July 2015.

In September 2016 the Legal Services Board (LSB) published its document *Vision for legislative reform of the regulatory structure for legal services in England and Wales* (the vision document) which sought to take forward the debate on the reform of legal services building on the content of the Vara letters, and you kindly briefed Hilary and me beforehand so we were aware of the thrust of these proposals.

We are very supportive of the LSB taking this bold step and believe this forward thinking is a key role for the oversight body. However you will understand that we do not fully agree with some of the proposals being put forward, and we feel we should contribute to the debate, which in part we think your vision document invites us to do.

We have accordingly prepared a response representation which is attached for your consideration and that of the board. A key theme we include in our commentary is that far from retreating into retirement, the LSB has a pivotal role to perform in the future of the regulatory framework. It is disappointing though perhaps understandable that you have been so modest hitherto in the debate. We hope our document will help reframe some of the thinking and aid the board in taking a more proactive role in the future regulatory framework.

Should you wish to discuss further the content of the representation Michael Caplan, I or members of my team would be glad to do so. You should be aware that a copy of the representation has been sent to Lord Keen's office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Wiggetts', written in a cursive style.

Duncan Wiggetts
Executive Director Professional Standards

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