

James Hutchinson  
Legal Services Board  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
London, WC1B 4AD  
By email consultations@Legal  
ServicesBoard.org.uk

Your ref		Direct line	(020) 7211 8788
Our ref		Fax	(020) 7211 8505
Date	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2009	Email	sue.aspinall@oft.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr Hutchinson,

### **Wider Access, Better Value, Strong Protection**

I am writing in response to your consultation document *Wider Access, Better Value, Strong Protection. Discussion paper on developing a regulatory regime for alternative business structures.*<sup>1</sup>

We have not provided a detailed response to your consultation since we hope it is well known that we strongly support the introduction of Alternative Business Structures (ABSs), which we believe will allow legal service providers to adopt efficient business models that meet their customers' needs and make the market work better for consumers.

We are keen that the LSB objective of a mid 2011 start date for ABS licensing is achieved, and would be open to discussion on what we at the OFT could do to assist this. We also support the LSB taking on the role of an Approved Regulator to help these new structures develop and expedite access by consumers.

We look forward to continued co-operation with the LSB. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/consultations/2009/pdf/140509.pdf](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/what_we_do/consultations/2009/pdf/140509.pdf)



Yours sincerely

**Sue Aspinall**  
**Markets and Projects – Professions**