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Sent: 21 May 2009 16:25
To: Consultations
Subject: Regulators - Regulatory Independence Consultation response

Lithman & Co. *Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority*

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I agree that members of the board of the Law Society's designated regulator should all be appointed on merit and after advertising the position under the Nolan principles. The Law Society actually adopts that approach to appointments on the SRA Board, and I would expect it to continue to do so.

Parliament recognised the Law Society as “approved regulators” because it was important for the Solicitor's profession to continue to have a role in casting performable regulation. Ensuring that the profession plays a role is crucial. Strong professional involvement equals effective regulation because the profession comes across issues in practice. Strong professional involvement is very important in demonstrating the continued independence of solicitors and their regulation from Government. Independence from Government is public protection against abuse of individuals and the rule of law. It is also essential for the acceptance of the profession in the international legal profession.

I do not agree with the suggestion that a majority of members of the Regulator's board should be non-solicitors. I do not accept that the majority of members of appointment panels should be non-solicitors. I accepts that solicitors who also hold representative positions should not also serve on Regulatory boards, and

should not be in a majority on appointment panels, but it is wrong to regard all solicitors as being “representative”. There are many instances where they are the opposite.

Support services being IT, Finance and Human Resources are shared on a common between the regulatory and representative bodies, in order to ensure that those services can be provided as economically and efficiently as possible. The Legal Services Act so provides by implication. The profession must save money by sharing services.

I take the view that lobbying of the LSB by the SRA against the wishes of the profession expressed in the SRA's Consultation papers and their continued insistence that they are themselves the Approved Regulator is an abuse of their position, which is merely that they are independent and must not be subjected to representative pressure, which the Law Society is very careful not to do.

Instead of being a proportionate regulator the SRA have adopted the stance that they have to be oppressive in order to establish their independence, as shown in a number of cases that have come before the Courts and the SDT.

The Regulator is there to protect the public interest not to destroy access to justice and if they are granted any further licence to act without reference to those it regulates there will be no profession or professional ethics left.

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