



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD JUDGE

Mr. Lucas Ford
Regulatory Project Manager,
Legal Services Board,
7th Floor Victoria House,
Southampton Row,
London
WC1B 4AD

27 May 2011

Dear Mr. Ford,

Application by the Council for Licensed Conveyancers to become an approved regulator to grant authorisations to licensed conveyancers to carry on rights of audience and conduct litigation

Thank you for your letter of the 20th of April attaching an application by the Council for Licensed Conveyancers ('CLC') on the above subject. As statutory consultee I note that I am required to give such advice to you, the Legal Services Board, as I think fit regarding whether the application should be granted, having regard to the likely impact on the courts of England and Wales.

I draw your attention to the attached letter, sent to the CLC in response to its Consultation Paper on the above topic. My views have not been subject to any material change in the period between December 2010 and now. In my view the conduct of litigation and rights of advocacy are activities which lie outside the proper sphere of activity of a licensed conveyancer. For the reasons set out in the attached letter I oppose the CLC's application in its entirety.

In addition, I feel it necessary to endorse the concerns set out in the response of the Law Society to the CLC's Consultation Paper. I am concerned that the CLC lacks the necessary experience to regulate litigation and advocacy work and to set and maintain appropriate standards for those who seek to gain legal qualification through its schemes. The regulatory objectives of protecting and promoting the public interest and supporting the constitutional principle of the rule of law are put at risk by granting approved regulator status to an organisation which lacks the requisite experience.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Judge

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