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12 November 2021

Dear Fran,

Extension notice issued under Rule 11(b) of the LSB Practising Fee Rules 2021.

This letter is an extension notice provided under Rule 11(b) of the LSB Practising Fee Rules 2021¹ (“the Rules”).

On 12 October 2021 the LSB received the Intellectual Property Regulation Board’s (IPReg) application for the approval of its practising fee for 2022 under s51 of the Legal Services Act 2007. The LSB acknowledged receipt of the application on the same date. We confirmed we would use all reasonable endeavours to make a decision on the application promptly and within 35 calendar days – by 15 November 2021 - as provided for in the LSB Guidance on Practising Fee Rules 2021 (paragraph 30)², and that we would notify you in advance if there was a delay to our assessment and decision.

As set out in the Guidance on Practising Fee Rules 2021, there may be circumstances in which it may not be possible for the LSB to make a decision on an application within that 35-day period, for example where an application raises a number of questions requiring further consideration and/or further information from the approved regulator.

As you know we have concerns about the overall transparency of the application, as detailed in our correspondence dated 4 November 2021. There is insufficient information on some of the key proposals to enable a meaningful assessment to be undertaken of the application. Therefore, our 4 November correspondence set out questions for IPReg on its proposals, including: IPReg’s use of reserves, how the IPReg Board reached the decision to maintain fees at 2021 levels, and IPReg’s funding of its regulatory performance commitments. As we received IPReg’s feedback to these questions on 11 November

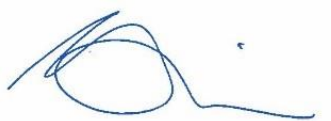
¹¹ <https://legalservicesboard.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PCF-Final-Rules-2021-Accessible.pdf>

² <https://legalservicesboard.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/PCF-Final-Guidance-for-publication-accessible.pdf>

2021, an extension of time is required to complete our assessment of the application and reach a decision. Therefore, the LSB is extending the decision period from 15 November to **30 November 2021**. We aim to make a decision before that date.

If you have any questions in relation to this notice, please let me know. I know that our respective teams are in contact on this application. A copy of this extension letter will be published on the LSB's website within the next two business days.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Matthew Hill', with a stylized loop and a trailing line.

Matthew Hill

Chief Executive

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