



BY EMAIL

Matthew Hill Esq
Chief Executive
Legal Services Board
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13 October 2023

Dear Matthew

We had a good discussion last Thursday about progress in implementing the reforms to which we are committed at the Bar Standards Board. I thought, nevertheless, you would find it helpful to see the latest update discussed at Thursday's Board meeting and updated in the light of that discussion. The update is attached.

Among other things, the Board signed off on revised policies for the use of independent review within our decision-making. That completes a further action in the plan agreed in April.

Other substantial recent developments include:

- the approval by the Senior Leadership team last week of the final report on the reform of our Regulatory Risk Framework. This follows a discussion at the Board off-site in July and is a significant milestone in enhancing BSB's capacity to respond proactively to emerging risk and opportunities;
- BSB's re-joining of Legal Choices: I attended a meeting of the Legal Choices Governance Board on 27 September when we were welcomed back; and
- approval of a further consultation paper on the role of chambers which we expect to publish later this month to inform a further round of visits to all the Circuits.

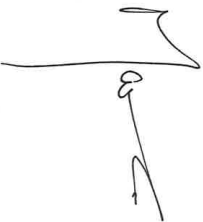
Purposeful activity continues to implement other commitments. I should, however, flag that the departure of Oliver Hanmer in June and the short interregnum until Rupika Madhura was able to take up post as Director of Standards in September has caused us to take stock of our work on assuring standards throughout barristers' careers. Nevertheless, I am satisfied that momentum will be maintained to pursue the outcomes set out in your Assuring Competence Policy Statement with a focus on:

- improving flows of intelligence about standards, including from LeO;
- evaluating, learning and developing a rigorous framework for assuring standards;
- considering areas where we need to clarify our expectations of Barristers, for example in the use of technology;

- reviewing our CPD regime; this will include enhancing flows of feedback to barristers themselves and clarifying chambers' role in brokering that feedback, so that barristers have something to bite on when reflecting on their professional development needs.

We are, of course, at your disposal to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Neale', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Neale
Director General