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By email only

27 August 2026

Dear Sarah and Ian,

Notice under Rule 11(b) of the LSB Practising Fee Rules 2021

This letter is an extension notice issued under Rule 11 (b) of the LSB Practising Fee Rules 2021.

Thank you for your application of 27 July 2026 from the Law Society of England and Wales (TLS) and the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) seeking approval for the proposed practising fees for 2026/27 under s.51(5) of the Legal Services Act 2007. I recognise that the proposal seeks to secure significant additional funding to allow the SRA to deliver regulation in line with the regulatory objectives, for the benefit of consumers and the public.

I note that the application seeks approval for an increase of £29.7m in the total amount of practising certificate fees to be collected from individuals and firms (from £148.4m in 2025/26 to £178.1m in 2026/27). The large majority of this increase (£25m) is intended to be allocated to the SRA (from £86.5m in 2025/26 to £111.5m in 2026/27) to enable it to introduce a more proactive approach to regulation, improve its operational and technological capabilities and put it on a stronger financial footing.

Given the exceptional scale of the proposed increase to the practising fee, and the importance of ensuring that consumers and those who pay the fee can be confident that any increased investment will lead to improved regulatory outcomes, we are scrutinising the application very closely. We have already raised several enquiries with the SRA about the proposals, as well as a smaller number of questions for TLS. As we analyse those responses, we require a short extension of time to conclude our assessment of the application.

We acknowledged receipt of the application on 28 July 2026 and stated our intention to make a decision on the application within 35 calendar days (by 30 August 2026) in accordance with our Guidance to the Rules (paragraph 30). In that acknowledgement we undertook to notify you in advance if we were unable to provide a decision within that time

period. The Guidance provides that the LSB may extend the 35-day time period in exceptional circumstances.

We are providing you with notice that we are extending the above decision period. The LSB is accordingly extending the decision period from 30 August to 10 September 2026, however we expect to make a decision before that date. A copy of this extension notice will be published on the LSB's website within the next two business days.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R/Orpin', written in a cursive style.

Richard Orpin
CEO

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