Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal
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07 September 2026

Ms S Walia-Chahil/Ms A Latta
Legal Services Board

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sukh and Angela,

SDT/SDTAL 2027 Budget Submission

In accordance with clause 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding dated November 2025 between the Legal Services Board, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Administration Limited ("SDTAL") and The Law Society, please find attached the SDTAL 2027 Budget Application for approval.

The Application comprises:

(i) this letter;
(ii) SDT/SDTAL Budget Application Report 2027 & supporting spreadsheet;
(iv) SDT/SDTAL Out-Turn 2025 – budget compared with actual spend;
(v) SDT Management Accounts January – June 2026 including year-end 2026 forecast.

We have again presented our budget application through a detailed report, building on the approach adopted for the first time last year. In addition to the accompanying spreadsheets, the report brings together the information supporting the budget request within a single document, with the aim of making the application easier to read, understand and assess.

2027 Funding Request

The amount which the SDTAL requires for the Tribunal to perform its statutory function in 2027 is £3,324,857. This represents an increase of £263,650 (8.61%) in comparison with the 2026 budget of £3,061,207. The budget application represents a £18.54 contribution from each regulated person's practising certificate fee. The increase in the budget for 2027 is primarily driven by a number of non-annualised operational spending initiatives, further details of which are detailed within the budget application report.

In line with the budget assurance criteria, the report also outlines the key assumptions, risks and mitigations relevant to the 2027 budget application.

One confidential matter has not been included within the report and is instead explained below in this covering letter. At the time of writing, this matter remains outstanding. We therefore respectfully request

The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) is a statutory tribunal and is assisted in its administration by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Administration Limited (SDTAL), a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company number 06654464. The address of the SDT and registered office of the SDTAL is 2nd Floor, 45 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JU.

SDT Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal

that this letter is not published, or that the section below is redacted, in order to protect that confidentiality.

[redacted]

[redacted]

As outlined in the budget assurance criteria, the governance process for the 2027 budget has followed a structured approach. Throughout its development, the budget was subject to detailed review and challenge, including a series of meetings involving the executive team and the independent Non-Executive Director with financial expertise. The SDT engaged with the SRA during the development of the budget to discuss the assumptions underpinning forecast referral volumes and sitting days. This included discussions prior to the submission of the Preliminary Budget Estimate, following which the SRA provided its initial forecast. The Tribunal subsequently received updated forecasting information from the SRA in August 2026, which was considered as part of the finalisation of the budget and informed the revised sitting day assumptions presented to the Board.

What is not included in the report (as it is not appropriate in this context) is any analysis of the particular cases heard by the Tribunal but we would welcome the opportunity to discuss with the LSB some of the trends emerging from the Tribunal's caseload, together with the work of the Case Assurance Committee established this year. We would be pleased to share our early observations from the work of this Committee having reviewed a number of concluded cases for consistency and learning purposes

We hope that you find this budget application both clear and informative. If any additional information or supporting detail would be helpful, we would be pleased to provide it upon request and we look forward to meeting with you at the challenge meeting.

Yours sincerely

A Kellett

Alison Kellett
Chair SDTAL

cc: Maureen McCooke, The Law Society