



THE CITY OF LONDON LAW SOCIETY

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Margaret Hope
Solicitors Regulation Authority
DX 19114 - Redditch

9th April 2009

Dear Margaret

SRA Consultation Paper 16: Better regulation: A new approach to regulating legal services firms and solicitors

The City of London Law Society (CLLS) represents over 13,000 City lawyers, through corporate membership of 52 firms, including some of the largest international law firms in the world, and through individual memberships. These law firms advise a variety of clients from multinational companies and financial institutions to Government departments, often in relation to complex, multi-jurisdictional legal issues.

The CLLS responds to a variety of consultations and other requests for views on issues of importance to its members through its 17 specialist committees. The call for Evidence has been considered by the CLLS's Professional Rules and Regulation Committee. The Committee has representatives of 12 firms, as listed in the appendix to this letter.

Many of the points mentioned in the Consultation Paper are relevant to the review carried out by Nick Smedley. We take the view that they are therefore best addressed once the SRA has responded in full to his report and stated the extent to which it intends to implement the recommendations in that report. We will be happy to comment further at that stage.

Pending the above, we would make just one comment specifically in relation to Question 3. We do not agree with the suggestion unless it is clear that the managers in question have themselves been seriously at fault in carrying out their responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

Chris Perrin
Chairman
CLLS Professional Rules & Regulation Committee

APPENDIX

CLLS PROFESSIONAL RULES & REGULATION COMMITTEE

Chris Perrin - Clifford Chance LLP (Chairman)

Raymond Cohen – Linklaters LLP

Sarah de Gay - Slaughter and May

Alistair Douglas - Travers Smith LLP

Brian Greenwood - Taylor Wessing LLP

Antoinette Jucker - Pinsent Masons LLP

Jonathan Kembery – Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Heather McCallum - Allen & Overy LLP

Julia Palca - Olswang

Mike Pretty - DLA Piper UK LLP

John Trotter - Lovells LLP

Claire Wilson - Herbert Smith LLP