

Sent by email only to enquiries@clsb.info



25 March 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation: CLSB's Practising Rules

The Legal Services Consumer Panel (the Panel) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Cost Lawyers Standards Board's (CLSB) consultation on its Practising Rules (Rules).

Overall, we welcome CLSB's review and the Panel believes that there are merits in simplifying the Rules. Simplification is likely to enhance accessibility and improve enforcement. We also welcome the synergy between this process and the current reforms to CLSB's CPD Rules and the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.

We support the proposal to remove the fee dispensation from the Rules and instead include it in the application form guidance. We also support the move to a digital application process for the next practising year. This will give CLSB flexibility to be more agile and adjust to various Cost Lawyers' circumstances.

We endorse the proposal to establish a common list of events that need to be disclosed upon applying for a practising certificate. The list is comprehensive, and we welcome that it prompts the Cost Lawyers to self-assess and disclose any other matter that might affect their fitness to become or remain a Cost Lawyer. We agree with the inclusion of disciplinary proceedings (professional or regulatory, civil court or tribunal) to the list. These changes will bring CLSB in line with other regulators giving equal levels of protection to consumers.

In the proposed Rules (3.6) CLSB says that it may remove a condition on a Practising Certificate if it considers that it is no longer to be in the public interest. However, we would argue that the regulator should specifically consider the consumer interest as well, as the public and consumer interest may on occasion differ.

I hope you find these comments helpful. Please contact Lau Ciocan, Consumer Panel Associate, with any enquiries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'S Chambers'.

Sarah Chambers

Chair

Legal Services Consumer Panel