



24 June 2016

The Society of Licensed Conveyancers
response to the Council for Licensed Conveyancers Consultation :

The CLC Consultation on 2016/2017 fee structure

Question

Do you agree the fee structure and process for determining the Regulatory Fees payable for the licence year starting on 1 November 2016?

The Society of Licensed Conveyancers (SLC) welcomes the CLC plans to reduce regulatory fees by 20% for the licence year starting on 1st November 2016. The Society believes that this may help to encourage more solicitor firms to consider switching regulator to the CLC in the coming months and years.

In keeping with this, the SLC would suggest the regulator may consider:

- Producing a comparison of regulatory fees as between firms regulated by the SRA and the CLC, taking account of the cost of such matters as CQS accreditation. The Society would be happy to participate in taking forward this suggestion
- Provide some information that justifies the discounts that are granted to larger firms, be that in respect of the cost of inspection, economies of scale, fixed vs. variable costs etc. This may help smaller to firms understand the rationale behind the discounts.
- Projecting future reductions according to growth in the base of regulated firms which may in turn provide a stimulus for the existing regulated community to promote switching and help potential 'switchers' to make a move.

The Society would also favour a more stepped approach to application of fee discounts with a new 90% being offered at a cut off of (say) £1,500,000. The banding between £500,000 and £3,000,000 is extremely wide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Law'.

Simon Law
Chairman