

**Corporate Legal Team**

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Dear Sirs,

**Amendment of your General Civil (Solicitors) / (Not for Profit) and / or General Criminal Contract**

A number of amendments to your contract will come into force on 2 October 2006. Full details of these amendments can be found on the LSC website (see the links at the end of this letter) and downloaded from there. If you have any difficulty in accessing these amendments, you may contact your Regional Office and request a hard copy.

The amendments have been subject to consultation and the period of consultation ended on 28 July 2006. A paper setting out the Commission's analysis of the consultation responses is available on the LSC website (see the link below). The key changes, after taking into account responses to the consultation, are as follows:

1. The term Regional Director is replaced by the term Director to reflect organisational changes within the LSC;
2. Minor changes in the applications process for Controlled work and the circumstances in which it can be conducted (particularly in relation to Clients residing outside of the European Union);
3. Changes to clarify that your Client may seek a review, by the LSC, of your decision to refuse or terminate Controlled Legal Representation;
4. The replacement of Costs Committees with single Independent Costs Assessors and the removal of the general right of attendance on costs appeals;
5. Revisions to the procedure for applying for certification of Points of Principle of General Importance such that it is no longer the final stage of a linear appeals process but rather a mechanism that can be called

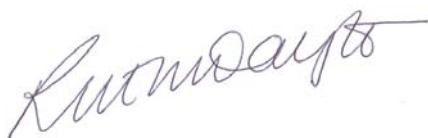
upon at any time during an appeals process if a relevant costs assessment issue is unclear;

6. Changes to the criteria for instructing Queen's Counsel.

In addition to these changes, the Funding Code is also being amended from 2 October 2006. Amongst the Funding Code amendments are the replacement of Funding Review Committees with single Independent Funding Adjudicators and the removal of the general right of attendance before those Adjudicators.

Guidance on these revised appeals procedures will be placed on the Commission's website in mid September and you are advised to review that guidance as all appeals on or after 2 October 2006 will be conducted under the new procedures.

Yours faithfully



Ruth Wayte  
**Legal Director**

*Full details of the contract amendments can be found at the following links:*

[http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/how/contract\\_doc.asp](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/how/contract_doc.asp) (for civil)

<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal/contracting/contract.asp> (for crime)

*The Commission's consultation analysis paper can be found at:*

[http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/docs\\_for\\_consultation/reform.asp](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/docs_for_consultation/reform.asp)