

The Legal Director
Legal Services Commission
85 Gray's Inn Road
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Your Ref
RW/TLS/UC
Our Ref
PTJ/Y052757
Date
20 April 2007

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BY HAND – 2nd letter

Dear Sirs

Unified Contract for Civil Providers

We have already indicated that the Law Society is willing to meet to discuss matters with you, essentially without prejudice to proceedings. However, we do not feel that the informal approach you recently suggested will lead very far, given the Commission's current stand. The reason that the Law Society has felt compelled to take steps to issue proceedings for judicial review is that informal discussions both within and without the consultation period prior to 31 March have made little impact upon your pre-planned process. It is therefore felt that any discussion henceforth should be within a more formal framework.

We, therefore, propose a two day mediation, held in the first two weeks of May, led by a CEDR trained mediator and held at CEDR offices. Heather Allen or James South (CVs attached) would, in our view, be suitable mediators and would be available then.

The parameters of mediation can be narrow; ie the unilateral right to amend only, or, more helpfully, could be wider and could explore in addition to the above, other matters including:

- how to improve the working relationship between the LSC and the Law Society
- how to improve the relationship between the LSC and the profession
- the timetable for change
- the pace at which the timetable is implemented.


If you had other suggestions for mediation, or alternative CEDR mediators, we would of course be most willing to consider these.

Bircham Dyson Bell

However, please note that mediation would have to be on the strict understanding that it did not impinge on the court timetable for reasons which are clarified in our accompanying letter to you.

We look forward to hearing whether you think discussions on these lines might be constructive.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bircham Dyson Bell LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bircham Dyson Bell LLP