



Consultation response

Legal Services Board consultation: Draft Business Plan and Budget 2026/27

19 January 2026

Introduction

The Costs Lawyer Standards Board (“CLSB”) is the regulator of Costs Lawyers in England and Wales. We exist to serve the public interest by setting and maintaining the standards of professional conduct by which Costs Lawyers must abide. Our mission is to “provide effective, proportionate regulation of Costs Lawyers in a way that promotes consumer choice and understanding, and engenders justified public trust”.

The CLSB is pleased to respond to the LSB’s consultation on its draft business plan and budget for 2026/27.

Draft business plan

The CLSB is supportive of the LSB’s proposed objectives and proposed programme of policy work for 2026/27. The LSB’s policy priorities for 2026/27 (professional ethics and the rule of law; encouraging a diverse legal profession; consumer protection; and harnessing technology and innovation to support access to justice and efficiencies in the legal sector) align with the CLSB’s own priorities for the coming year, as set out in our strategy and business plan.

We look forward to seeing the LSB’s final statement of policy on upholding professional ethical duties when it is ready, and to participating in the Professional Ethics Network (PEN). We also look forward to working with the LSB and our fellow regulators on the other policy priorities set out in the draft business plan.

Draft budget

As stated in the consultation paper, the LSB’s proposed annual budget for 2025/26 is £5.688m. This would represent a decrease of 0.5% compared to the LSB’s 2025/26 budget (which was £5.715m).

In our response to the LSB’s consultation on its draft business plan and budget last year, the CLSB noted that was the third consecutive year that the LSB’s budget had increased. The CLSB is therefore pleased to see that the LSB’s budget has decreased this year. We are also pleased to note from the consultation paper that the LSB hopes to make further efficiencies in the coming year, and that any unspent funds from the ringfenced litigation budget will be returned to the sector via a levy rebate. The CLSB has no further comments on the proposed draft budget.

We would be happy to discuss our response to the consultation in more detail.