



The Costs Lawyer Standards Board, setting and maintaining standards in the profession

Newsletter 10: 22 March 2018

### **The profession speaks for itself**

On 2018 practising certificate application forms we asked the question of each Costs Lawyer *“do you agree the CLSB to be an effective regulator of the Costs Lawyer profession.”* We can advise that 96.73% of respondents stated yes, they were of the view the CLSB was effective. Based on the nature of the role of a regulator and the difficult circumstances we are currently having to navigate due to circumstances outside our control, we are pleased by this outcome.

### **The cost of regulation**

Two Costs Lawyers suggested regulation by the CLSB is too expensive. Regulation through the CLSB is the cheapest of the seven legal regulators and through sound financial management we have kept the fee the same for seven consecutive years. It should also be noted that out of each £250 fee paid, the CLSB has to make an annual financial contribution towards the running costs of the Legal Services Board and Legal Ombudsman, last year this equated to £26.93 per Costs Lawyer. The CLSB also contributes towards the annual running costs of the Legal Choices website and pays for its regulated Costs Lawyers to benefit from LawCare cover. Out of each £250 fee paid, the CLSB has approximately £210 to cover operating costs. The CLSB operating model keeps overheads to a minimum which has enabled us to keep the fee the same for seven years, an unprecedented position in the regulated community in which we operate.

### **2018 employer support**

In our last newsletter, we listed employers of 10 or more Costs Lawyers authorised and regulated by the CLSB. Harmans, who employ 10 Costs Lawyers, was missed off that list. Apologies to Matthew Harman and his team and thanks for your continued support.

### **Age profile of the profession**

Based on information given on 2018 practising certificate application forms, the age profile of the profession is as follows.

20 – 29 inclusive	57
30 – 39 inclusive	244
40 – 49 inclusive	172
50 – 59 inclusive	119
60+	53
Info not given	16

### Geographical location of practice

This year, we simplified the boundaries for our annual analysis of practice location to south, midlands and north for England. The table below states where the boundary was drawn for that purpose. The results of our analysis over the last three practising years evidences a year on year move totalling 4.9% towards the north of England. The position in Wales has remained stable. Out of the 48.8% currently working in the south, 14.1% have a London postal address.

		2015	2016	2017
<b>England (South)</b>	London, Berkshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Somerset, Wiltshire	49.2%	49.6%	48.8%
<b>England (North)</b>	Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Manchester, Merseyside, Yorkshire	28.1%	31.5%	33%
<b>England (Midlands)</b>	Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Suffolk, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire	17.6%	14.6%	13.1%
<b>Wales</b>		4.9%	4.3%	4.8%
<b>Other</b>		0.2%	0%	0.3%

### Full time/part-time working

The CLSB has been monitoring part-time working in the profession and has noted that over the last three years, the % of Costs Lawyers working full time has been fairly static at 88 -89%.

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**Costs Lawyer Standards Board**

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