



The Rt Hon Lord Pentland  
Lord President

Parliament House  
Edinburgh, EH1 1RQ

14 February 2025

Karen Adam MSP  
Convener of the  
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee  
The Scottish Parliament

by email: [ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot)

Dear Convener,

### **REGULATION OF LEGAL SERVICES (SCOTLAND) BILL - COSTINGS FOR LORD PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE OFFICE**

I know that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee completed its Stage 2 scrutiny of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill on 28 January. I have taken an active interest in the Bill, and followed its parliamentary passage, since it was introduced. I am aware of, and am grateful for, the good relationship there is between our respective officials. This has greatly assisted the senior judiciary in managing our casework, alongside our consideration of this Bill.

In becoming Lord President, I take up the role of being the ultimate regulator of the legal profession. It is very important to me that improvements are made to the complaints and regulatory systems across the legal profession. Where appropriate, I also want the regulatory bodies to work together to achieve that aim. Not only will this protect the rights and interests of consumers, it will also improve the standards of professional services across the profession.

I know that Lord Carloway, and Lady Dorrian, made it clear to Ministers it was vital to ensure that the Judicial Office is sufficiently funded to implement and administer all the new functions which I will be required to discharge, provided the Bill passes. Effective regulation requires to be sufficiently resourced. I have written to the Minister to set out what funding the Judicial Office will need to achieve this aim, should the Bill pass.

It has been estimated that my office will need **£228,258.90** to implement the Bill. This sum includes additional one-off costings of **£24,578.93**.

Once the Bill has been implemented, it has been calculated that it will cost **£281,118.79 per annum** to administer these new functions. Full details of the costs have been provided to the Scottish Government. These figures could change if any additional functions are given to, or are removed from, the Lord President at Stage 3.

Among other things, Judicial Office will need additional funding to recruit additional staff, implement new IT systems and to plan for how the Bill can be implemented, should it pass. Given the Bill has been significantly amended at Stage 2, should it pass, it is also important that the regulators, and my office, are given sufficient time to consider carefully and plan for how new systems will work on the ground. Only a limited amount of work on the implementation of the Bill can realistically start in my office until new staff members are recruited.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future once our officials have identified a suitable slot in both of our diaries.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Convener of the Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely