

From the Chief Executive



The Law Society

Presidents of Local Law Societies
Chairs of Recognised Groups and Sections

By Email

6 December 2011

Dear Colleague

Update – online PC renewal and fee collection

I wrote to you last on 25 November when I provided an update of the SRA's enabling project which has, amongst other things, the objective of delivering online PC renewal and fee collection.

A key review meeting had been set for Monday 5 December to consider the progress on a small scale pilot scheme involving a number of firms who have been invited to trial the proposed system. As intended, these firms had been invited to complete Renewal Form 1 or to simply input their data up to the point at which the renewal forms could be despatched electronically and payment made electronically. This series of tests revealed a number of problems which were resolved over the weekend of 3-4 December.

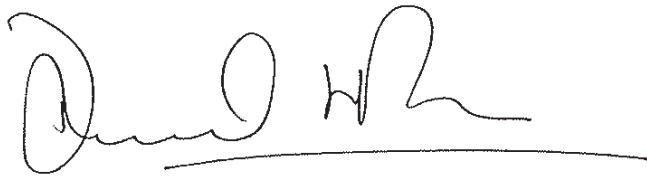
Unfortunately, the progress made to resolve these matters was slower than anticipated with the result that the full scale pilot testing of the end to end process including fee payment was delayed.

Work, as at the date of my writing, is currently underway to resolve these last issues but it is inevitable that the process will be delayed for at least one more week before a decision can be taken on releasing the system to the profession or reverting to existing collection and payment arrangements. We expect more information on the pilot in progress to emerge over the course of the current week which will inform both decisions on the timetable and the key decision as to whether the use of existing collection methods should be undertaken instead or we should continue with the roll



out of the new online processes. I was anxious to ensure that you and all practitioners are kept up to date on progress and if I can provide any further information or assistance, you should not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desmond Hudson', written over a horizontal line.

Desmond Hudson
Chief Executive

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