

**SOLICITORS REGULATION AUTHORITY**  
**Minutes of the SRA Board meeting**  
**held on 18 July 2023 at 12.00 at Malmaison Hotel, 104 Quayside, Newcastle upon  
Tyne, NE1 3DX**

*Subject to final approval by the SRA Board at its meeting on 12 September 2023*

Present: Anna Bradley (Chair)  
Claire Bassett  
Ann Harrison  
Paul Loft  
Rob McWilliam  
Lisa Mayhew  
Vikas Shah  
Liz Smart  
Selina Ullah  
Nicola Williams

In attendance: Paul Philip, Aileen Armstrong, Juliet Oliver, Liz Rosser, Chris Handford, Colette Best, Julie Swan, Andrew Turton, Dominic Tambling

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

1.1 The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting. There were no apologies.

**2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON 27 JUNE 2023**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**3 MATTERS ARISING AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no matters arising from the previous meeting that would not be covered on the agenda and no actions due.

3.2 Interests were as previously declared and available to view on the SRA website. Members would declare any additional particular interest in an individual item if necessary.

**4 CHAIR'S UPDATE**

4.1 The Board Chair asked the Board to consider the reappointment of three Board members. Under the Board Composition and Appointments Protocol, decisions on reappointment of Directors were now for the Board, taking advice from the Nomination Committee.

4.2 The Nomination Committee had met on 11 July 2023 and heard recommendations from the Board Chair for the reappointment of Vikas Shah and Liz Smart for a further three years to the end of December 2026 and for Paul Loft for reappointment for a further year. The last of these had been enabled by a new

provision agreed following the Board effectiveness review which enabled Board members to be appointed for a further term of up to two years where organisational need dictates that that is the best course of action. The Board Chair had also confirmed that satisfactory appraisals had been completed for each of these three Board members.

- 4.3 The Committee had accepted the Board Chair's recommendations and its advice to the Board was therefore that Liz Smart and Vikas Shah should each be appointed for a further term of three years to the end of December 2026 and that Paul Loft be reappointed for a further term of one year to the end of December 2024. The Board agreed the Committee's recommendations.

## **5 2023/24 PRACTISING FEES AND COMPENSATION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 5.1 The Board was asked to make its final decision on Practising Fees and Compensation Fund contributions apportionment for 2023/24, following the decision of the Law Society Council on the total funding requirement on 4 July 2023.
- 5.2 In relation to Practising Fees, the Board noted that the proposed fees had not changed since the Board had approved the budget for 2023/24 at its meeting on 27 June 2023. The proposal was therefore for the individual practising certificate fee to increase in 2023/24, from £286 to £307 (7.3% increase). £162 of this would be attributable to the SRA, an increase of £11 (7.3%) compared to 2022/23. The total amount to be collected from firms through the entity fees would increase from £68.9m to £66.7m.
- 5.3 The proposal was for Compensation Fund contributions for individuals to remain at £30 as they were this year and contributions for firms holding client money would reduce from £690 to £660. These figures has previously been approved by the Board on 25 April 2023.
- 5.4 The Board agreed the proposed fees and contributions and made:
- a) the Practising Certificate Fee Determination 2023
  - b) the Recognised Body and Recognised Sole Practice Fee Determination 2023
  - c) the Licensed Body Fee Determination 2023
  - d) the Determination of Compensation Fund contributions for individuals and firms 2023
  - e) the Determination of Compensation Fund contributions for Licensed Bodies 2023.
- 5.5 The Board noted that the Practising Fees and Compensation Fund contributions were subject to final approval by the LSB and the appropriate application would now be made.

**6 REVIEW OF MEETING AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 The Chair thanked the Board and Executive for their contributions. There was no other business.

6.2 The next meeting would be held on 12 September 2023 via Teams.