



27th July 2018

Legal Services Regulatory Authority,  
P.O. Box 12906,  
Dublin 2.

Your Ref.:

Our Ref.: CC/2018/01218/

Contact: Christine Comiskey  
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*For the attention of Ms. Natasha Lee*

**Re.: Public Consultation on Section 6 Review of the LSR Act, 2015**

Dear Ms. Lee,

I wish to thank you for the invitation to make submissions to your consultation process pursuant to Section 6(1) of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015.

As Assistant Chief State Solicitor with responsibility for Service Delivery, I have been nominated by the Chief State Solicitor, to respond to you on behalf of this Office.

As you aware, as solicitors in the full time employment of the State, this Office is somewhat unique, in that we do not engage in the provision of legal services to the public. As such, many of the operational features of the Act, in so far as they relate to the protection of the public interest, conflicts of interests, fiduciary relationships and related interactions do not arise for the most part, for the solicitors in this Office on a daily basis.

As such, whilst we have within the Office considered what might be useful observations to assist you in your consultation process, we are not in fact in a position to make any significant contribution at a level of practice.

We would however comment that we welcome the guidelines published for the benefit of barristers in full time service of the State. It would be helpful and timely if the Act could be amended to include a specific definition of this legal officer and any limitations on role, both as to practice in public and in the private sector.

We would recommend that the Authority give consideration to guidelines in the course of its input into the curricula on ethics and professional training of solicitors, in engaging with the Court and lay litigants, given the constitutional right to access to justice. Particular issues can arise in this field of litigation and we would recommend some consideration of the matter.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to participate and whilst on this occasion our observations are limited, we would value future opportunities to engage as they arise.

Yours sincerely,

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**MARIA BROWNE**  
**CHIEF STATE SOLICITOR**