



30 January 2026

Legal Services Regulatory Authority  
PO Box 12906  
Dublin 7

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 2026/00436

Contact: Maria Browne

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**By email only:** [Publicconsultations@lsra.ie](mailto:Publicconsultations@lsra.ie)

**Re: Public Consultation – Annual Report 2025 on Admission Policies of Legal Professions**

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for your invitation to the Chief State Solicitor's Office ("CSSO") to make a submission as part of the above consultation. We note that submissions are particularly sought by the Authority on the following four issues:

- 1. The level of demand for the services of practising barristers and solicitors in 2025.*
- 2. The costs of legal services in 2025 and whether these were available at a reasonable cost to consumers.*
- 3. The standard of education and training for persons admitted to practise.*
- 4. The extent to which the admission policies of the legal professions are consistent with the public interest in ensuring the availability of legal services at a reasonable cost, taking into account the demand for services and the need to ensure adequate education and training standards for persons admitted to practise.*

We refer to our submissions in response to this annual consultation in recent years, in which we noted that the CSSO is not in a position to comment on issues of consumer demand and cost. Solicitors in the CSSO act in the full-time service of the State and do not provide legal services to consumers. However, we have consistently emphasised the importance of education and training for our solicitors who have been admitted to practice. This continues to be the case and even more so as our Office grows.

The CSSO now comprises over 400 staff, of which approximately 240 are solicitors. We have seen a growth in solicitor numbers over the last five years of circa 30%, with a growth of circa 18% over the last three years. We believe that this growth within our Office is potentially illustrative of an overall increase in demand for the services of



practising solicitors in 2025. We will be interested to see the outcomes of the LSRA's consultation in this respect.

The CSSO, which is part of the Office of the Attorney General, recently finalised its Statement of Strategy 2025 – 2028. I would like to take the opportunity to share a copy (attached) with the LSRA. Our values, as detailed on page 7, very much align with the objectives of the LSRA, particularly in respect of the importance of integrity and impartiality in the delivery of legal services.

In the context of your own consultation and focus on levels of demand for solicitor services and resulting impact on education and training standards, the LSRA may also be interested to note our four strategic goals. As you will see, the first goal is to: *“Strategically grow and enhance our legal service”*.

This goal encompasses a planned expansion of our legal specialisms to encompass evolving areas of law, with continued investment in learning and development of our solicitors.

We wish the Authority well in its consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maria Browne'.

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

*Under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 communications with Maria Browne as a Designated Public Official may require you to register with the Standards in Public Office Commission. See [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie) for further details.*