Legal Services (Scotland) Bill
[AS INTRODUCED]

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An Act of the Scottish Parliament to allow and to make provision for regulating the supply of certain legal services by licensed entities; to extend rights to obtain confirmation to the estates of deceased persons; to make provision concerning the Law Society of Scotland and the Faculty of Advocates and for the professional arrangements to which solicitors and advocates are subject; and for connected purposes.

**PART 1**

**THE REGULATORY OBJECTIVES ETC.**

1 **Regulatory objectives**

   For the purposes of this Act, the regulatory objectives are the objectives of—
   
   (a) supporting the constitutional principle of the rule of law,
   
   (b) protecting and promoting—
       
       (i) the interests of consumers,
       
       (ii) the public interest generally,
   
   (c) promoting—
       
       (i) access to justice,
       
       (ii) competition in the provision of legal services,
   
   (d) promoting an independent, strong, varied and effective legal profession,
   
   (e) encouraging equal opportunities (as defined in Section L2 of Part II of Schedule 5 to the Scotland Act 1998) within the legal profession,
   
   (f) promoting and maintaining adherence to the professional principles.

2 **Professional principles**

   For the purposes of this Act, the professional principles are the principles that persons providing legal services should—
   
   (a) support the proper administration of justice,
   
   (b) act with independence and integrity,
(c) act in the best interests of their clients,
(d) maintain good standards of work,
(e) where—
   (i) exercising before any court a right of audience, or
   (ii) conducting litigation in relation to proceedings in any court,
(f) meet their obligations under any relevant professional rules.

3 Legal services

(1) For the purposes of this Act, legal services are services which consist of (at least one of)—
   (a) the provision of legal advice or assistance in connection with—
      (i) any contract, deed, writ, will or other legal document,
      (ii) the application of the law, or
      (iii) any form of resolution of legal disputes, or
   (b) the provision of legal representation in connection with—
      (i) the application of the law, or
      (ii) any form of resolution of legal disputes.

(2) But, for those purposes, legal services do not include—
   (a) judicial activities,
   (b) any other activity of a judicial nature,
   (c) any activity of a quasi-judicial nature (for example, acting as a mediator).

(3) In subsection (1)(a)(iii) and (b)(ii), “legal disputes” includes disputes as to any matter of fact the resolution of which is relevant to determining the nature of any person’s legal rights or obligations.

4 Ministerial oversight

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply in relation to the exercise by the Scottish Ministers of their functions under Parts 2 and 3.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must, so far as practicable, act in a way which—
   (a) is compatible with the regulatory objectives, and
   (b) they consider most appropriate with a view to meeting those objectives.

(3) The Scottish Ministers must adopt best regulatory practice under which (in particular) regulatory activities should be—
   (a) carried out—
      (i) effectively (but without giving rise to unnecessary burdens),
      (ii) in a way that is transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent,
   (b) targeted only at such cases as require action.
PART 2
REGULATION OF LICENSED LEGAL SERVICES

CHAPTER 1
APPROVED REGULATORS

5 Approved regulators

(1) For the purposes of this Part, an approved regulator is a professional or other body which is approved as such by the Scottish Ministers under section 6.

(2) That is, following an application to them by the body under subsection (3).

(3) An application to become an approved regulator must include—

(a) a copy of the applicant’s proposed regulatory scheme (see section 6(1)(c)),
(b) a copy of its proposed statement of policy under section 63(1),
(c) a description of—

(i) the applicant’s constitution and composition (including internal structure),
(ii) its internal governance arrangements,
(iii) its representative functions (if any),
(iv) its other activities (if any).

(4) The applicant—

(a) must provide the Scottish Ministers with such other information as they may reasonably require for their consideration of its application,
(b) may withdraw its application at any time by giving them written notice to that effect.

(5) There is no restriction on the number of approved regulators that may exist at any time.

(6) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations prescribe fees that they may charge—

(a) an applicant to become an approved regulator,
(b) approved regulators.

6 Approval of regulators

(1) The Scottish Ministers may approve the applicant as an approved regulator if they are satisfied that—

(a) the applicant has—

(i) the legal competence necessary,
(ii) sufficient resources (financial and otherwise),
(iii) the capability in other respects,

(2) to regulate licensed legal services providers in accordance with this Part,
(b) the applicant will always exercise its regulatory functions—
   (i) independently of any other person or interest,
   (ii) properly in other respects (in particular, with a view to achieving public confidence),
   (c) the applicant’s proposed regulatory scheme is adequate (as determined with particular reference to section 8),
   (d) the applicant’s internal governance arrangements are, or will be, suitable (as determined with particular reference to section 20).

(2) The Scottish Ministers may approve the applicant as an approved regulator subject to conditions.

(3) Before deciding whether or not to approve the applicant as an approved regulator, the Scottish Ministers must consult—
   (a) the Lord President,
   (b) the OFT, and such other organisation appearing to them to represent the interests of consumers in Scotland as they consider appropriate,
   (c) such other person or body as they consider appropriate.

(4) In consulting under subsection (3), the Scottish Ministers—
   (a) must send a copy of the application to the consultees,
   (b) may send a copy of any revised application to any or all of them.

(5) The Scottish Ministers must notify the applicant if they intend to—
   (a) refuse to approve it as an approved regulator, or
   (b) impose conditions under subsection (2).

(6) If notification is given to the applicant under subsection (5), it has 28 days beginning with the date of the notification (or such longer period as the Scottish Ministers may allow) to—
   (a) make representations to the Scottish Ministers,
   (b) take such steps as it may consider expedient.

(7) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about approval under this section, including (in particular)—
   (a) the process for seeking their approval,
   (b) the criteria for their approval (including things that applicants must be able to demonstrate),
   (c) what categories of bodies may (or may not) be an approved regulator.

7 Authorisation to act

(1) An approved regulator may not exercise any of its regulatory functions unless it is authorised to do so by the Scottish Ministers under this section.

(2) The Scottish Ministers may give their authorisation if they are satisfied (or continue to be satisfied)—
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(a) as mentioned in subsection (1) of section 6,
(b) as regards any criteria provided for under subsection (7)(b) of that section.

(3) Their authorisation may be given with restrictions imposed by reference to particular categories of—
(a) licensed provider,
(b) legal services.

(4) Their authorisation may be given—
(a) either—
   (i) without limit of time, or
   (ii) for a fixed period of at least 3 years,
(b) subject to conditions.

(5) The Scottish Ministers may, after consulting the approved regulator, remove or vary any conditions imposed under subsection (4)(b).

(6) A request for their authorisation may be—
(a) made at any reasonable time (including at the same time as applying for their approval under section 6),
(b) withdrawn by the approved regulator (or applicant) at any time by giving them written notice to that effect.

(7) The Scottish Ministers must notify the approved regulator (or applicant) if they intend to—
(a) withhold their authorisation, or
(b) impose conditions under subsection (4)(b).

(8) If notification is given to the approved regulator (or applicant) under subsection (7), it has 28 days beginning with the date of the notification (or such longer period as the Scottish Ministers may allow) to—
(a) make representations to the Scottish Ministers,
(b) take such steps as it may consider expedient.

(9) The approved regulator (or applicant) must provide the Scottish Ministers with such information as they may reasonably require for their consideration of its request.

(10) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about authorisation under this section, including (in particular)—
(a) the process for requests for their authorisation,
(b) the criteria for their authorisation.

(11) In this section, a reference to authorisation means initial or renewed authorisation.

Regulatory schemes

8 Regulatory schemes

(1) An approved regulator must—
(a) make a regulatory scheme for licensing and regulating the provision of legal services by its licensed legal services providers, and
(b) apply the scheme in relation to them.

(2) The regulatory scheme is to—

(a) contain—
   (i) the licensing rules (see section 10),
   (ii) the practice rules (see section 14),

(b) include provision for reconciling different sets of regulatory rules (see section 9),

(c) cover such other regulatory matters as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations specify (and in such manner as the regulations may specify).

(3) The regulatory scheme may—

(a) relate to—
   (i) one or more categories of licensed provider,
   (ii) some or all legal services,

(b) make different provision for different cases or types of case.

(4) An approved regulator may amend its regulatory scheme (or any aspect of it), but—

(a) any material amendment is invalid unless it has the prior approval of the Scottish Ministers,

(b) the Scottish Ministers may not give their approval before they have consulted—
   (i) the Lord President, and
   (ii) such other person or body as they consider appropriate.

(5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—

(a) confer authority for the regulatory schemes of approved regulators to deal with the provision by their licensed providers of such other services (in addition to legal services) as the regulations may prescribe, and

(b) specify the extent to which (and the manner in which) the regulatory schemes may do so.

9 Reconciling different rules

(1) The provision required to be in the regulatory scheme by section 8(2)(b) is such provision as is reasonably practicable (and appropriate in the circumstances) for—

(a) preventing or resolving regulatory conflicts, and

(b) avoiding unnecessary duplication of regulatory rules.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a regulatory conflict is a conflict between—

(a) the regulatory scheme of an approved regulator, and

(b) any professional or regulatory rules made by any other body which regulates the provision of legal or other services.
(3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about regulatory conflicts that may involve an approved regulator.

**Licensing rules**

**10 Licensing rules: general**

1. For the purposes of this Part, the licensing rules are rules about—
   (a) the procedure for becoming a licensed provider, including (in particular)—
      (i) the making of applications,
      (ii) the criteria to be met by applicants,
      (iii) the determination of applications,
      (iv) the issuing of licences,
   (b) the terms of licences and attaching to licences of conditions or restrictions,
   (c) the—
      (i) renewal of licences,
      (ii) circumstances in which licences may be revoked or suspended,
   (d) licensing provision affecting outside investors in licensed providers (including for section 49(2)),
   (e) licensing fees that are chargeable by the approved regulator.

2. Rules made in pursuance of subsection (1)(a) to (c) must allow for review by the approved regulator of any decision made by it under the rules that materially affects an applicant for a licence or (as the case may be) a licensed provider.

3. Licensing rules may include such further licensing arrangements as to licensed providers for which provision is (in the approved regulator’s opinion) necessary or expedient.

**11 Initial considerations**

1. Licensing rules made in pursuance of section 10(1)(a) must provide for—

2. For the purpose of subsection (1)(a), it is appropriate to consult the OFT where the approved regulator believes that the granting of the licence application may have the effect of—

3. Licensing rules may allow for—
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(a) an applicant to be issued with a provisional licence—
   (i) in anticipation of its becoming (or becoming eligible to be) a licensed provider, and
   (ii) whose full effect as a licence is conditional on its becoming a licensed provider (and such other relevant matters as the rules may specify), or

(b) a licensed provider to be issued with a provisional licence—
   (i) in anticipation of its transferring to the regulation of the approved regulator, and
   (ii) whose full effect as a licence is conditional on the transfer occurring (and such other matters as the rules may specify).

(2) Licensing rules must—

(a) state that a licence application may be refused on the ground that the applicant appears to be incapable (for any reason) of complying with the regulatory scheme,

(b) provide for grounds for non-renewal, revocation or suspension of a licence where the licensed provider is breaching (or has breached) the regulatory scheme.

13 Licensing appeals
(1) An applicant for a licence or (as the case may be) a licensed provider may appeal against a relevant licensing decision taken by virtue of this Part—
   (a) to the sheriff,
   (b) within the period of 3 months beginning with the date on which that decision is intimated to it.

(2) A relevant licensing decision is a decision to—
   (a) refuse the licensed provider’s application for—
      (i) a licence, or
      (ii) renewal of its licence,
   (b) attach conditions or restrictions to its licence, or
   (c) revoke or suspend its licence.

Practice rules

14 Practice rules: general
(1) For the purposes of this Part, the practice rules are rules about—
   (a) the—
      (i) operation and administration of licensed providers,
      (ii) standards to be met by licensed providers,
   (b) the operational positions within licensed providers (including for section 45(4)),
   (c) accounting and auditing (see section 18),
   (d) professional indemnity (see section 19),
(e) the making and handling of any complaint about—
   (i) a licensed provider,
   (ii) a designated or other person within a licensed provider,

(f) the measures that may be taken by the approved regulator, in relation to a licensed
   provider, if—
   (i) there is a breach of the regulatory scheme, or
   (ii) a complaint referred to in paragraph (e) is upheld.

(2) Rules made in pursuance of subsection (1)(f) must allow a licensed provider to make
    representations to the approved regulator before it takes any of the measures available to
    it under the rules.

(3) Practice rules may include such further arrangements as to the professional practice,
    conduct or discipline of licensed providers for which provision is (in the approved
    regulator’s opinion) necessary or expedient.

15 Financial sanctions

(1) Practice rules made in pursuance of section 14(1)(f) may provide for the imposition of a
    financial penalty.

(2) A financial penalty provided for by virtue of subsection (1) must not exceed the
    maximum amount permitted by the Scottish Ministers when giving their approval under
    section 6.

(3) A financial penalty imposed by virtue of this section—
    (a) is payable to the approved regulator,
    (b) must be applied towards the cost of exercising its functions under this Part.

(4) A licensed provider may appeal against a financial penalty (or the amount of a financial
    penalty) imposed on it by virtue of this section—
    (a) to the sheriff,
    (b) within the period of 3 months beginning with the date on which the penalty is
    intimated to it.

(5) Where an appeal is made under subsection (4), no part of the penalty requires to be paid
    before the appeal is determined or withdrawn.

16 Enforcement of duties

(1) Practice rules must include provision that it is a breach of the regulatory scheme for a
    licensed provider to—
    (a) fail to comply with section 38, or
    (b) fail to comply with its—
    (i) other duties under this Part, or
    (ii) duties under any other enactment.

(2) Practice rules must require a licensed provider to—
    (a) review and report on its performance (see section 17), and
(b) have its performance and that report assessed by the approved regulator.

17 Performance report

(1) Practice rules made by reference to section 16(2)(a) are (in particular) to give the Head of Practice of a licensed legal services provider the functions of—

(a) carrying out an annual review, and

(b) sending a report (in a specified form) on the review to the approved regulator.

(2) The review must include an examination of—

(a) the licensed provider’s compliance with section 38(1), and

(b) the involvement of any outside investors in the licensed provider.

(3) Practice rules made by reference to section 16(2)(b) may describe the approved regulator’s functions under section 24.

18 Accounting and auditing

Practice rules must—

(a) require licensed providers to keep in place proper accounting and auditing procedures,

(b) include provision corresponding to that applying under sections 35 to 37 (accounts rules) of the 1980 Act in relation to an incorporated practice.

19 Professional indemnity

Practice rules must—

(a) require licensed providers to keep in place sufficient arrangements for professional indemnity,

(b) include provision corresponding to that applying under section 44 (professional indemnity) of the 1980 Act in relation to an incorporated practice.

Internal governance

20 Internal governance arrangements

(1) The internal governance arrangements of an approved regulator must incorporate such provision as is necessary with a view to ensuring that the approved regulator will—

(a) always exercise its regulatory functions—

(i) independently of any other person or interest,

(ii) properly in other respects (in particular, with a view to achieving public confidence),

(b) continue to allocate sufficient resources (financial and otherwise) to the exercise of its regulatory functions,

(c) review regularly how effectively it is exercising its regulatory functions (in particular, by reviewing the effectiveness of its regulatory scheme).
(2) In relation to an approved regulator which has representative functions, relevant factors in connection with subsection (1)(a) include (in particular) the need for—

(a) the approved regulator’s code of conduct (if any) for its members to be compatible with the regulatory objectives and the professional principles,

(b) the approved regulator to—

(i) exercise its regulatory functions separately from its other functions (in particular, any representative functions), and

(ii) avoid conflicts of interest in relation to its regulatory functions,

(c) the approved regulator to secure that a reasonable proportion of the individuals who are responsible for the exercise of its regulatory functions are not qualified legal practitioners.

(3) The approved regulator’s regard to the factor mentioned in subsection (2)(b) is demonstrable by (for example) its securing that within its structure its regulatory functions are clearly demarcated.

15 **Communicating outside**

(1) The internal governance arrangements of an approved regulator must not, in relation to the persons who are involved in the exercise of its regulatory functions, prevent the persons from engaging in consultation or other communication with—

(a) other approved regulators,

(b) the Scottish Ministers,

(c) the Scottish Legal Aid Board,

(d) the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission, or

(e) the OFT, or any other public body which has functions concerning the application of competition law.

(2) Where an approved regulator has representative functions, its internal governance arrangements must not, in relation to any person who—

(a) is involved in the exercise of its regulatory functions, and

(b) considers that the independence or effectiveness of the approved regulator’s exercise of its regulatory functions is being (or has been) for any reason adversely affected by the furtherance of its representative functions,

prevent the person notifying the Scottish Ministers accordingly.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) are subject to any overriding prohibition or restriction arising by virtue of any relevant—

(a) enactment or rule of law, or

(b) rule of professional conduct or ethics.

22 **More about governance**

(1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about the internal governance arrangements of approved regulators.
(2) However, regulations under subsection (1) must relate to the regulatory functions of approved regulators.

(3) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult any approved regulator that would be affected by the regulations.

(4) For the purposes of this Part, the internal governance arrangements of an approved regulator are its own organisational and operational arrangements for the carrying out of its activities.

Regulatory functions etc.

23 Regulatory and representative functions

(1) For the purposes of this Part, the regulatory functions of an approved regulator are any such functions that the approved regulator has as regards its licensed legal services providers including (in particular) its functions—
   (a) in relation to its regulatory scheme, or
   (b) under section 24.

(2) For the purposes of this Part, the representative functions of an approved regulator are any functions that the approved regulator has, in that or any other capacity, of representing or promoting the interests of the individual persons (taken collectively or otherwise) who form its membership.

(3) Nothing in this Part permits the Scottish Ministers to interfere with an approved regulator’s representative functions (but this does not prevent the Scottish Ministers taking such action under this Part as they consider appropriate for the purpose of ensuring that an approved regulator’s regulatory functions are not prejudiced by its representative functions).

24 Assessment of licensed providers

(1) An approved regulator must assess each of its licensed legal services providers at least once in every successive period of 3 years from (in each case) the date on which the approved regulator issued the licensed provider with its licence.

(2) The Scottish Ministers may require an approved regulator to carry out a special assessment of a licensed provider if the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission requests that they do so in a case where the Commission has significant concerns about how a complaint about a licensed provider has been dealt with.

(3) An assessment under this section must (in particular) concern—
   (a) the licensed provider’s compliance with section 38(1), and
   (b) such other matters as the approved regulator considers appropriate.

(4) When conducting the assessment, the approved regulator may—
   (a) require from the licensed provider the production of any—
      (i) relevant documents,
      (ii) other relevant information,
   (b) interview any person within the licensed provider.
(5) The approved regulator must—
   (a) prepare a report on the assessment, and
   (b) send a copy of the report to the licensed provider (and, if the assessment was required under subsection (2), also send one to the Scottish Ministers and the Commission).

(6) But before finalising the report, the approved regulator must—
   (a) send a draft of the report to the licensed provider, and
   (b) give it a reasonable opportunity to make representations about—
      (i) the findings of the assessment, and
      (ii) any recommendations contained in the report.

(7) If the assessment discloses (or appears to disclose) any professional misconduct by a member of a professional association, the approved regulator must notify that association accordingly.

(8) An approved regulator may delegate its functions under this section to any suitable person or body.

(9) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about the assessment of licensed providers.

25 Giving information to SLAB

(1) An approved regulator must provide the Scottish Legal Aid Board with such information as the Board may reasonably require for the purpose mentioned in subsection (2).

(2) The purpose is the Board’s exercise of its function under section 1(2A) of the 1986 Act.

26 Additional powers and duties

(1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision conferring on approved regulators such additional functions as they consider to be necessary or expedient for them to have for the purposes of this Part.

(2) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
   (a) every approved regulator,
   (b) the Lord President, and
   (c) such other person or body as they consider appropriate.

27 Guidance on functions

(1) In exercising its functions under this Part, an approved regulator must have regard to any guidance issued to it, or to approved regulators generally, by the Scottish Ministers for the purposes of or in connection with this Part.

(2) Before issuing such guidance, the Scottish Ministers must consult—
   (a) every approved regulator, and
   (b) such other person or body as they consider appropriate.

(3) The Scottish Ministers must publish any such guidance as issued (or re-issued).
Monitoring performance

(1) The Scottish Ministers may monitor the performance of approved regulators in such manner as they consider appropriate.

(2) Monitoring the performance of an approved regulator includes (in particular) doing so by reference to—
   (a) its compliance with its duties under section 62,
   (b) the exercise of its regulatory functions,
   (c) the operation of its internal governance arrangements,
   (d) its compliance with any measures applying to it by virtue of section 29(4)(a) or (b).

(3) An approved regulator must—
   (a) provide such information about its performance in relation to its regulatory scheme as the Scottish Ministers may reasonably request,
   (b) do so within 21 days beginning with the date of the request (or such longer period as the Scottish Ministers may allow).

Measures open to Ministers

(1) The Scottish Ministers may, in relation to an approved regulator, take one or more of the measures mentioned in subsection (4) if they consider that to be appropriate in the circumstances of the case.

(2) When considering the appropriateness of taking any of those measures, or a combination of them, the Scottish Ministers must (except in the case of a measure mentioned in paragraph (f) of that subsection) have particular regard to the effect that it may have on the approved regulator’s observance of the regulatory objectives.

(3) Schedules 1 to 6 (to which subsection (1) is subject) respectively make provision concerning the measures mentioned in subsection (4).

(4) The measures are—
   (a) setting performance targets,
   (b) directing that action be taken,
   (c) publishing a statement of censure,
   (d) imposing a financial penalty,
   (e) amending an authorisation given under section 7,
   (f) rescinding an authorisation given under that section.

(5) The rescission of an authorisation by virtue of subsection (4)(f) has the effect of terminating the associated approval (of the approved regulator) given under section 6, except where it is stated under paragraph 5(3)(b) of schedule 6 that the approval is preserved.

(6) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—
(a) specify other measures that may be taken by them,
(b) make further provision about the measures that they may take (including for the procedures to be followed),
in relation to approved regulators.

**Ceasing to regulate**

### 30 Surrender of authorisation

(1) An approved regulator may, with the prior agreement of the Scottish Ministers, surrender the authorisation given to it under section 7.

(2) Schedule 7 (to which subsection (1) is subject) makes provision concerning the surrender of such an authorisation.

(3) An approved regulator must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the effective regulation of its licensed providers is not interrupted by the surrender of such an authorisation.

(4) The surrender of an authorisation by virtue of subsection (1) has the effect of terminating the associated approval (of the approved regulator) given under section 6.

### 31 Cessation directions

(1) This section applies where—

(a) an approved regulator amends its regulatory scheme so as to exclude the regulation of particular categories of licensed legal services providers or legal services, or

(b) the authorisation of an approved regulator is to be (or has been)—

(i) amended by virtue of section 29(4)(e) so as to exclude the regulation of certain categories of licensed providers or legal services,

(ii) rescinded by virtue of section 29(4)(f), or

(iii) surrendered by virtue of section 30(1).

(2) The Scottish Ministers may direct the approved regulator to take specified action (or refrain from doing something) if they consider that to be necessary or expedient for the continued effective regulation of a licensed provider.

(3) The approved regulator must (so far as practicable) comply with a direction given to it under subsection (2).

(4) For the purposes of this section, a reference to an approved regulator includes (as the context requires) a former approved regulator.

### 32 Transfer arrangements

(1) This section applies where—

(a) an approved regulator has amended its regulatory scheme so as to exclude the regulation of particular categories of licensed legal services provider or legal services,

(b) the authorisation of an approved regulator is to be (or has been)—
(i) amended by virtue of section 29(4)(e) so as to exclude the regulation of particular categories of licensed provider or legal services,

(ii) rescinded by virtue of section 29(4)(f), or

(iii) surrendered by virtue of section 30(1), or

(c) the approved regulator is otherwise unable to continue to regulate some or all of its licensed providers.

(2) The approved regulator must (as soon as reasonably practicable)—

(a) notify each of its licensed providers of the relevant situation within subsection (1),

(b) do so by reference to any effective date.

(3) A notification under subsection (2) must inform each licensed provider as to whether it requires, in consequence of the relevant situation, to transfer to the regulation of a different approved regulator (a “new regulator”) from the one which issued its current licence (the “current regulator”).

(4) Each licensed provider that is so required to transfer to a new regulator must—

(a) within 28 days beginning with the date of the notification, or failing which as soon as practicable, take all reasonable steps so as to transfer to the regulation of a new regulator, and

(b) where it does so transfer, take (as soon as practicable) such steps as are necessary to ensure that it complies with the new regulator’s regulatory scheme before the end of the changeover period.

(5) For the purpose of subsection (4)(b), the changeover period is the period of 6 months beginning with the date on which the new regulator takes over the regulation of the licensed provider.

(6) On the coming into effect of a licence issued to the licensed provider by a new regulator, the licence issued to it by the current regulator ceases to have effect.

Extra arrangements

(1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision in connection with section 32 as to the arrangements for the transfer of licensed providers to the regulation of a different approved regulator (a “new regulator”).

(2) Regulations under subsection (1) may (in particular)—

(a) provide for a licensed provider which has not transferred to the regulation of a new regulator to be regulated by such new regulator as may be appointed by the Scottish Ministers with the new regulator’s consent,

(b) provide for the Scottish Ministers to recover on behalf of the new regulator, or a licensed provider, any fee (or a part of it) paid by the licensed provider to the former approved regulator in connection with licensed provider’s current licence.
### Miscellaneous

#### 34 Change of approved regulator

(1) A licensed legal services provider may transfer voluntarily to the regulation of a different approved regulator (a “new regulator”) from the one which issued its current licence (the “current regulator”).

(2) But the transfer requires the new regulator’s written consent (and its agreement to issue the licensed provider with a licence having effect from the date on which the transfer is to occur).

(3) Where a licensed provider wishes to do so, it must—

   (a) give a notice which complies with subsection (4) to—

      (i) the current regulator, and

      (ii) the Scottish Ministers, and

   (b) provide such further information as may reasonably be required by either of them.

(4) A notice complies with this subsection if it—

   (a) explains why the licensed provider wishes to transfer to the regulation of a new regulator,

   (b) specifies—

      (i) the new regulator,

      (ii) the date on which the transfer is to occur (which must be within 28 days of the date of the notice), and

   (c) is accompanied by a copy of the new regulator’s written consent to the transfer.

(5) On the coming into effect of a licence issued to the licensed provider by a new regulator, the licence issued to it by the current regulator ceases to have effect.

(6) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about the transfer by a licensed provider to the regulation of a new regulator.

#### 35 Step-in by Ministers

(1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision which establishes a body with a view to its becoming an approved regulator.

(2) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision which allows them to act as an approved regulator in such circumstances as the regulations may prescribe.

(3) Regulations under subsection (2) may provide for this Part to apply with or subject to such modifications as the regulations may specify.

(4) Regulations may be made under subsection (1) or (2) only where the Scottish Ministers believe that they are necessary or expedient in order to ensure that the provision of legal services by licensed providers is regulated effectively.
CHAPTER 2
LICENSED LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDERS

Licensed providers

(1) For the purposes of this Part, a licensed legal services provider is a business entity which, through the designated and other persons within it—

(a) provides (or offers to provide) legal services—
   (i) to the general public or otherwise, and
   (ii) for a fee, gain or reward, and

(b) does so under a licence issued by an approved regulator in accordance with the approved regulator’s licensing rules.

(2) An entity is eligible to be a licensed provider only if it has within it, for the provision of legal services, at least one solicitor who holds a practising certificate that is free of conditions (as construed by reference to section 15(1) of the 1980 Act).

(3) A licensed provider may not be regulated by more than one approved regulator at the same time.

(4) In this Part, a reference to a licensed provider is to a licensed legal services provider.

Eligibility criteria

(1) This section applies for the purposes of licensing an entity as a licensed legal services provider under this Part.

(2) The following are examples of arrangements which would make an entity eligible to be a licensed provider—

(a) the entity has within it—
   (i) at least one solicitor as mentioned in section 36(2), and
   (ii) at least one individual practitioner of another type,
   for the carrying out of the sort of legal work for which each is qualified,

(b) the entity has within it at least one solicitor as mentioned in section 36(2) but, through also having within it at least one person who is not a solicitor or other type of individual practitioner, additionally provides (or offers to provide)—
   (i) other professional services, or
   (ii) services of another kind,

(c) the entity has within it at least one solicitor as mentioned in section 36(2) but not every person who has ownership or control of the entity, or another material interest in it, is a solicitor (or a firm of solicitors) or an incorporated practice.

(3) But an entity, to be eligible to be a licensed provider—

(a) need not be a body corporate or a partnership,

(b) requires, if it falls—
   (i) under the ownership or control of another entity, or
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(ii) within the structure of another entity,
to be a separate part of the other entity or otherwise distinct from it.

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, an entity is not eligible to be a licensed provider if it—
(a) consists of—
   (i) a single solicitor practising under the solicitor’s own name, or
   (ii) a solicitor otherwise practising as a sole practitioner,
(b) is a firm of solicitors or an incorporated practice, or
(c) is a law centre as defined in section 65(1) of the 1980 Act.

(5) In subsection (2)(a)(ii) and (b), a type of “individual practitioner” (apart from a solicitor) is—
(a) an advocate,
(b) a conveyancing or executry practitioner,
(c) a person having a right to conduct litigation or a right of audience by virtue of
   section 27 of the 1990 Act, or
(d) a confirmation agent within the meaning of Part 3.

(6) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—
(a) make further provision about eligibility to be a licensed provider,
(b) modify—
   (i) section 36(2) so as to specify an additional type of legally qualified person
       (as an alternative to a solicitor as mentioned there),
   (ii) subsection (5) so as to add a type of legal practitioner to the list there.

38 Key duties

(1) A licensed legal services provider must—
(a) have regard to the regulatory objectives,
(b) adhere to the professional principles,
(c) comply with—
   (i) its approved regulator’s regulatory scheme,
   (ii) the terms and conditions of its licence.

(2) A licensed provider must seek to ensure that every designated or other person who is—
(a) within the licensed provider, and
(b) subject to a professional code of conduct,
   complies with the code of conduct.

(3) A licensed provider must have within it—
(a) a Head of Legal Services (see section 39), and
(b) either—
(i) a Head of Practice (see section 40), or
(ii) a Practice Committee (see section 41).

(4) A licensed provider must ensure that the following positions are not left unoccupied—
(a) that of its Head of Legal Services, and
(b) that (as the case may be)—
(i) of its Head of Practice, or
(ii) within its Practice Committee by virtue of section 41(3).

(5) However, the same person may (at the same time) be a licensed provider’s Head of Legal Services and also its Head of Practice.

39 **Head of Legal Services**

(1) It is for a licensed legal services provider to make such administrative arrangements as it considers appropriate in respect of its Head of Legal Services.

(2) A person is eligible for appointment (and to act) as its Head of Legal Services only if the person is a solicitor who holds a practising certificate that is free of conditions (as construed by reference to section 15(1) of the 1980 Act).

(3) But a person becomes disqualified from that position if the person is disqualified from practice as a solicitor by reason of having been—
(a) struck off (or removed from) the roll of solicitors, or
(b) suspended from practice.

(4) A Head of Legal Services has the function of securing the licensed provider’s—
(a) compliance with section 38(1)(a) and (b),
(b) fulfilment of its other duties under this Part so far as relevant in connection with its provision of legal services.

(5) A Head of Legal Services is to manage the designated persons within the licensed provider with a view to ensuring that they—
(a) have regard to the Head’s function under subsection (4),
(b) meet their professional obligations.

(6) A Head of Legal Services is to take such reasonable steps as may be required for the purposes of subsection (4).

(7) If it appears to a Head of Legal Services that the licensed provider is failing (or has failed) to fulfil any of its duties under this Part or another enactment, the Head is to report that fact to the Head of Practice.

(8) Where (and to the extent that) under this section and section 40 a function falls to both—
(a) a Head of Legal Services, and
(b) a Head of Practice,
they are jointly and severally responsible as regards the function.
(9) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—
   (a) make further provision about—
       (i) Heads of Legal Services,
       (ii) the functions of such Heads,
   (b) modify subsection (2) so as to specify an additional type of legally qualified person (as an alternative to a solicitor as mentioned there).

40 Head of Practice

(1) It is for a licensed legal services provider to make such administrative arrangements as it considers appropriate in respect of its Head of Practice.

(2) A person is eligible for appointment (and to act) as its Head of Practice only if the person—
   (a) has such qualifications, expertise and experience as are reasonably required, and
   (b) in other respects, is fit and proper for the position.

(3) A Head of Practice has the function of securing the licensed provider’s—
   (a) compliance with section 38(1)(c),
   (b) fulfilment of its other duties under this Part.

(4) A Head of Practice is to manage the designated and other persons within the licensed provider with a view to ensuring that they—
   (a) have regard to the Head’s functions under this Part,
   (b) meet any professional obligations to which they are subject.

(5) A Head of Practice is to take such reasonable steps as may be required for the purposes of subsection (3).

(6) If it appears to a Head of Practice that—
   (a) the licensed provider is failing (or has failed) to fulfil any of its duties under this Part or another enactment,
   (b) an investor in the licensed provider is—
       (i) failing (or has failed) to fulfil any of the person’s duties under this Part or another enactment, or
       (ii) contravening (or has contravened) section 51(1) or (2),

   the Head is to report that fact to the licensed provider’s approved regulator.

(7) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about—
   (a) Heads of Practice,
   (b) the functions of such Heads.

41 Practice Committee

(1) It is for a licensed legal services provider—
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(a) to decide whether to have a Practice Committee (instead of having a Head of Practice),
(b) if it has one, to make such administrative arrangements as it considers appropriate in respect of it.

(2) A Practice Committee has the functions under this Part that would otherwise be exercisable by a Head of Practice (and the specification of any of those functions is to be read accordingly).

(3) A Practice Committee is to have among its members a person who would be eligible for appointment as its Head of Practice (if there were one).

(4) The members of a Practice Committee are jointly and severally responsible as regards the Committee’s functions.

(5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about—
(a) Practice Committees,
(b) the functions of such Committees.

Appointment to position etc.

42 Notice of appointment

(1) Subsection (2) applies whenever a licensed legal services provider appoints a person as its—
(a) Head of Legal Services, or
(b) Head of Practice.

(2) The licensed provider must—
(a) within 14 days from the date of the appointment—
   (i) notify its approved regulator of that fact,
   (ii) give the approved regulator the name and other details of the person appointed,
(b) from that date give the approved regulator such further relevant information, and by such time, as it may reasonably require.

(3) Subsections (4) and (5) apply where a licensed provider sets up a Practice Committee.

(4) The licensed provider must—
(a) within 14 days from the date on which the Committee is set up—
   (i) notify its approved regulator of that fact,
   (ii) give the approved regulator the names and other relevant details of the Committee’s members (including with specific reference to section 41(3)),
(b) from that date give the approved regulator such other relevant information, and by such time, as it may reasonably require.

(5) The licensed provider must also—
(a) whenever there is a change in the membership of the Committee, give the approved regulator—
(i) notice of the change,
(ii) the name and other relevant details of any new Committee member, within 14 days from the date on which the change occurs,
(b) if it ever dissolves the Committee (in favour of having a Head of Practice), notify its approved regulator of that fact within 14 days from the date on which the dissolution occurs,
(c) from the date mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) (as the case may be) give the approved regulator such further relevant information, and by such time, as it may reasonably require.

43 Challenge to appointment

(1) An approved regulator may by written notice challenge the appointment by any of its licensed providers of any person (“P”)—
   (a) as its—
      (i) Head of Legal Services, or
      (ii) Head of Practice, or
   (b) as a member of its Practice Committee.

(2) A notice of a challenge under subsection (1)—
   (a) requires to be given by the approved regulator within 14 days of the relevant notification to it under section 42(2), (4) or (5)(a),
   (b) is to specify the grounds for the challenge.

(3) A challenge under subsection (1) may be made only if the approved regulator—
   (a) believes that P is (or may be)—
      (i) ineligible, or
      (ii) unsuitable,
   for the appointment, or
   (b) has other reasonable grounds for the challenge.

(4) If the approved regulator determines (after making a challenge under subsection (1)) that the grounds for the challenge are made out, it may direct the licensed provider to rescind P’s appointment.

(5) Before giving a direction under subsection (4), the approved regulator must give the licensed provider and P 28 days (or such longer period as it may allow) to—
   (a) make representations to it,
   (b) take such steps as the licensed provider or P may consider expedient.

(6) Rules made in pursuance of section 10(1)(b) and (c) must (additionally)—
   (a) explain the basis on which P’s suitability for the appointment is determinable,
   (b) provide that the licensed provider’s licence is to be revoked or suspended if the licensed provider does not comply with a direction under subsection (4).
(7) For the purpose of subsections (1) to (6), an example of things relevant as respects P’s suitability for the appointment is whether P has a record of misconduct in any professional context.

44 Disqualification from position

(1) An approved regulator has the functions exercisable—
   (a) under this section and section 45, and
   (b) by reference to one or more of the conditions specified in section 46,
   in relation to a person (“P”) who holds within any of its licensed providers any of the posts to which those sections relate.

(2) If the first condition is met in relation to P, the approved regulator must disqualify P from—
   (a) appointment (or acting) as the Head of Practice,
   (b) membership of a Practice Committee.

(3) If the second condition is met in relation to P, the approved regulator—
   (a) must disqualify P from—
      (i) appointment (or acting) as the Head of Legal Services or Head of Practice,
      (ii) membership of a Practice Committee,
   (b) may disqualify P from being a designated person.

(4) If the third condition is met in relation to P, the approved regulator must disqualify P from—
   (a) appointment (or acting) as the Head of Legal Services or Head of Practice,
   (b) membership of a Practice Committee.

(5) If the fourth condition is met in relation to P, the approved regulator—
   (a) must disqualify P from—
      (i) appointment (or acting) as the Head of Legal Services or Head of Practice,
      (ii) membership of a Practice Committee,
   (b) may disqualify P from being a designated person.

(6) If the fifth condition is met in relation to P, the approved regulator may disqualify P from—
   (a) appointment (or acting) as the Head of Legal Services or Head of Practice,
   (b) membership of a Practice Committee,
   (c) being a designated person.

45 Effect of disqualification

(1) A disqualification under section 44—
   (a) may be—
      (i) without limit of time, or
(ii) for a fixed period,

(b) extends so as to apply in relation to every licensed provider (including a licensed provider that is subject to the regulation of a different approved regulator).

(2) Where a disqualification under section 44 is from being a designated person, the disqualification may be framed so as to be limited by reference to—

(a) particular activities, or

(b) activities carried out without appropriate supervision (for example, that of a senior solicitor).

(3) Before disqualifying P under section 44, the approved regulator must give the licensed provider and P 28 days (or such longer period as it may allow) to—

(a) make representations to it,

(b) take such steps as the licensed provider or P may consider expedient.

(4) Practice rules must—

(a) set procedure (which the approved regulator is to follow) for imposing a disqualification under section 44,

(b) allow for review (and lifting) by the approved regulator of a disqualification imposed by it under that section.

(5) A person who is disqualified under section 44 may appeal against the disqualification—

(a) to the sheriff,

(b) within the period of 3 months beginning with the date on which the disqualification is imposed.

46 Conditions for disqualification

(1) This section applies for the purposes of section 44.

(2) The first condition is that—

(a) P—

(i) is subject to a trust deed granted by P for the benefit of P’s creditors,

(ii) is subject to an individual voluntary arrangement under the Insolvency Act 1986, to repay P’s creditors,

(iii) has been adjudged bankrupt and has not been discharged from bankruptcy, or

(iv) has been sequestrated (that is, sequestration of P’s estate has been awarded) and the sequestration has not been discharged, and

(b) the approved regulator is satisfied accordingly that P is unsuitable for the position.

(3) The second condition is that—

(a) P is subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or undertaking under the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985, the Insolvency Act 1986 or corresponding Northern Ireland legislation, and

(b) the approved regulator is satisfied accordingly that P is unsuitable for the position.
(4) The third condition is that—
   (a) P—
      (i) is subject to a disqualification order or undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or corresponding Northern Ireland legislation,
      (ii) is disqualified by a court from holding, or otherwise has been removed by a court from, a position of business responsibility (for example, from being a director of a charity), and
   (b) the approved regulator is satisfied accordingly that P is unsuitable for the position.

(5) The fourth condition is that—
   (a) P—
      (i) has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, or
      (ii) in respect of an offence, has been fined the equivalent amount to the maximum on level 3 of the standard scale or more (whether on summary or solemn conviction) or has been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 2 years or more, and
   (b) the approved regulator is satisfied accordingly that P is unsuitable for the position.

(6) The fifth condition is that—
   (a) P (acting in the relevant capacity) has—
      (i) failed in a material regard to fulfil any of P’s duties under (or arising by virtue of) this Part, or
      (ii) caused, or substantially contributed to, a material breach of the terms or conditions of the licensed provider’s licence, and
   (b) the approved regulator is satisfied accordingly that P is unsuitable for the position.

(7) In subsections (3)(a) and (4)(a)(i), “Northern Ireland legislation” has the meaning given in section 24(5) of the Interpretation Act 1978.

### Designated persons

(1) In this Part, a “designated person” within a licensed legal services provider is a person who is designated as such under subsection (2).

(2) Designation under this subsection is designation by the licensed provider to carry out legal work in connection with the licensed provider’s provision of legal services.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)—
   (a) designation by the licensed provider means designation on its behalf by its Head of Legal Services or Head of Practice (who has the function accordingly),
   (b) a person is eligible for designation only if the person is—
      (i) an employee or manager of the licensed provider (or otherwise works within it under any arrangement), or
      (ii) an investor in it,
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(c) it is immaterial whether the person is—
   (i) a member of a professional association, or
   (ii) paid for the work.

(4) Nothing in this Part affects the operation of any other enactment, or any rule of professional practice, conduct or discipline, which properly requires that a particular sort of legal work be carried out by an individual of a particular description.

48 Listing and information

(1) The Head of Practice of a licensed provider must—
   (a) keep a list of the designated persons within the licensed provider, and
   (b) give its approved regulator a copy of the list whenever the approved regulator requests it.

(2) The Head of Practice must give its approved regulator such information about the designated persons within the licensed provider as the approved regulator may reasonably request.

Outside investors

49 Fitness for involvement

(1) An approved regulator must—
   (a) before issuing a licence to a licensed legal services provider, or renewing it, satisfy itself as to the fitness of every outside investor in the licensed provider for having an interest in the licensed provider,
   (b) thereafter, monitor as it considers appropriate the investor’s fitness in that regard.

(2) Licensing rules may relate to outside investors in a licensed provider (as well as to the licensed provider), but must—
   (a) explain the basis on which an outside investor’s fitness for having an interest in a licensed provider is determinable,
   (b) provide that, where the approved regulator determines that the investor is unfit in that regard—
      (i) a licence is not to be issued to the licensed provider (or renewed),
      (ii) if issued, the licence is to be revoked or suspended.

(3) The approved regulator must, before making its final determination as to fitness, give the outside investor 28 days (or such longer period as it may allow) to—
   (a) make representations to it,
   (b) take such steps as the investor may consider expedient.

(4) A person who is determined as unfit under this section may appeal against the determination—
   (a) to the sheriff,
   (b) within the period of 3 months beginning with the date on which the determination is made.
Factors as to fitness

(1) This section applies for the purposes of section 49.

(2) The following are examples of things relevant as respects an outside investor’s fitness for having an interest in a licensed provider—

(a) the investor’s—

(i) financial position and business record,

(ii) probity and character (including associations),

(b) whether—

(i) the investor has ever caused, or substantially contributed to, a material breach of the terms or conditions of any licensed provider’s licence,

(ii) the investor’s involvement in the licensed provider may (in the approved regulator’s opinion) be detrimental to the observance of the regulatory objectives or adherence to the professional principles, or to the compliance with this Part or any other enactment, by any person or body,

(iii) the investor has ever contravened section 51(1) or (2) or there is (in the approved regulator’s opinion) a significant risk that the investor will ever contravene that section.

(3) An outside investor is to be presumed to be unfit for having an interest in a licensed provider if one or more of the following conditions is met—

(a) the first condition is that the investor—

(i) is subject to a trust deed granted by the investor for the benefit of the investor’s creditors,

(ii) is subject to an individual voluntary arrangement under the Insolvency Act 1986, to repay the investor’s creditors,

(iii) has been adjudged bankrupt and has not been discharged from bankruptcy, or

(iv) has been sequestrated (that is, sequestration of the investor’s estate has been awarded) and the sequestration has not been discharged,

(b) the second condition is that the investor is subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or undertaking under the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985, the Insolvency Act 1986 or corresponding Northern Ireland legislation,

(c) the third condition is that the investor—

(i) is subject to a disqualification order or undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or corresponding Northern Ireland legislation,

(ii) is disqualified by a court from holding, or otherwise has been removed by a court from, a position of business responsibility (for example, from being a director of a charity),

(d) the fourth condition is that the investor—

(i) has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, or
(ii) in respect of an offence, has been fined the equivalent amount to the maximum on level 3 of the standard scale or more (whether on summary or solemn conviction) or has been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 2 years or more.

(4) An outside investor is to be presumed (subject to other relevant considerations) to be fit for having an interest in a licensed provider if the investor is—

(a) qualified to practise as a solicitor, or

(b) qualified to practise as a solicitor in—

(i) England and Wales, or

(ii) Northern Ireland.

(5) In subsection (3)(b) and (c)(i), “Northern Ireland legislation” has the meaning given in section 24(5) of the Interpretation Act 1978.

51 Behaving properly

(1) An outside investor in a licensed legal services provider must not (in that capacity) act in a way that is incompatible with—

(a) the regulatory objectives or the professional principles,

(b) the licensed provider’s duties under section 38(1), or

(c) its—

(i) other duties under this Part,

(ii) its duties under any other enactment.

(2) An outside investor in a licensed provider must not (in that capacity)—

(a) interfere in the provision of legal or other professional services by the licensed provider,

(b) in relation to any designated or other person within the licensed provider—

(i) exert undue influence,

(ii) solicit unlawful or unethical conduct, or

(iii) otherwise behave improperly.

52 More about investors

(1) Schedule 8 provides for other—

(a) requirements to which licensed legal services providers are subject,

(b) functions of approved regulators,

in relation to interests in licensed providers.

(2) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision—

(a) relating to interests in licensed providers, including (in particular) by—

(i) imposing requirements to which licensed providers, or investors in a licensed provider, are subject for the purposes of this Part,
(ii) defining (or elaborating) for those purposes what amounts to ownership, control or another material interest,

(iii) specifying for those purposes criteria or circumstances by reference to which an outside investor is to be presumed, or to be held, to be fit (or unfit),

(iv) modifying (by elaboration or exception) a definition in subsection (4),

(b) for licensing rules in connection with persons who have an interest in a licensed provider.

(3) In sections 49 and 51, this section and schedule 8, a reference to a licensed provider includes an applicant to become one.

(4) In this Part—

(a) an “investor” in a licensed provider is any person who has—

(i) ownership or control of the licensed provider, or

(ii) any other material interest in it,

(b) an “outside investor” in a licensed provider—

(i) is an investor who is not a designated person within the licensed provider,

(ii) does not include an investor whom the licensed provider intends to become a designated person.

Discontinuance of services

53 Duty to warn

(1) Subsection (2) applies where a licensed legal services provider—

(a) is in serious financial difficulty, or

(b) for any reason—

(i) intends to stop providing legal services, or

(ii) is likely to become unable to continue providing legal services.

(2) The licensed provider must—

(a) notify (without delay) its approved regulator accordingly,

(b) provide the approved regulator with such relevant information as the approved regulator may require,

(c) take all reasonable steps to mitigate such disruption to its clients as is likely to result from the difficulty or (as the case may be) its ceasing to provide legal services.

54 Ceasing to operate

(1) Subsections (2) to (5) apply where—

(a) because of a vacancy within a licensed legal services provider, the licensed provider has within it no person who is eligible to be (or act as) its—

(i) Head of Legal Services, or
(ii) Head of Practice,

(b) in respect of a licensed provider—

(i) a provisional liquidator, liquidator, receiver or judicial factor is appointed,

(ii) an administration or winding up order is made,

(iii) a resolution is passed by it for its voluntary winding up (except where that resolution is solely to facilitate reconstruction or amalgamation with another licensed provider), or

(c) for some other reason, a licensed provider stops providing legal services.

(2) The licensed provider must—

(a) notify (without delay) its approved regulator accordingly,

(b) provide the approved regulator with such information about the situation as the approved regulator may require.

(3) The approved regulator must revoke the licensed provider’s licence except where the approved regulator is satisfied that—

(a) the situation is temporary, and

(b) there are sufficient arrangements in place to safeguard the interests of the licensed provider’s clients until such time as the situation is rectified.

(4) For the purpose of subsection (3), the approved regulator must review the situation every 14 days (or, if it so chooses, more frequently).

(5) Where a licensed provider has ceased to exist—

(a) its functions under subsection (2)(a) and (b) fall to its former Head of Practice or (if unavailable) its former Head of Legal Services,

(b) if neither Head is available, its function under subsection (2)(b) falls to a person nominated by its approved regulator.

(6) In this section, a reference to a licensed provider includes (as the context requires) a former licensed provider.

55 Safeguarding clients

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply where—

(a) a licensed legal services provider—

(i) has given (or is required to give) notice to its approved regulator under section 53(2)(a), or 54(2)(a), or

(ii) has had (or is to have) its licence revoked or suspended under this Part, and

(b) the approved regulator has not informed it (or has not had an opportunity to do so) that the approved regulator is satisfied that it has made sufficient arrangements for the safeguarding of its clients’ interests.

(2) The licensed provider must—

(a) prepare—

(i) in the case of revocation, final accounts,
(ii) in the case of suspension, interim accounts, which (in particular) detail all sums held on behalf of clients,
(b) comply with any directions given under subsection (3).

(3) The approved regulator may direct the licensed provider to take specified action (or refrain from doing something) if the approved regulator considers that to be necessary or expedient for safeguarding the interests of the licensed provider’s legal services clients.

(4) Directions given under subsection (3) may (in particular) require the licensed provider to make available to a relevant person or body any—

(a) document or information (of whatever kind) held in the licensed provider’s possession or control which—

(i) relates to, or is held on behalf of, a client of the licensed provider, or
(ii) relates to any trust of which the licensed provider (or one of the designated persons within it) is sole trustee or co-trustee only with other designated persons in the licensed provider,

(b) sum of money held by the licensed provider—

(i) on behalf a client,
(ii) subject to any trust of the kind mentioned in paragraph (a)(ii).

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4), a relevant person or body is—

(a) the particular client,
(b) the approved regulator,
(c) a provider of legal services that is properly instructed by the licensed provider, or the approved regulator, to act in place of the licensed provider.

(6) The Court of Session may, on an application by the approved regulator, make an order—

(a) confirming that the licensed provider is required to comply with any direction given under subsection (3),
(b) varying the direction or imposing such conditions as the Court considers appropriate in the circumstances,
(c) that, without the leave of the Court, no payment be made by any bank, building society or other body named in the order out of any account (or any sum otherwise deposited) in the name of the licensed provider.

(7) Before making such an order, the Court must—

(a) give the licensed provider and any other person with an interest an opportunity to be heard,
(b) be satisfied that the direction (or, as the case may be, freezing of an account) represents an appropriate course of action in all the circumstances of the case.

(8) The approved regulator may recover from the licensed provider any expenditure reasonably incurred by the approved regulator in consequence of its taking action under this section.

(9) Where a licensed provider has ceased to exist, its functions under (or arising by virtue of) this section fall—
(a) to its former Head of Practice or (if unavailable) its former Head of Legal Services,

(b) if neither Head is available, to a person nominated by its approved regulator.

(10) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about the steps that are, in the circumstances within subsection (1), to be taken to safeguard the interests of clients of licensed providers.

(11) In this section, a reference to a licensed provider includes (as the context requires) a former licensed provider.

56 Distribution of client account

(1) Any sums of the kind to which section 42 of the 1980 Act applies that are held in a client account (as referred to in that section) kept by a licensed provider are, in any of the events mentioned in subsection (2A) of that section, to be distributed in the same way as they would if they were subject to that section.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), any reference in that section to an incorporated practice is to be read as if it were a reference to the licensed provider.

Professional practice etc.

57 Employing disqualified lawyer

(1) Subsection (2) applies in relation to—

(a) a person who has been struck off the roll of solicitors or suspended from practice as a solicitor,

(b) a person—

(i) who has been suspended from practice as a registered European lawyer or whose registration as a registered European lawyer has been withdrawn, or

(ii) who has been suspended from practice as a registered foreign lawyer or whose registration as a registered foreign lawyer has been withdrawn,

(c) a person who has been prohibited (including by reason of a disqualification or another removal of a right to provide services) from—

(i) practising as an advocate,

(ii) acting as a conveyancing or executry practitioner,

(iii) exercising a right to conduct litigation or a right of audience acquired by virtue of section 27 of the 1990 Act, or

(iv) acting as a confirmation agent within the meaning of Part 3,

(d) a body whose certificate of recognition as an incorporated practice has been revoked.

(2) A licensed legal services provider must not employ or remunerate as a designated person—

(a) the person while the person is so debarred (however described in subsection (1)), or

(b) the body while the revocation subsists.
(3) But subsection (2) is inoperative in relation to the person or (as the case may be) body if the licensed provider has its approved regulator’s written authority that is so inoperative in the circumstances of the particular case.

(4) Any authority under subsection (3) may be given—

(a) for a specified period,

(b) with conditions attached.

(5) A licensed provider may appeal to the Court of Session if it is aggrieved by—

(a) the withholding of any such authority, or

(b) any conditions attached under subsection (4)(b).

(6) On an appeal under subsection (5), the Court may direct the approved regulator on the matter as the Court considers appropriate.

(7) If a licensed provider wilfully contravenes—

(a) subsection (2), or

(b) any conditions attached under subsection (4)(b),

its approved regulator may revoke or suspend its licence.

58 Concealing disqualification

(1) Subsection (2) applies to—

(a) a person who has been struck off the roll of solicitors or suspended from practice as a solicitor,

(b) a person—

(i) who has been suspended from practice as a registered European lawyer or whose registration as a registered European lawyer has been withdrawn, or

(ii) who has been suspended from practice as a registered foreign lawyer or whose registration as a registered foreign lawyer has been withdrawn,

(c) a person who has been prohibited (including by reason of a disqualification or another removal of a right to provide services) from—

(i) practising as an advocate,

(ii) acting as a conveyancing or executry practitioner,

(iii) exercising a right to conduct litigation or a right of audience acquired by virtue of section 27 of the 1990 Act, or

(iv) acting as a confirmation agent within the meaning of Part 3.

(2) The person is guilty of an offence if, while the person is so debarred (however described in subsection (1)), the person seeks or accepts employment by a licensed provider without previously informing it of the debarment.

(3) A person who commits an offence under subsection (2) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(4) Subsection (5) applies to a body whose certificate of recognition as an incorporated practice has been revoked.
(5) The body is guilty of an offence if, while the revocation subsists, the body seeks or accepts employment by a licensed provider without previously informing it of the revocation.

(6) A body which commits an offence under subsection (5) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

59 Pretending to be licensed

(1) A person commits an offence if the person—
   (a) pretends to be a licensed provider, or
   (b) takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that the person is a licensed provider.

(2) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

60 Professional privilege

(1) Subsection (2) applies to any communication made to or by—
   (a) a licensed provider in the course of its acting as such in its provision of legal services for any of its clients,
   (b) a designated person (apart from a solicitor or advocate) within the licensed provider who is acting—
      (i) in connection with its provision of such legal services, and
      (ii) at the direction, and under the supervision, of a solicitor.

(2) The communication is, in any legal proceedings, privileged from disclosure as if the licensed provider or (as the case may be) the person had at all material times been a solicitor acting for the client.

(3) Subsection (4) applies to any special provision which—
   (a) is contained in an enactment or otherwise,
   (b) relates to a solicitor, and
   (c) concerns—
      (i) the disclosure of information with respect to which a claim of professional privilege could be maintained, or
      (ii) the production, seizure or removal of documents with respect to which such a claim could be maintained.

(4) The provision has effect (with any necessary modifications) in relation to a licensed provider, and any designated person (apart from a solicitor) within a licensed provider, as it does in relation to a solicitor.

(5) This section is without prejudice to any other enactment or rule of law concerning professional or other privilege from disclosure (in particular, as applicable in relation to a solicitor).
CHAPTER 3
FURTHER PROVISION
Achieving regulatory aims

61 Input by the OFT

(1) The Scottish Ministers or (as the case may be) an approved regulator must, whenever consulting the OFT under this Part, request the OFT—
(a) to give such advice as it considers appropriate in relation to the matter concerned,
(b) in considering what advice to give, to have particular regard to whether the matter concerned would have (or be likely to have) the effect of preventing, or significantly restricting or distorting, competition within the legal services market.

(2) The Scottish Ministers are or (as the case may be) the approved regulator is to take account of any advice given by the OFT within—
(a) the relevant consultation period, or
(b) otherwise—
(i) in the case of the Scottish Ministers, the period of 90 days beginning with the day on which they request the advice,
(ii) in the case of the approved regulator, the period of 30 days beginning on the day on which it requests the advice or such longer period not exceeding 90 days as it may agree with the OFT.

(3) The Scottish Ministers may publish any advice duly given to them by the OFT.

62 Role of approved regulators

(1) Subsections (2) to (4) apply in relation to the exercise by an approved regulator of its functions under this Part.

(2) The approved regulator must, so far as practicable, act in a way which—
(a) is compatible with the regulatory objectives, and
(b) it considers most appropriate with a view to meeting those objectives.

(3) The approved regulator must adopt best regulatory practice under which (in particular) regulatory activities should be—
(a) carried out—
(i) effectively (but without giving rise to unnecessary burdens),
(ii) in a way that is transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent,
(b) targeted only at such cases as require action.

(4) The approved regulator must seek to ensure that its licensed legal services providers have regard to the regulatory objectives.

63 Policy statement

(1) An approved regulator must prepare and issue a statement of policy as to how, in exercising its functions under this Part, it will comply with its duties under section 62.
(2) The approved regulator—
   (a) may revise the policy statement,
   (b) if it does so, must re-issue the policy statement.

(3) The approved regulator may issue (or re-issue) the policy statement only with the approval of the Scottish Ministers.

(4) The approved regulator must publish the policy statement as issued (or re-issued).

(5) In exercising its functions under this Part, the approved regulator must have regard to the policy statement as issued (or re-issued).

Complaints

64 Complaints about regulators

(1) The Scottish Ministers must investigate any complaint made to them about an approved regulator.

(2) But the Scottish Ministers are not required to investigate (or may cease investigating) any complaint that they determine to be—
   (a) a complaint for which section 57D(1) of the 2007 Act makes provision, or
   (b) frivolous, vexatious or totally without merit.

(3) Where the Scottish Ministers—
   (a) do not uphold the complaint, or
   (b) determine that the complaint is as described in subsection (2)(a) or (b),
they must notify the complainer and the approved regulator accordingly (with reasons).

(4) Where the Scottish Ministers determine that the complaint is as described in subsection (2)(a), they must also refer the complaint to the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission.

(5) Where the Scottish Ministers uphold the complaint, they must—
   (a) notify the complainer and the approved regulator accordingly (with reasons), and
   (b) decide whether to proceed under section 29.

(6) The Scottish Ministers may delegate to the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission any of their functions under subsections (1), (3) and (5)(a).

(7) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about complaints made about approved regulators (and how they are to be dealt with).

65 Complaints about providers

In the 2007 Act, after Part 2 insert—

“PART 2A
SPECIAL PROVISION FOR LICENSED PROVIDERS ETC.

57A Complaints about licensed providers

(1) Parts 1 and 2 apply in relation to complaints made about licensed legal services providers as they apply in relation to complaints made about practitioners.
(2) Subsection (1) is subject to—
   (a) subsections (3) and (4), and
   (b) such further modification to the operation of Parts 1 and 2 as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations make for the purposes of—
      (i) subsection (1),
      (ii) section 57B(4) and (5).

(3) In relation to a services complaint about a licensed provider, its approved regulator is to be regarded as the relevant professional organisation.

(4) A conduct complaint may not be made about a licensed provider, but—
   (a) such a complaint may be made about a practitioner within such a provider,
   (b) the provisions relating to such a complaint remain (subject to such modification as to those provisions as is made under subsection (2)(b)) applicable for the purposes of section 57B(4) and (5).

57B Regulatory complaints

(1) There is an additional type of complaint which applies only in relation to licensed providers (a “regulatory complaint”).

(2) A regulatory complaint is where any person suggests that a licensed provider is failing (or has failed) to—
   (a) have regard to the regulatory objectives,
   (b) adhere to the professional principles,
   (c) comply with—
      (i) its approved regulator’s regulatory scheme,
      (ii) the terms of its licence.

(3) In relation to a regulatory complaint about a licensed provider, its approved regulator is to be regarded as the relevant professional organisation.

(4) The procedure in respect of a regulatory complaint is (by virtue of section 57A(4)(b)) the same as it would be for a conduct complaint about a licensed provider, subject to such modification as to that procedure as is made under section 57A(2)(b).

(5) The Commission and the approved regulator have (by virtue of section 57A(4)(b)) the same functions in relation to a regulatory complaint as they would have in relation to a conduct complaint about a licensed provider, subject to such modification as to those functions as is made under section 57A(2)(b).

57C Levy, advice and guidance

(1) A licensed provider must pay to the Commission—
   (a) the annual general levy, and
   (b) the complaints levy (if arising).
in accordance with Part 1 (and in addition to any levy payable under that Part by a solicitor or other person within the licensed provider).

(2) The amount of the annual general levy for a licensed provider may be—
(a) different from the amount to be paid by individuals, and
(b) of different amounts (including nil) in different circumstances.

(3) The Commission—
(a) must (so far as practicable) provide advice to any person who requests it as respects the process of making a regulatory complaint to the Commission,
(b) may issue guidance under section 40 to approved regulators and licensed providers as respects how licensed providers are to deal with regulatory complaints.

57D Handling complaints

(1) Sections 23 to 25 apply in relation to any complaint made about how an approved regulator has dealt with a regulatory complaint as they apply in relation to a handling complaint (relating to a conduct complaint) made about a relevant professional organisation.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to such modification to the operation of those sections as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations make for the purposes of that subsection.

57E Interpretation of Part 2A

For the purposes of this Part—
“approved regulator”,
“licensed legal services provider” (or “licensed provider”),
“regulatory scheme”,
are to be construed in accordance with Part 2 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010.”.

Registers and lists

66 Register of approved regulators

(1) The Scottish Ministers—
(a) must keep and publish a register of approved regulators,
(b) may do so in such manner as they consider appropriate.

(2) The register is to include the following information in relation to each approved regulator—
(a) its contact details (including its address, website and telephone number),
(b) the date on which it was given the relevant approval under section 6,
(c) the date on which it was given the relevant authorisation under section 7 (and the duration of that authorisation (unlimited or the fixed period)),
(d) the categories of legal services to which that authorisation relates,
(e) details of any measure taken by the Scottish Ministers under section 29.

57 Registers of licensed providers

(1) An approved regulator must keep and publish a register of its licensed legal services providers.

(2) The register is to include the following information in relation to each licensed provider—
(a) its name and any place of business,
(b) the relevant details about its licence,
(c) the name of every outside investor in the licensed provider,
(d) the name of every person intimated to the approved regulator under paragraph 3 of schedule 8,
(e) the names and the dates of appointment of—
   (i) its Head of Legal Services, and
   (ii) its Head of Practice or, if applicable, each member of its Practice Committee (including with specific reference to section 41(3)),
(f) whether the licensed provider has been the subject of any disciplinary action and (if so) a description of that action.

(3) In subsection (2)(b), the “relevant details” about a licensed provider’s licence are—
(a) the date on which the licence was originally granted,
(b) the date that it was most recently renewed,
(c) whether it is subject to any conditions,
(d) the date that it will expire.

(4) But, in the case of a former licensed provider, the “relevant details” are instead—
(a) the date on which the licence was originally granted,
(b) the period for which the licensed provider held a licence,
(c) the reason for the licensed provider ceasing to hold a licence.

(5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—
(a) make further provision about the information to be contained in the registers of licensed providers, and
(b) prescribe the manner in which those registers are to be kept and published.

(6) In this section, a reference to a licensed provider includes a former licensed provider.
Lists of disqualified persons

(1) An approved regulator must keep a list of the persons whom it has disqualified under section 44 (that is, from holding a certain position in a licensed legal services provider).

(2) The list kept under subsection (1) must include the following information in relation to each person concerned—

(a) the person’s name,
(b) the—

(i) name of any relevant licensed provider,
(ii) any relevant position held by the person as at the date of the disqualification,
(c) each position from which the person is disqualified,
(d) the date of disqualification and its duration (unlimited or the fixed period),
(e) the reasons for the disqualification.

(3) An approved regulator must keep a list of the persons whom it has determined as unfit under section 49 (that is, for being an outside investor in a licensed provider).

(4) The list kept under subsection (3) must include the following information in relation to each person concerned—

(a) the person’s name,
(b) the name of any relevant licensed provider,
(c) the date of the determination,
(d) the grounds for the determination.

(5) The approved regulator must—

(a) publish the lists kept by it under this section, and
(b) notify the Scottish Ministers of any material alterations made to either of them.

(6) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—

(a) make further provision about the information to be contained in the lists kept under this section,
(b) prescribe the manner in which those lists are to be kept and published.

Miscellaneous

Privileged material

(1) Subsection (2) applies to the publication under this Part of any—

(a) advice, report or notice, or
(b) other material.

(2) For the purposes of the law on defamation, the publication is privileged.

(3) But subsection (2) is ineffective if it is proved that the publication was made with malice.
70 Immunity from damages

(1) Neither an approved regulator nor any of its officers, members or employees is liable in damages for any act or omission occurring in the exercise (or purported exercise) of its functions under this Part.

(2) But subsection (1) is ineffective if it is shown that the act or omission was in bad faith.

71 Effect of professional or other rules

(1) Sections 88(5) and 91(3) respectively make provision (in connection with this Part) as to the effect of professional rules to which advocates and solicitors are subject.

(2) Nothing in this Part affects the operation of any rule which regulates in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct or discipline of other persons who provide professional services (in particular, as it may relate to their involvement in or with licensed legal services providers).

(3) This Part is without prejudice to any function of a person or body—

(a) arising by virtue of the application of another enactment (or a regulatory rule made under another enactment), and

(b) to regulate in any respect the provision of any professional or other services by licensed legal services providers.

PART 3
CONFIRMATION SERVICES

Regulation of confirmation agents

72 Confirmation agents and services

(1) For the purposes of this Part, confirmation services are services that are—

(a) described in subsection (2), and

(b) provided (or offered)—

(i) to members of the public, and

(ii) for a fee, gain or reward.

(2) The services are those of drawing or preparing papers on which to found or oppose an application for the confirmation of a person as the executor nominate or dative in relation to the estate of a deceased person.

(3) It is immaterial for the description in subsection (2) whether or not the services also involve applying to the sheriff on behalf of the person so as to secure the person’s confirmation as such (or taking other related action).

(4) For the purposes of this Part, a confirmation agent is a person on whom, in accordance with an approving body’s regulatory scheme, the right to provide confirmation services is conferred.

73 Approving bodies

(1) For the purposes of this Part, an approving body is a professional or other body which is certified as such by the Scottish Ministers under section 74.
(2) That is, following an application to them by the body under subsection (3).

(3) An application to become an approving body must include—

(a) a copy of the applicant’s proposed regulatory scheme (see section 74(1)(b)),
(b) a description of—

(i) the applicant’s constitution and composition (including internal structure),
(ii) its activities.

(4) The applicant—

(a) must provide the Scottish Ministers with such other information as they may reasonably require for their consideration of its application,
(b) may withdraw its application at any time by giving them written notice to that effect.

(5) There is no restriction on the number of approving bodies that may exist at any time.

(6) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations prescribe fees that they may charge an applicant to become an approving body.

74 Certification of bodies

(1) The Scottish Ministers may certify the applicant as an approving body if they are satisfied that—

(a) the applicant is suitable to be an approving body,
(b) the applicant’s proposed regulatory scheme is adequate (as determined with particular reference to section 75).

(2) The Scottish Ministers may certify the applicant as an approving body—

(a) either—

(i) without limit of time, or
(ii) for a fixed period,
(b) with reference to a specified date from which the approving body may exercise its functions in relation to its regulatory scheme,
(c) subject to conditions.

(3) Before deciding whether or not to certify the applicant as an approving body, the Scottish Ministers must consult—

(a) the OFT, and such other organisation appearing to them to represent the interests of consumers in Scotland as they consider appropriate,
(b) such other person or body as they consider appropriate.

(4) In consulting under subsection (3), the Scottish Ministers—

(a) must send a copy of the application to the OFT,
(b) may send—

(i) to any other consultee, a copy of the application,
(ii) to the OFT or any other consultee, a copy of any revised application.

(5) The Scottish Ministers must notify the applicant if they intend to—
(a) refuse to certify it as an approving body, or
(b) certify it as such subject to conditions.

(6) If notification is given to the applicant under subsection (5), it has 28 days beginning with the date of the notification (or such longer period as the Scottish Ministers may allow) to—

(a) make representations to the Scottish Ministers,
(b) take such steps as it may consider expedient.

(7) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about certification under this section, including (in particular)—

(a) the process for seeking their certification,
(b) the criteria for their certification (including things that applicants must be able to demonstrate),
(c) what categories of bodies may (or may not) be an approving body.

Regulatory schemes

(1) An approving body must—

(a) make a regulatory scheme for—

(i) conferring on any of the individual persons within its membership the right to provide confirmation services, and
(ii) regulating the provision of confirmation services by the persons on whom (in accordance with the scheme) that right is conferred, and
(b) apply the scheme in relation to them.

(2) The regulatory scheme is to—

(a) describe the training requirements to be met by a prospective confirmation agent,
(b) incorporate a code of practice to which a confirmation agent is subject,
(c) require that a confirmation agent keep in place sufficient arrangements for professional indemnity,
(d) include rules about—

(i) the making and handling of any complaint about a confirmation agent,
(ii) the measures that may be taken by the approving body, in relation to a confirmation agent, if a conduct complaint (as construed by reference to section 2(1)(a) of the 2007 Act (and as if the confirmation agent were a practitioner to whom that section relates)) about the confirmation agent is upheld,
(c) allow a confirmation agent to make representations to the approving body before it takes any of the measures available to it by virtue of paragraph (d)(ii),
(f) cover such other regulatory matters as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations specify (and in such manner as they may so specify).

(3) The code of practice mentioned in subsection (2)(b) must—

(a) set out the standards to be met by confirmation agents,
(b) make such further arrangements as to the professional practice, conduct or discipline of confirmation agents for which provision is (in the approving body’s opinion) necessary or expedient,

(c) allow for—

5

(i) the rescission or suspension of, or attaching of conditions to the exercise of, the right of a confirmation agent to provide confirmation services if the agent contravenes the code of practice,

(ii) the suspension of that right of a confirmation agent if a complaint, suggesting that the agent is guilty of professional misconduct in relation to the provision of confirmation services, is made about the agent.

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(4) A confirmation agent may appeal against a decision taken under the regulatory scheme to rescind or suspend, or attach conditions to the exercise of, the agent’s right to provide confirmation services—

(a) to the sheriff,

(b) within the period of 3 months beginning with the date on which that decision is intimated to the agent.

15

(5) An approving body must, so far as practicable when exercising its functions under this Part, observe the regulatory objectives.

76 Financial sanctions

20 (1) Rules included in a regulatory scheme in pursuance of section 75(2)(d)(ii) may provide for the imposition of a financial penalty.

(2) A financial penalty provided for by virtue of subsection (1) must not exceed the maximum amount permitted by the Scottish Ministers when giving their certification under section 74.

25 (3) A financial penalty imposed by virtue of this section—

(a) is payable to the approving body,

(b) must be applied towards the cost of exercising its functions under this Part.

(4) A confirmation agent may appeal against a financial penalty (or the amount of a financial penalty) imposed on the agent by virtue of this section—

(a) to the sheriff,

(b) within the period of 3 months beginning with the date on which the penalty is intimated to the agent.

30 (5) Where an appeal is made under subsection (4), no part of the penalty requires to be paid before the appeal is determined or withdrawn.

77 Pretending to be authorised

35 (1) A person commits an offence if the person—

(a) pretends to be a confirmation agent (or otherwise pretends to have the right to provide confirmation services under this Part), or
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(b) takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that the person is a confirmation agent (or otherwise implying that the person has the right to provide confirmation services under this Part).

(2) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Other regulatory matters

78 Revocation of certification

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that an approving body has failed to comply with a direction under section 81(3).

(2) The Scottish Ministers may—

(a) revoke the certification given to the approving body under section 74,

(b) require the approving body to take specified action (or refrain from doing something) if they consider that to be necessary or expedient in connection with the revocation.

(3) The revocation under subsection (2) of the certification of an approving body has the effect, from the date on which the revocation becomes effective, of rescinding the right of each of its confirmation agents to provide confirmation services (so far as that right is conferred by the approving body in question).

79 Surrender of certification

(1) An approving body may, with the prior agreement of the Scottish Ministers, surrender the certification given to it under section 74.

(2) The approving body must—

(a) take all reasonable steps to mitigate such disruption to the clients of its confirmation agents as is likely to result from the surrender,

(b) in particular, take steps for ensuring that any relevant work is—

(i) completed, or

(ii) taken over by a suitably qualified person,

before the date from which subsection (5) is operative.

(3) The Scottish Ministers may direct the approving body to take specified action (or refrain from doing something) if they consider that to be necessary or expedient—

(a) for the purpose of subsection (2), or

(b) otherwise in connection with the surrender.

(4) Before the Scottish Ministers may agree to the surrender, they must be satisfied that the approving body has complied (or will comply) with—

(a) subsection (2), and

(b) any directions given to it under subsection (3).
The surrender of an approving body’s certification under subsection (1) has, from the date on which the surrender becomes effective, the effect of extinguishing the right of each of its confirmation agents to provide confirmation services (so far as that right is conferred by the approving body in question).

### Register and list

1. **The Scottish Ministers**—
   - **must** keep and publish a register of approving bodies,
   - **may** do so in a manner they consider appropriate.

2. The register is to include the following information in relation to each approving body—
   - **its** contact details (including its address, website and telephone number),
   - **the** date on which it was given the relevant certification under section 74.

3. An approving body must—
   - **keep** a list of its confirmation agents,
   - **give** the Scottish Ministers a copy of the list whenever they request it.

4. An approving body must give the Scottish Ministers such information about its confirmation agents as the Scottish Ministers may reasonably request.

### Ministerial intervention

1. An approving body must—
   - **provide** such information about its performance in relation to its regulatory scheme as the Scottish Ministers may reasonably request,
   - **do** so within 21 days beginning with the date of the request (or such longer period as the Scottish Ministers may allow).

2. An approving body—
   - **if** directed to do so by the Scottish Ministers, must—
     - **review** its regulatory scheme (or any relevant part of it), and
     - **report** to them its findings and (if appropriate) inform them of any proposed amendment to the scheme,
   - **may** amend its regulatory scheme so as to give effect to the proposed amendment, but—
     - **any** material amendment is invalid unless it has the prior approval of the Scottish Ministers,
     - the Scottish Ministers may not give their approval before they have consulted such person or body as they consider appropriate.

3. The Scottish Ministers may—
(a) if, after consulting such person or body as they consider appropriate, they consider that an approving body’s regulatory scheme is not (or is no longer) adequate, direct the approving body to amend the regulatory scheme in such manner as they may specify,

(b) if they are satisfied that an approving body has not complied with a requirement imposed on it by or under this Part, direct the approving body to take specified remedial action (or refrain from doing something).

(4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision requiring an approving body to—

(a) carry out an annual review of the performance of its confirmation agents, and

(b) send a report (in a specified form) on the review to the Scottish Ministers.

(5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision about—

(a) approving bodies,

(b) confirmation agents.

82  **Regard to OFT input**

(1) The Scottish Ministers, whenever consulting the OFT under section 74(3)(a), must request the OFT—

(a) to give such advice as it considers appropriate in relation to the matter concerned,

(b) in considering what (if any) advice to give, to have particular regard to whether the matter concerned would have (or be likely to have) the effect of preventing, or significantly restricting or distorting, competition within the legal services market.

(2) The Scottish Ministers are to take account of any advice given by the OFT within—

(a) the relevant consultation period, or

(b) otherwise, the period of 90 days beginning with the day on which they request the advice.

(3) The Scottish Ministers may publish any advice duly given to them by the OFT.

**Related provision**

83  **Complaints about agents**

In the 2007 Act, after Part 2A (inserted by section 65) insert—

“PART 2B

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR CONFIRMATION AGENTS ETC.

57F  **Complaints about confirmation agents**

(1) Parts 1 and 2 apply in relation to complaints made about confirmation agents as they apply in relation to complaints made about practitioners.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to—

(a) subsection (3), and

(b) such further modification to the operation of Parts 1 and 2 as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations make for the purposes of subsection (1).
(3) In relation to a services or conduct complaint about a confirmation agent, its approving body is to be regarded as the relevant professional organisation.

57G Handling complaints

(1) Sections 23 to 25 apply in relation to any complaint made about how an approving body has dealt with a conduct complaint as they apply in relation to a handling complaint (relating to a conduct complaint) made about a relevant professional organisation.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to such modification to the operation of those sections as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations make for the purposes of that subsection.

57H Levy and interpretation of Part 2B

(1) A confirmation agent must pay to the Commission—
   (a) the annual general levy, and
   (b) the complaints levy (if arising),
   in accordance with Part 1.

(2) For the purposes of this Part—
   “approving body”,
   “confirmation agent”,
   “confirmation services”,
   are to be construed in accordance with Part 3 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010.”.

84 Privilege and immunity

(1) For the purposes of the law on defamation, the publication under this Part of any material is privileged unless it is proved that the publication was made with malice.

(2) Neither an approving body nor any of its officers, members or employees is liable in damages for any act or omission occurring in the exercise (or purported exercise) of its functions under this Part unless it is shown that the act or omission was in bad faith.

85 Consequential modification

(1) In the Confirmation of Executors (Scotland) Act 1858, in section 2 (petition to commissary), after “1990” insert “or by a confirmation agent within the meaning of Part 3 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010”.

(2) In the 1980 Act—
   (a) in section 32 (offence for unqualified persons to prepare certain documents) of the 1980 Act, in subsection (2C), after “1990” insert “or to a confirmation agent within the meaning of Part 3 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010”;
   (b) in paragraph 1A of Schedule 4 (constitution, procedure and powers of Tribunal), after head (b)(ii) insert—
“(iia) confirmation agents within the meaning of Part 3 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010;”.

(3) In section 12A (register of advice organisations) of the 1986 Act, after subsection (2)(b) insert—

“(ba) is a confirmation agent within the meaning of Part 3 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010;”.

(4) In paragraph 2 of schedule 1 (the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission) to the 2007 Act, after sub-paragraph (6)(b) insert—

“(ba) confirmation agents within the meaning of Part 3 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010;”.

PART 4
THE LEGAL PROFESSION
CHAPTER 1
APPLYING THE REGULATORY OBJECTIVES

86 Application by the profession

(1) Each of the regulatory authorities mentioned in subsection (2) must, so far as practicable when exercising the authority’s regulatory functions (as defined in subsection (3)), act in a way which—

(a) is compatible with the regulatory objectives, and

(b) it considers most appropriate with a view to meeting to those objectives.

(2) For the purpose of this section, the “regulatory authorities” are—

(a) the Court of Session,

(b) the Lord President,

(c) the Faculty of Advocates,

(d) the Council of the Law Society,

(e) any other person who or body that has regulatory functions in relation to the provision of legal services by legal practices (of any type).

(3) For the purpose of this section, the “regulatory functions” of a regulatory authority—

(a) are its functions of regulating in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct and discipline of legal practices (of any type),

(b) include its functions of making professional or regulatory rules to which legal practices (of any type) are subject.

(4) In subsections (2) and (3), “legal practices” means—

(a) solicitors (including firms of solicitors) or incorporated practices,

(b) advocates,

(c) conveyancing or executry practitioners, or
(d) persons having a right to conduct litigation or a right of audience by virtue of section 27 of the 1990 Act.

CHAPTER 2

FACULTY OF ADVOCATES

5 87 Regulation of the Faculty

(1) The Court of Session is responsible—
   (a) for—
      (i) admitting persons to (and removing persons from) the office of advocate,
      (ii) prescribing the criteria and procedure for admission to (and removal from)
            the office of advocate,
   (b) for regulating the professional practice, conduct and discipline of advocates.

(2) The Court’s responsibilities within subsection (1)(a)(ii) and (b) are exercisable on its behalf, in accordance with such provision as it may make for the purpose, by—
   (a) the Lord President, or
   (b) the Faculty of Advocates.

88 Professional rules

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply to any rule which—
   (a) prescribes the criteria or procedure for admission to (or removal from) the office
       of advocate, or
   (b) regulates in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct or discipline
       of advocates.

(2) If the rule is made by the Faculty, the rule—
   (a) is of no effect unless it has been approved by the Lord President (and may not be
       revoked unless its revocation has been approved by the Lord President),
   (b) must be published by the Faculty.

(3) In any other case, the rule—
   (a) is of no effect unless the Faculty has been consulted on it (and may not be revoked
       unless the Faculty has been consulted on its revocation),
   (b) requires—
      (i) where made by the Lord President, to be published,
      (ii) where made by the Court of Session, to be contained in an Act of Sederunt.

(4) Neither this section nor section 89 affects the validity of any rule—
   (a) that was in force immediately prior to the commencement of this section, and
   (b) which regulates in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct or
discipline of advocates.
(5) Nothing in Part 2 affects the operation of any rule which regulates in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct or discipline of advocates (in particular, as it may relate to their involvement in or with licensed legal services providers).

89  
**Particular rules**

1  
(1) Subsection (2) applies to any rule—

(a) which regulates in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct or discipline of advocates, and

(b) under which an advocate is prohibited from forming a legal relationship with another advocate, or any other person, for the purpose of their jointly offering professional services to the public.

(2) The rule is of no effect unless it has been approved by the Scottish Ministers after they have consulted the OFT.

(3) Subsection (2) is without prejudice to section 88(2) and (3).

(4) In section 31 (rules of conduct etc.) of the 1990 Act, subsection (1) is repealed.

CHAPTER 3  
**SOLICITORS AND OTHER PRACTITIONERS**

90  
**Qualified persons**

(1) In section 26 (offence for solicitors to act as agents for unqualified persons) of the 1980 Act, in subsection (3), after “does not include” insert “a licensed legal services provider,”.

(2) In section 30 (liability for fees of other solicitor) of the 1980 Act—

(a) after “incorporated practice” in the second place where it occurs insert “or a licensed legal services provider”,

(b) for “other solicitor or incorporated practice” substitute “employed party”,

(c) for “other solicitor’s or incorporated practice’s” substitute “party’s”.

(3) In section 31 (offence for unqualified persons to pretend to be solicitor or notary public) of the 1980 Act—

(a) the unnumbered block of text (from “In” to “practice.”) between subsections (1) and (2) is repealed,

(b) after subsection (2) insert—

“(2A) This section does not apply to an incorporated practice or a licensed legal services provider.”.

(4) In section 32 (offence for unqualified persons to prepare certain documents) of the 1980 Act, after paragraph (e) of subsection (2) insert “; or

(ea) a licensed legal services provider;”.

(5) In section 33 (unqualified persons not entitled to fees etc.) of the 1980 Act—
(a) the first unnumbered block of text (from “Subject” to “matter.”) becomes subsection (1) and the second unnumbered block of text (from “This” to “cause.”) becomes subsection (2),

(b) in subsection (2) (as so numbered), after “incorporated practice” insert “or a licensed legal services provider”.

(6) In section 65(1) (interpretation) of the 1980 Act, in the definition of “unqualified person”, at the end insert “(but this does not include a licensed legal services provider as defined in Part II)”.

(7) In section 17 (qualified conveyancers) of the 1990 Act, in subsection (23)—

(a) after paragraph (b) insert—

“(ba) a licensed legal services provider within the meaning of Part 2 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010;”,

(b) after the subsequent “incorporated practice” insert “, licensed provider”.

Changes as to practice rules

(1) After section 33B of the 1980 Act insert—

**33C Licensed legal services providers**

(1) Subsection (2) applies to any rule made under section 34 which prohibits or unduly restricts the—

(a) involvement of solicitors in or with, or employment of solicitors by, licensed legal services providers,

(b) the provision of services by licensed providers, or

(c) the operation of licensed providers in other respects.

(2) The rule is of no effect in so far as it does so (and for this purpose it is immaterial when the rule was made).

(3) The reference in subsection (1)(a) to solicitors does not include a solicitor who is disqualified from practice by reason of having been—

(a) struck off (or removed from) the roll, or

(b) suspended from practice.

(4) In this Part, “licensed legal services provider” (or “licensed provider”) is to be construed in accordance with Part 2 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010.”.

(2) In addition—

(a) in section 34 (rules as to professional practice, conduct and discipline) of the 1980 Act—

(i) in subsection (1A)(f), for “or incorporated practices which, are partners in or directors of multi-disciplinary practices” substitute “have an interest in or are employed by (or otherwise within) licensed legal services providers”,

(ii) subsection (3A) is repealed,

(b) in section 64A(1) of that Act, paragraph (b) and the word “; or” immediately preceding it are repealed,
(c) in section 64B of that Act, the words “or such as is mentioned in section 34(3A)” are repealed,

(d) in section 64D(6) of that Act, for “sections 25A(9) or (10) and 34(3A)” substitute “section 25A(9) or (10)”,

(e) in section 65(1) of that Act—
   (i) the definition of “multi-disciplinary practice” is repealed,
   (ii) in the definition of “unqualified person”, the words “, other than a multi-disciplinary practice,” are repealed,

(f) in section 17(23) of the 1990 Act—
   (i) paragraph (c) is repealed,
   (ii) the subsequent words “, multi-disciplinary practice” are repealed,

(g) in paragraph 29(15) of Schedule 8 to that Act—
   (i) in head (c), the insertion (into section 65(1) of the 1980 Act) of the definition of “multi-disciplinary practice” is repealed,
   (ii) head (f) and the word “and” immediately preceding it are repealed.

(3) Subject to section 33C of the 1980 Act, nothing in Part 2 affects the operation of any rule which regulates in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct or discipline of solicitors.

The Law Society

92 Council membership

(1) In section 3 (establishment and functions of Council of Law Society) of the 1980 Act, in subsection (1), after “elected” insert “or appointed”.

(2) In Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act—
   (a) in paragraph 2 (the Council’s scheme)—
   (i) in head (a), the word “, election,” is repealed,
   (ii) after head (a) insert—
       “(aa) election and appointment to the Council;”,
   (b) in paragraph 3 (detail of the scheme), after head (b) insert—
       “(bza) shall make provision for—
       (i) the election of solicitor members to the Council,
       (ii) the appointment of non-solicitor members to the Council;”,
   (c) after paragraph 3 insert—
       “3A(1) This paragraph applies for the purpose of paragraph 3(bza).
       (2) Persons are electable as solicitor members if they are members of the Society.
       (3) Persons are appointable as non-solicitor members if they appear to the Council—
(a) to be qualified to represent the interests of the public in relation to the provision of legal services in Scotland, or
(b) having regard to the Society’s objectives, to be suitable in other respects.

(4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—

(a) specify—

(i) such additional criteria as they consider appropriate for appointability as non-solicitor members,
(ii) the number of non-solicitor members, or proportion of the non-solicitor part of the membership, in relation to whom the criteria are to apply,

(b) prescribe a minimum—

(i) number of non-solicitor members, or
(ii) proportion of the membership that is to comprise non-solicitor members,

if they believe that such prescription is necessary for ensuring that the number or proportion of non-solicitor members is adequate.

(5) Before making regulations under subsection (4), the Scottish Ministers must consult—

(a) the Council,
(b) the Lord President,
(c) the Office of Fair Trading, and such other organisation appearing to them to represent the interests of consumers in Scotland as they consider appropriate.

(6) The power to make regulations under subsection (4) is exercisable by statutory instrument; but a statutory instrument containing any such regulations is not to be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Scottish Parliament.”.

93 Regulatory committee

(1) In section 3A (discharge of functions of Council of the Law Society) of the 1980 Act, in subsection (11), for “is” substitute “is—

(a) subject to section 3B, and
(b)”.

(2) After section 3A of the 1980 Act insert—

“3B Regulatory committee

(1) The Council must, for the purpose mentioned in subsection (2), arrange under section 3A(1)(a) for their regulatory functions to be exercised on their behalf by a regulatory committee.

(2) The purpose is of ensuring that the Council’s regulatory functions are exercised—

(a) independently of any other person or interest,
(b) properly in other respects (in particular, with a view to achieving public confidence).

(3) The following particular rules apply as respects the regulatory committee—

(a) at least 50% of the committee’s membership is to comprise lay persons,
(b) the committee is to appoint one of its lay members as its convener,
(c) if the convener is not present at a meeting of the committee, another of its lay members is to chair the meeting.

(4) But nothing done by the regulatory committee is invalid solely because of a temporary shortfall in the number of its lay members.

(5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—

(a) make further provision about the Council’s regulatory functions if they believe that such provision is necessary for ensuring that those functions are exercised in accordance with the purpose stated in subsection (2),
(b) modify (by elaboration or exception) the definition in subsection (9) if they believe that such modification is appropriate.

(6) Before making regulations under subsection (5), the Scottish Ministers must consult the Council.

(7) The power to make regulations under subsection (5) is exercisable by statutory instrument; but a statutory instrument containing any such regulations is not to be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Scottish Parliament.

(8) In subsection (3)(a), “lay persons” are persons who are not—

(a) solicitors,
(b) advocates,
(c) conveyancing or executry practitioners as defined in section 23 of the 1990 Act,
(d) those having a right to conduct litigation or a right of audience by virtue of section 27 of the 1990 Act, or
(e) confirmation agents within the meaning of Part 3 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010.

(9) For the purposes of this section, the Council’s “regulatory functions”—

(a) are their functions of regulating in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct and discipline of solicitors (including firms of solicitors) and incorporated practices,
(b) include their functions of making rules under sections 34 and 35.”.

94 Removal from solicitors roll

(1) In section 10 (restoration of name to roll on request) of the 1980 Act—

(a) after subsection (1) insert—
“(1ZA) Where the restoration of a solicitor’s name to the roll has been prohibited under section 53(2)(aa), the solicitor is entitled to have the solicitor’s name restored to the roll if (but only if) the Tribunal so orders—

(a) on an application made to it by the solicitor, and

(b) after such enquiry as it thinks proper;”,

(b) in subsection (1A), after “section 9” insert “(except where subsection (1ZA) applies)

(c) in subsection (2), after “subsection (1)” insert “or (1ZA)”.

(2) In section 53 (powers of Tribunal) of the 1980 Act, in subsection (2)—

(a) after paragraph (a) insert—

“(aa) if the solicitor’s name has been removed from the roll under section 9, by order prohibit the restoration of the solicitor’s name to the roll;”,

(b) the word “or” where it occurs immediately after any of paragraphs (a) to (e) is repealed.

CHAPTER 4
OTHER BODIES

Scottish Legal Aid Board

95 Exclusion from giving legal assistance

In section 31 (solicitors and counsel) of the 1986 Act—

(a) in subsections (3), (4) and (5), for “relevant body” wherever appearing substitute “Board”;

(b) subsections (6) and (10) are repealed.

96 Availability of legal services

In the 1986 Act—

(a) in section 1 (the Scottish Legal Aid Board), after subsection (2) insert—

“(2A) The Board also has the general function of monitoring the availability and accessibility of legal services in Scotland.”;

(b) in section 2 (powers of the Board), after subsection (2)(d) insert—

“(da) to give the Scottish Ministers such advice as it may consider appropriate in relation to the availability and accessibility of legal services in Scotland;”;

(c) in section 3 (duties of the Board), after subsection (2) insert—

“(2A) The Board is, from time to time, to give the Scottish Ministers such information as they may require relating to the availability and accessibility of legal services in Scotland.”;
Information about legal services

(1) A body mentioned in subsection (2) must provide the Scottish Legal Aid Board with such information as the Board may reasonably require for the purpose mentioned in subsection (3).

(2) The bodies are—

(a) the Law Society,
(b) the Faculty of Advocates,
(c) the Scottish Court Service.

(3) The purpose is the Board’s exercise of its function under section 1(2A) of the 1986 Act.

Minor amendments

In the 2007 Act—

(a) in section 29(9), for “subsection (1)” substitute “subsection (8)”,
(b) in section 46(1), in paragraph (c) in the definition of “unsatisfactory professional conduct”, for “section 27 of this Act” substitute “section 27 of the 1990 Act”,
(c) in paragraph 13(2)(a) of schedule 1—

(i) for “the function of deciding” substitute “a decision”,
(ii) for “whether” substitute “that”,
(iii) for “exercised” substitute “taken”,
(d) in paragraph 1(h)(iii) of schedule 3 for “whether” substitute “that”.

Regulations

(1) Any power of the Scottish Ministers to make regulations under the preceding Parts of this Act is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(2) The regulations may—

(a) make different provision for different purposes,
(b) include such incidental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision as the Scottish Ministers consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the regulations.

(3) But—

(a) a statutory instrument containing regulations under—

(i) section 8(2)(c) or (5),
(ii) section 26(1),
(iii) section 29(6),
(iv) section 35(1),
(v) section 55(10),
(vi) section 75(2)(f), or
(vii) section 81(5),
is not to be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and
approved by resolution of, the Scottish Parliament,
(b) a statutory instrument containing any other regulations under the preceding Parts
of this Act is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Parliament.

**Ancillary provision**

(1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations made by statutory instrument make such—
(a) supplemental provision, or
(b) incidental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision,
as they consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with this
Act.

(2) But—

(a) a statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) which adds to,
replaces or omits any part of the text of an Act (including this Act) is not to be
made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by
resolution of, the Scottish Parliament,
(b) a statutory instrument containing any other regulations under that subsection is
subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Parliament.

**Definitions**

(1) In this Act (unless the context otherwise requires)—

“the 1980 Act” means the Solicitors (Scotland) Act 1980,
“the 1986 Act” means the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986,
“the 1990 Act” means the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act
1990,
“the 2007 Act” means the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007,
“Faculty” means the Faculty of Advocates,
“Law Society” means the Law Society of Scotland,
“Lord President” means the Lord President of the Court of Session,
“OFT” means the Office of Fair Trading.

(2) In this Act (unless the context otherwise requires)—

(a) the following expressions are to be construed in accordance with section 65(1)
(interpretation) of the 1980 Act—

“advocate”,
“incorporated practice”,
“practising certificate”,
“registered European lawyer”,
“registered foreign lawyer”,
“solicitor”,
(b) the following expressions are to be construed in accordance with section 23
(interpretation) of the 1990 Act—
“conveyancing practitioner”,
“executry practitioner”.

(3) In this Act (unless the context otherwise requires), a reference to a professional
association or body includes—
(a) the Law Society,
(b) any other organisation which serves a profession (for example, the Institute of
Chartered Accountants in Scotland).

(4) Schedule 9 is an index of expressions introduced for—
(a) the whole Act,
(b) Parts 2 and 3.

102 Commencement and short title
(1) This section and sections 99 to 101 come into force on the day after Royal Assent.
(2) The other provisions of this Act come into force on the day that the Scottish Ministers
by order made by statutory instrument appoint.
(3) An order under subsection (2) may appoint different days for different provisions.
(4) An order under subsection (2) may—
(a) make different provision for different purposes,
(b) include such transitional, transitory or saving provision as the Scottish Ministers
consider necessary or expedient in connection with the commencement of this
Act.
(5) The short title of this Act is the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010.
SCHEDULE 1
(introduced by section 29(3))

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Application

1 This schedule applies where the Scottish Ministers—
   (a) are satisfied that an act or omission of an approved regulator (or a series of acts or
       omissions) has had, or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the observance of
       any of the regulatory objectives, or
   (b) consider that, for any other reason, it is necessary or expedient for one or more
       performance targets to be set as respects an approved regulator.

Power to set targets

2 (1) The Scottish Ministers may—
    (a) set one or more performance targets for the approved regulator in relation to its
        regulatory functions,
    (b) require the approved regulator to set one or more performance targets in relation
        to its regulatory functions.
   
   (2) The approved regulator must (so far as practicable) comply with a performance target
        set for it under sub-paragraph (1)(a) or (b).

Notice of intention

3 (1) Before setting a performance target, or requiring the approved regulator to do so, the
      Scottish Ministers must give it a notice (a “notice of intention”) of their intention to do
      so.
   
   (2) The notice of intention must—
      (a) state that the Scottish Ministers intend to—
      (i) set a performance target, or
      (ii) require that the approved regulator set such a target,
   
      (b) describe the proposed target (including the period within which it would have to
          be met),
      (c) specify—
      (i) the act or omission (or series of acts or omissions) to which the proposed
          target relates,
      (ii) any other facts which, in their opinion, justify the intended target-setting.

Consultation

4 (1) The approved regulator has 28 days beginning with the date of receipt of the notice of
      intention (or such longer period as the approved regulator and the Scottish Ministers
      may agree) to make representations to the Scottish Ministers about the proposed target.
(2) The Scottish Ministers must—

(a) give a copy of the notice of intention to such persons or bodies as they consider appropriate,

(b) consult them accordingly.

5 Decision

5 (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to any representations made to them by the approved regulator, or any consultee under paragraph 4(2), when deciding whether to proceed with the target-setting.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—

(a) send to the approved regulator a notice (a “decision notice”) of their decision,

(b) notify the consultees under paragraph 4(2) of their decision,

(c) publish any target set, or requirement made by them, under paragraph 2(1)(a) or (b) in such manner as they consider most appropriate to bring it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

(3) If the Scottish Ministers’ decision is in favour of target-setting, the decision notice must contain the target.

(4) An approved regulator must publish any target set by it following a requirement under paragraph 2(1)(b) in such manner as it considers most appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

(5) For the purposes of this schedule, relevant persons or bodies include—

(a) other approved regulators,

(b) providers of legal services,

(c) organisations representing the interests of consumers,

(d) members of the public.

SCHEDULE 2
(introduced by section 29(3))

DIRECTIONS

Application

1 This schedule applies where the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that—

(a) an act or omission of an approved regulator (or a series of acts or omissions) has had, or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the observance of any of the regulatory objectives,

(b) an approved regulator has failed to comply with a requirement imposed on it by or under this Act (including a direction imposed in accordance with this schedule),

(c) an approved regulator has failed to adhere to its internal governance arrangements (including, in particular, those relating to the independent and effective exercise of its regulatory functions), or
(d) an approved regulator has made a material amendment to its regulatory scheme under section 8(4).

Power to direct

2 (1) The Scottish Ministers may direct the approved regulator to take—

(a) in a case falling within paragraph 1(a), such action as they consider will counter the adverse impact, mitigate its effect or prevent its recurrence,

(b) in a case falling within paragraph 1(b) or (c), such action as they consider will remedy the failure, mitigate its effect or prevent its recurrence,

(c) in a case falling within paragraph 1(d), such action as they consider necessary or expedient in relation to such transitional matters as may arise from the amendment.

(2) A direction under sub-paragraph (1) may require the approved regulator to modify any part of its regulatory scheme.

(3) A direction under sub-paragraph (1) must not be framed by reference to—

(a) a specific disciplinary case, or

(b) other specific regulatory proceedings.

(4) A direction under sub-paragraph (1) may require the approved regulator to refrain from doing something.

(5) The approved regulator must (so far as practicable) comply with a direction given to it in accordance with this schedule.

Notice of intention

3 (1) Before giving a direction to an approved regulator under this schedule, the Scottish Ministers must give it a notice (a “notice of intention”) of their intention to do so.

(2) The notice of intention must—

(a) state that the Scottish Ministers intend to give a direction,

(b) indicate the terms of the proposed direction (including the date by which it would have to be complied with),

(c) explain why the Scottish Ministers are satisfied as mentioned in paragraph 1.

Consultation

4 (1) The approved regulator has 28 days beginning with the date of receipt of the notice of intention (or such longer period as the approved regulator and the Scottish Ministers may agree) to make representations to the Scottish Ministers about the proposed direction.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—

(a) publish the notice of intention in such manner as they consider most appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body,

(b) give a copy of the notice of intention to—

(i) the Lord President,
(ii) such other person or body as they consider appropriate,

(c) after the expiry of the period for representations—

(i) give the recipients under paragraph (b) a copy of any representations received from the approved regulator,

(ii) consult them accordingly in relation to the appropriateness of giving the direction.

(3) Where the Scottish Ministers consider that the proposed direction may have the effect of preventing competition within the legal services market, or significantly restricting or distorting such competition, they must (additionally)—

(a) send to the OFT—

(i) a copy of the notice of intention,

(ii) a copy of any representations received from the approved regulator,

(b) consult the OFT accordingly.

**Decision**

5 (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to any representations made to them by the approved regulator, or any consultee under paragraph 4(2)(c) or (3), when deciding whether to proceed with giving a direction.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—

(a) send to the approved regulator a notice (a “decision notice”) of their decision,

(b) notify the consultees under paragraph 4(2)(c) and (3) of their decision,

(c) publish the decision notice in such manner as they consider most appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

(3) If the Scottish Ministers decide to give the direction, the decision notice must contain the direction.

(4) For the purposes of this schedule, relevant persons or bodies include—

(a) other approved regulators,

(b) providers of legal services,

(c) organisations representing the interests of consumers,

(d) members of the public.

**Extension of time to comply**

6 (1) The Scottish Ministers may, on an application by an approved regulator made at any time after the giving of a direction, allow an approved regulator additional time to comply with the direction.

(2) Where such additional time is allowed, the Scottish Ministers must publicise that fact in such manner as they consider most likely to bring it to the attention of any relevant person or body.
Enforcement

7 (1) If at any time it appears to the Scottish Ministers that an approved regulator has failed to comply with a direction given under this schedule, they may make an application to the Court of Session for an order as described in sub-paragraph (2).

5 (2) On an application under sub-paragraph (1), the Court may (if it decides that the approved regulator has failed to comply with the direction) order the approved regulator to take such steps as the Court thinks fit for securing that the direction is complied with.

SCHEDULE 3
(introduced by section 29(3))

CENSURE

Application

1 This schedule applies where the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that—

(a) an act or omission of an approved regulator (or a series of acts or omissions) has had, or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the observance of any of the regulatory objectives, or

(b) an approved regulator has failed to comply with a requirement imposed on it by or under this Act.

Power to censure

2 The Scottish Ministers may make and publish a statement censuring the approved regulator for—

(a) the act or omission (or series of acts or omissions), or

(b) the failure.

Preliminary advice

3 Before making the statement, the Scottish Ministers must consult—

(a) the Lord President,

(b) such other person or body as they consider appropriate, about the proposed statement.

Notice of intention

4 (1) If, after consulting under paragraph 3, the Scottish Ministers intend to proceed with making the statement, they must give the approved regulator a notice (a “notice of intention”) of that intention.

(2) The notice of intention must—

(a) state that the Scottish Ministers intend to publish the statement,

(b) specify the date on which they intend to publish the statement (which must be after the expiry of the period mentioned in paragraph 5(1)),
(c) set out the terms of the proposed statement,

(d) specify—
   (i) the act or omission (or series of acts or omissions), or
   (ii) the failure,

   to which the proposed statement relates.

Consultation

5 (1) The approved regulator has 28 days beginning with the date of receipt of the notice of
intention (or such longer period as the approved regulator and the Scottish Ministers
may agree) to make representations to the Scottish Ministers about the proposed
statement.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—
   (a) provide the consultees under paragraph 3 with a copy of any representations
       received from the approved regulator,
   (b) seek their further views in light of the representations.

Decision

6 (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to any representations made to them by the
approved regulator, or any consultee under paragraph 3, when deciding whether to
proceed with publishing the statement.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—
   (a) send to the approved regulator a notice (a “decision notice”) of their decision,
   (b) notify the consultees under paragraph 3 of their decision,
   (c) publish the decision notice in such manner as they consider most appropriate for
       bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

(3) If the Scottish Ministers decide to publish the statement, the decision notice must
contain the statement (and the statement need not be published separately).

(4) For the purpose of this schedule, relevant persons or bodies include—
   (a) other approved regulators,
   (b) providers of legal services,
   (c) organisations representing the interests of consumers,
   (d) members of the public.
SCHEDULE 4
(introduced by section 29(3))

FINANCIAL PENALTIES

Application

1 This schedule applies where the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that an approved regulator has failed to—
   (a) adhere to its internal governance arrangements (including, in particular, those relating to the independent and effective exercise of its regulatory functions), or
   (b) comply with a direction given in accordance with schedule 2.

Power to impose penalty

2 (1) The Scottish Ministers may impose on the approved regulator a penalty, in respect of a failure mentioned in paragraph 1, of an amount not exceeding the prescribed maximum.
   (2) Here, the prescribed maximum is the maximum amount that is prescribed in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers for the purpose of this paragraph.
   (3) A financial penalty imposed under this paragraph is payable to the Scottish Ministers.

Amount of penalty

3 (1) When considering the appropriate amount of a penalty to be imposed under paragraph 2, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to—
   (a) the seriousness of the failure,
   (b) the nature of the failure in other respects.
   (2) It is material for the purpose of sub-paragraph (1)—
       (a) whether the failure was deliberate,
       (b) if the failure is attributable to recklessness or negligence, the degree involved.
   (3) The Scottish Ministers may consult such person or body as they consider appropriate when considering—
       (a) whether to impose a penalty,
       (b) the appropriate amount of the penalty.

Notice of intention

4 (1) Before imposing a financial penalty, the Scottish Ministers must give the approved regulator a notice (a “notice of intention”) of their intention to do so.
   (2) The notice of intention must—
       (a) state—
           (i) that the Scottish Ministers intend to impose a financial penalty,
           (ii) the amount of the proposed penalty,
(b) by reference to the failure concerned and any other relevant facts, explain why the
Scottish Ministers consider that—

(i) it is appropriate to impose a penalty,
(ii) the amount of the proposed penalty is appropriate.

Consultation

5 (1) The approved regulator has 28 days beginning with the date of receipt of the notice of
intention (or such longer period as the approved regulator and the Scottish Ministers
may agree) to make representations to the Scottish Ministers about the proposed penalty.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—

(a) publish the notice of intention in such manner as they consider most appropriate
for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body,

(b) give a copy of that notice, and a copy of any representations received from the
approved regulator, to any person whom or body that they consult under sub-
paragraph (3).

(3) After the expiry of the period for representations, the Scottish Ministers may consult
such person or body as they consider appropriate about the appropriateness of—

(a) imposing the penalty,
(b) its amount.

Decision

6 (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to any representations made to them by the
approved regulator, and any consultee under paragraph 5(3), when deciding whether to
proceed with imposing the penalty.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—

(a) give a notice to the approved regulator (a “decision notice”) of their decision,

(b) notify the consultees under paragraph 5(3) of their decision,

(c) publish the decision notice in such manner as they consider most appropriate for
bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

(3) The decision notice must—

(a) state whether or not a financial penalty is being imposed,

(b) give the reason for the imposition (or otherwise) of a penalty,

(c) if a penalty is being imposed—

(i) state the amount of the penalty (and mention any allowance made for
payment by instalments),

(ii) explain why the Scottish Ministers consider that amount to be appropriate,

(iii) specify the date by which the penalty requires to be paid in full.

(4) That date must not be within the 3 months beginning with the day on which the decision
notice is given to the approved regulator (but this does not preclude earlier payment at
the initiative of the approved regulator).
(5) For the purpose of this schedule, relevant persons or bodies include—
   (a) other approved regulators,
   (b) providers of legal services,
   (c) organisations representing the interests of consumers,
   (d) members of the public.

Variation of penalty

7 (1) The Scottish Ministers may, on an application from an approved regulator received within 21 days beginning with the day on which the decision notice is given to the approved regulator—

   (a) vary the date by which the penalty requires to be paid,
   (b) allow for the penalty to be paid by—

   (i) instalments (if not already allowed), or
   (ii) different instalments (if allowed).

(2) Where an application is made under sub-paragraph (1), no part of the penalty is required to be paid before the application is determined.

Appeal

8 An approved regulator on which a financial penalty is imposed under paragraph 2 may appeal to the Court of Session against the penalty on one or more of the appeal grounds.

Appeal grounds

9 The grounds for an appeal under paragraph 8 are—

   (a) that, in the circumstances of the case—

       (i) it was not appropriate to impose the penalty, or
       (ii) the amount of the penalty is excessive,

   (b) that the date specified under paragraph 6(3)(c)(iii) is unreasonable,

   (c) that the other arrangements for payment are unreasonable, including—

       (i) the absence of any provision for payment by instalments, or
       (ii) any provision for payment by instalments that has been allowed,

   (d) that—

       (i) the penalty was imposed otherwise than in accordance with this schedule, and
       (ii) the approved regulator’s interests have been substantially prejudiced as a result.

Time for appeal

10 (1) An appeal under paragraph 8 is to be made—
(a) within the period of 3 months beginning with the day on which the decision notice is given to the approved regulator, or

(b) where the ground of appeal is referable to something done under paragraph 7(1), within 3 months beginning with the day on which the approved regulator is notified of the thing done.

(2) Where an appeal is made under paragraph 8, no part of the penalty requires to be paid before the appeal is determined or withdrawn.

**Interest**

11 (1) If the whole or part of a penalty is not paid as required in accordance with this schedule the unpaid amount carries interest at the prescribed rate.

(2) Here, the prescribed rate is the rate that is prescribed in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers for the purpose of this paragraph.

**Default**

12 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the whole or part of a penalty is not paid as required in accordance with this schedule.

(2) The Scottish Ministers may recover from the approved regulator, as a debt due to them—

(a) the penalty or (as the case may be) the part of it, and

(b) the interest that it carries.

SCHEDULE 5

*(introduced by section 29(3))*

**AMENDMENT OF AUTHORISATION**

**Application**

1 This schedule applies where the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that—

(a) an act or omission of an approved regulator (or a series of acts or omissions) has had, or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the observance of any of the regulatory objectives, and

(b) the matter cannot be addressed adequately by the Scottish Ministers taking any of the measures mentioned in section 29(4)(a) to (d).

**Power to amend**

2 (1) The Scottish Ministers may amend the authorisation of the approved regulator (given under section 7).

(2) In particular, the Scottish Ministers may—

(a) impose restrictions as respects the authorisation by reference to particular categories of—

(i) licensed provider,
(ii) legal services,

(b) alter the duration of the authorisation (including by imposing a limit of time),

(c) impose new conditions, or vary any existing conditions, to which the authorisation
    is subject.

5 Notice of intention

3 (1) Before amending the approved regulator’s authorisation, the Scottish Ministers must
give it a notice (a “notice of intention”) of their intention to do so.

(2) The notice of intention must—

(a) state that the Scottish Ministers intend to amend the approved regulator’s
    authorisation,

(b) specify the proposed amendments to the authorisation, and

(c) explain why they are satisfied as mentioned in paragraph 1.

Consultation

4 (1) The approved regulator has 28 days beginning with the date of receipt of the notice of
intention (or such longer period as the approved regulator and the Scottish Ministers
may agree) to make representations to the Scottish Ministers about the proposed
amendments.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—

(a) publish the notice of intention in such manner as they consider most appropriate
    for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body,

(b) give a copy of the notice of intention to—
    
    (i) the Lord President,
    
    (ii) the OFT,
    
    (iii) such other person or body as they consider appropriate,

(c) after the expiry of the period for representations—
    
    (i) give the recipients under paragraph (b) a copy of any representations
        received from the approved regulator,

    (ii) consult them accordingly in relation to the proposed amendments.

(3) When consulted under sub-paragraph (2)(c), the Lord President is to—

(a) give the Scottish Ministers such advice in respect of the proposed amendments as
    the Lord President thinks fit,

(b) in deciding what advice to give, have regard (in particular) to the likely impact of
    the proposed amendments on the operation of the Scottish courts.

(4) For the purpose of sub-paragraph (3)—

(a) the approved regulator, or

(b) any other person who holds information relevant in relation to proposed
    amendments,
must provide the Lord President with such information about the proposed amendments (or their likely consequences) as the Lord President may reasonably require.

Decision

5 (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to any representations made to them by the approved regulator, or any consultee under paragraph 4(2)(c), when deciding whether to proceed with amending the authorisation.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—
   (a) give a notice of their decision (a “decision notice”) to the approved regulator,
   (b) give reasons in the decision notice for their decision,
   (c) notify the consultees under paragraph 4(2)(c) of their decision,
   (d) publish the decision notice in such manner as they consider most appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

(3) If the Scottish Ministers decide to amend the authorisation, the decision notice must specify the date from which the amendments are to be effective (which may be the date on which that notice is given).

(4) For the purposes of this schedule, relevant persons or bodies include—
   (a) other approved regulators,
   (b) providers of legal services,
   (c) organisations representing the interests of consumers,
   (d) members of the public.

SCHEDULE 6
(introduced by section 29(3))
RESCISSION OF AUTHORISATION

Application

1 This schedule applies where the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that—
   (a) an act or an omission of an approved regulator (or a series of acts or omissions) has had, or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the observance of any of the regulatory objectives, and
   (b) the matter cannot be adequately addressed by the Scottish Ministers taking any of the measures mentioned in section 29(4)(a) to (e).

Power to rescind

2 The Scottish Ministers may rescind the authorisation of the approved regulator (given under section 7).
Notice of intention

3 (1) Before rescinding the approved regulator’s authorisation, the Scottish Ministers must give it a notice (a “notice of intention”) of their intention to do so.

(2) The notice of intention must—

5 (a) state that the Scottish Ministers intend to rescind the approved regulator’s authorisation,

(b) explain why they are satisfied as mentioned in paragraph 1.

Consultation

4 (1) The approved regulator has 28 days beginning with the date of receipt of the notice of intention (or such longer period as the approved regulator and the Scottish Ministers may agree) to make representations to the Scottish Ministers about the proposed rescission.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—

10 (a) publish the notice of intention in such manner as they consider most appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body,

(b) give a copy of the notice of intention to—

(i) the Lord President,

(ii) the OFT,

(iii) such other person or body as they consider appropriate,

15 (c) after the expiry of the period for representations, the Scottish Ministers must—

(i) give the recipients under paragraph (b) a copy of any representations received from the approved regulator,

(ii) consult them accordingly in relation to the proposed rescission.

(3) When consulted under sub-paragraph (2)(c), the Lord President is to—

20 (a) give the Scottish Ministers such advice in respect of the proposed rescission as the Lord President thinks fit,

(b) in deciding what advice to give, have regard (in particular) to the likely impact of the proposed action on the operation of the Scottish courts.

(4) For the purpose of sub-paragraph (3)—

25 (a) the approved regulator, or

(b) any other person who holds information relevant to the proposed rescission,

must provide the Lord President with such information about the proposed rescission (or its likely consequences) as the Lord President may reasonably require.

Decision

5 (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to any representations made to them by the approved regulator, or any consultee under paragraph 4(2)(c), when deciding whether to proceed with rescinding the authorisation.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must—
Legal Services (Scotland) Bill

Schedule 7—Surrender of authorisation

(a) give a notice of their decision (a “decision notice”) to the approved regulator,
(b) give reasons in the decision notice for their decision,
(c) notify the consultees under paragraph 4(2)(c) of their decision,
(d) publish the decision notice in such manner as they consider most appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

(3) If the Scottish Ministers decide to rescind the authorisation, the decision notice must—
(a) specify the date from which the rescission is to be effective (which may be the date on which that notice is given),
(b) state, for the purpose of section 29(5), whether or not the approval of the approved regulator (given under section 6) is preserved.

(4) For the purposes of this schedule, relevant persons or bodies include—
(a) other approved regulators,
(b) providers of legal services,
(c) organisations representing the interests of consumers,
(d) members of the public.

SCHEDULE 7
(introduced by section 30(2))

SURRENDER OF AUTHORISATION

Application

1 This schedule applies where an approved regulator proposes to surrender its authorisation under section 30.

Surrender notice

2 (1) The approved regulator must give the Scottish Ministers a notice (a “surrender notice”) of its proposal to do so.
(2) The notice must—
(a) specify the approved regulator’s reasons for proposing to surrender its authorisation,
(b) be published (by the approved regulator) in such manner as the approved regulator considers most appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

Consultation

3 (1) The Scottish Ministers must, as soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of a surrender notice—
(a) send a copy of the notice to—
(i) the Lord President,
(ii) the OFT,

(iii) each of the approved regulator’s licensed providers,

(iv) such other person or body as they consider appropriate,

(b) consult them accordingly.

The consultees under sub-paragraph (1) have 6 weeks beginning with the day on which they are sent the copy of the notice to make representations to the Scottish Ministers about the proposed surrender.

(3) When consulted under sub-paragraph (1), the Lord President is to—

(a) give the Scottish Ministers such advice in respect of the proposed surrender as the Lord President thinks fit,

(b) in deciding what advice to give, have regard to the likely impact of the proposed surrender on the operation of the Scottish courts.

(4) For the purpose of sub-paragraph (3)—

(a) the approved regulator, or

(b) any other person who holds information relevant to the proposed surrender, must provide the Lord President with such information about the proposed surrender (or its likely consequences) as the Lord President may reasonably require.

Decision

(1) The Scottish Ministers must, within 28 days beginning with the day after the period mentioned in paragraph 3(2) ends, decide whether to agree to the proposed surrender.

(2) In making their decision, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to—

(a) any advice given to them by the Lord President,

(b) any representations made to them by the other consultees under paragraph 3(1),

(c) any further representation made to them by the approved regulator.

(3) The Scottish Ministers must—

(a) send to the approved regulator a notice (a “decision notice”) of their decision,

(b) notify the consultees under paragraph 3(1) of their decision,

(c) publish the decision notice in such manner as they consider appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any relevant person or body.

(4) For the purpose of this schedule, relevant persons or bodies include—

(a) other approved regulators,

(b) providers of legal services,

(c) organisations representing the interests of consumers,

(d) members of the public.
Date of surrender

5 (1) If the Scottish Ministers agree to the surrender of the authorisation, the decision notice must specify the date from which the surrender is to be effective (which must be within the period of 6 months beginning with the date of the decision notice).

5 (2) That date—
   (a) is to be fixed having taken account of the wishes of the approved regulator,
   (b) must allow a reasonable amount of time for the carrying out of such transitional arrangements as are necessary in connection with the surrender.

SCHEDULE 8
(introduced by section 52(1))

INVESTORS IN LICENSED PROVIDERS

Initial notification requirements

1 (1) An applicant for a licence (issuable in accordance with an approved regulator’s licensing rules) must give the approved regulator the standard information about outside investors when applying for the licence.

15 (2) The applicant must also—
   (a) give (as soon as practicable) the approved regulator any standard information subsequently coming to light,
   (b) notify (as soon as practicable) the approved regulator of any other change in the standard information.

20 (3) The standard information is—
   (a) the name and other details of—
      (i) every outside investor in the applicant,
      (ii) any other person whom the applicant expects to be an outside investor in the applicant at such time as the licence may be issued,
   (b) in each case, a description of the nature of the person’s interest.

2 (1) It is an offence for a person to fail to comply with a requirement imposed on the person by paragraph 1.

30 (2) A person who commits an offence under sub-paragraph (1) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(3) It is a defence for a person prosecuted for an offence under sub-paragraph (1) to show that at the relevant time the person had no knowledge, and could not reasonably be expected to have knowledge, of the information in question.

Continuing notification requirements

35 (1) This paragraph applies where—
   (a) a person takes, or proposes to take, a step to acquire such an interest as would result in the person becoming an outside investor in a licensed provider,
(b) an outside investor takes, or proposes to take, a step which would—
   (i) significantly change the investor’s interest in the licensed provider, or
   (ii) acquire an additional kind of interest in the licensed provider, or

(c) a person becomes an outside investor in a licensed provider (including—
   (i) as a new investor, or
   (ii) while remaining an investor, by reason of ceasing to be (or not becoming) a
designated person within the provider).

(2) In a case falling within sub-paragraph (1)(a) or (b), the licensed provider must (as soon
as practicable) notify the approved regulator of the proposal including by giving it—

(a) the name and other details of the person concerned,

(b) the details of the interest concerned.

(3) In a case falling within sub-paragraph (1)(c), the licensed provider must (as soon as
practicable) notify the approved regulator of the acquisition including by giving it the
name and other details of the investor.

(4) Sub-paragraph (3) does not apply where sub-paragraph (2) has been complied with in
relation to the acquisition.

(5) It is an offence for a person to fail to comply with a requirement imposed on the person
by sub-paragraph (2) or (3).

(6) A person who commits an offence under sub-paragraph (5) is liable on summary
conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(7) It is a defence for a person prosecuted for an offence under sub-paragraph (5) to show
that at the relevant time the person had no knowledge, and could not reasonably be
expected to have knowledge, of the information in question.

**Requirement to notify investors**

4 (1) Where an applicant gives information under paragraph 1, the applicant must notify any
person whom the information concerns—

(a) of—
   (i) the making of the application, and
   (ii) the fact that the identity of the person has been disclosed to the approved
regulator,

(b) of the effect of paragraph 5.

(2) Where a licensed provider gives notification under paragraph 3(2) or (3), the licensed
provider must notify any person whom the notification concerns—

(a) of—
   (i) the giving of that notification, and
   (ii) the fact that the identity of the person has been disclosed to the approved
regulator,

(b) of the effect of paragraph 5.
(3) It is an offence for a person to fail without reasonable excuse to comply with a requirement imposed on the person by sub-paragraph (1) or (2).

(4) A person who commits an offence under sub-paragraph (3) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Approved regulator may obtain information

(1) An approved regulator may require a person whose identity has been disclosed to it under paragraph 1 or 3 to provide it with such documents and other information as it may reasonably require.

(2) It is an offence for a person who is required to provide information by virtue of sub-paragraph (1)—

(a) to fail without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirement, or

(b) knowingly to provide false or misleading information.

(3) A person who commits an offence under sub-paragraph (2) is liable—

(a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum,

(b) on conviction on indictment to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or a fine (or both).
### SCHEDULE 9
(introduced by section 101(4))

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<td>Law Society</td>
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<td>Lord President</td>
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<td><strong>20</strong> professional association or body</td>
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<td>registered European lawyer</td>
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<td>registered foreign lawyer</td>
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<td>solicitor</td>
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<td><strong>Part 2 expressions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Relevant provisions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>approved regulator (of licensed provider)</td>
<td>section 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>approval and authorisation (of approved regulator)</td>
<td>sections 6 and 7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>section 36</td>
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<tr>
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<td>sections 10 and 14</td>
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<td>regulatory and representative functions (of approved regulator)</td>
<td>section 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>regulatory scheme (of approved regulator)</td>
<td>section 8</td>
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<td>regulatory scheme (of approving body)</td>
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Legal Services (Scotland) Bill
[AS INTRODUCED]

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to allow and to make provision for regulating the supply of certain legal services by licensed entities; to extend rights to obtain confirmation to the estates of deceased persons; to make provision concerning the Law Society of Scotland and the Faculty of Advocates and for the professional arrangements to which solicitors and advocates are subject; and for connected purposes.

Introduced by: Kenny MacAskill
On: 30 September 2009
Bill type: Executive Bill

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