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12 March 2026

## **CLARIFICATION IN RELATION TO COMMENTS AT THE EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

Dear Convener,

I am writing regarding a point made during my evidence to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee on 24 February 2026.

During the session, I stated:

*“Through some of the reform that we have been doing in secondary legislation, uplifts will be coming in on 1 April, 1 June and 14 December. The 1 September date for the introduction of the 13 per cent uplift has been negotiated with the profession. SLAB and the profession will have operational aspects to put in place, so it is not something that can be done overnight. We have had discussions with the profession and it is happy for the uplift to be introduced on 1 September.”*

I would like to put on record that the implementation date for the 13% uplift was not open to negotiation but my officials were clear in discussions that there was a timetable of new fees that would be introduced over the course of the year and that included an increase commencing on 1 September date. This was set out in the offer letter to the Law Society of Scotland and the Scottish Solicitors Bar Association.

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I hope this provides clarity.

Yours sincerely,

**SIOBHIAN BROWN**

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