

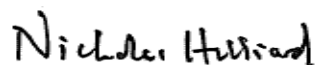
6 KING'S BENCH WALK
TEMPLE
LONDON EC4Y 7DR
E-mail: nicholas.hilliard@6kbw.com

27th September 2011

Dear member of the Circuit,

I am writing to update you about a number of matters of current concern. The CPS grading panels have been sitting. We have endeavoured to see that Circuit Silks have been involved wherever possible. I am told that the numbers applying were lower than expected. The Circuit's response to the BSB consultation on cpd has been submitted. It is available on the Circuit website. It was prepared by Karim Khalil QC, Nicholas Valios QC and William Hughes. It is in my view a first class document and concludes that there should be no increase in the requirement for cpd hours. The BSB has also consulted on their latest proposals for quality assurance, QASA. The Circuit's response is being prepared by Rosina Cottage QC. The Circuit committee opposes the inclusion of Silks within the scheme and is adamant that judicial assessment should be the norm for all advocates, that the allocation of a case to a particular grade should be a judicial function and that further efforts should be made to reduce cost. Extraordinarily, the LSC indicated last week that they were contemplating use of the scheme to alter remuneration. For example, there would be no separate category of payment for Silks who would be included within level 4. Further, as it is presently proposed that the parties would be responsible for agreeing the level of a case, the Court would no longer have a role in authorising the instruction of Queen's Counsel! We are opposing all of this and the Senior Judiciary have been alerted to it. I will keep you informed as to progress.

Kind regards,



From Nicholas Hilliard QC
Leader of the South Eastern Circuit