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Dear Member of the Circuit,

I am attaching an update from the Chairman of the Bar about CPS issues. I have already written to you about the proposed CPS panel scheme and so I am drawing your attention to the section about prosecution fees. The CPS have indicated that they will be seeking to reduce accommodation costs and internal staff costs, and to make savings in external expenditure - other than the Bar - and in Counsel's fees. I have just been asked to join the group which is trying to identify efficiency savings. I am also attaching a copy of a letter published in the Times on February 7<sup>th</sup> which was sent in an effort to raise public awareness of the situation.

I have asked Peter Lodder to lead a session on how best to meet the current challenges. It will take place in Grays Inn Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> February. I will send you the details when I have them.

Best wishes,

*Nicholas Hilliard*

From Nicholas Hilliard QC  
Leader of the South Eastern Circuit