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**Email:** [neilstevenson@scottishlegalcomplaints.org.uk](mailto:neilstevenson@scottishlegalcomplaints.org.uk)

Dear Ms Lee,

### **Consultation on the draft Simple Procedure Rules**

Thank you for inviting us to respond to the Consultation on the draft Simple Procedure Rules. Rather than make a detailed response, we'd like to make a few, brief comments. We strongly welcome the approach that has been taken with the draft Simple Procedure Rules, and two particular aspects of it.

Firstly, we welcome the focus on embedding alternate dispute resolution into the process. As the independent body for complaints against lawyers in Scotland, we have an important role to play in resolving disputes between consumers and their lawyers. One of the aims of the Scottish Parliament in setting us up was to provide a route outside the courts to pursue these disputes. The Rules as drafted would make sure that people were given the opportunity to use this option to resolve their dispute.

Secondly, we are very impressed by the 'plain English' tone that has been used. We are currently reviewing the way we use language as part of a consultation on our future strategy, and the Rules demonstrate that it is possible to communicate clearly, without losing legal meaning.

I hope that these comments are helpful. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss them further.

Yours sincerely,

**Neil Stevenson**  
**Chief Executive**