Providing your response

If you have chosen to provide a separate written response, then please complete the first page of this Respondent Information Form and attach it to your response.

If you wish to include your responses within this Respondent Information Form, please insert your responses to each consultation question in the (expandable) boxes below:

Proposal 1 - Consolidation

Question 1 – Do you agree that the 2 existing sets of regulations from 2002 should be replaced with 1 new consolidated instrument? If not why not?

Yes, I agree that both sets of regulations should be consolidated.

Proposal 2 – Adopting unit based charging:

Question 2 – Do you agree that a change to "unit based charging" can provide improved transparency on the level of fee being charged? If not why not?

Yes, I agree with this proposal.

***Question 3* – Do you agree that the baseline "monetary value" should start at £5.40 and that 1 unit of time should be fixed at 6 minutes? If not why not?**

Yes, I agree with the unit value as a starting point but that this should be reviewed at the point of introduction to capture inflation increases.

***Question 4* – Do you agree that the proposed changes to the general regulations will support the adoption of unit based charging?**

Yes, I agree.

Question 5 **– With regard to annex 4, do you have a view on whether any of the current 60 line items shown are no longer required, or whether any of the baseline unit of work should be amended? If so why?**

As Column A and Column B fees currently mirror the same elements, there should be no disparity in the fee chargeable as in most cases there is no distinction in the time taken to complete, especially in ejections, attachments and inhibitions as examples. I believe that a single fee based on Column B should be chargeable in all instances.

Question 6 **– Do you have a view on any unintended consequences that might arise from implementing a change to unit based charging?**

I cannot foresee any unintended consequences from changing to unit based charging,

Proposal 3 - Adjusting for inflation in advance:

Question 7 **– Do you have a view on the proposed change to the Council progressing inflation adjustments in advance?**

This proposal will give a greater ability to forecast and budget across our profession, given the advance notice on future unit costs.

***Question 8* – Do you have a view on which indices *(CPI, CPIH or a combination of both)* should be use when forecasting inflation?**

Historically, a combination of both CPI and CPIH has been adopted and I believe that this should continue to be the adopted model.

Other

***Question 9* – Are you aware of any other opportunities to modernise how these regulated fees are set by the courts and charged to end users?**

Our governing body SMASO has engaged with various official bodies in recent years in an effort to review the fee structure and going forward a more collaborative approach should be of benefit to all parties involved.