



4 College Hill
London EC4R 2RB

Telephone 020 7329 2173
Facsimile 020 7329 2190
DX 98936 – Cheapside 2
mail@citysolicitors.org.uk
www.citysolicitors.org.uk

Margaret Hope
Solicitors Regulation Authority
Berrington Close
Ipsley Court
Redditch
Worc B98 0TD

11 May, 2009

Dear Margaret

Consultation Paper 15 - Work Type Codes

The City of London Law Society (**CLLS**) represents approximately 13,000 City lawyers, through individual and corporate membership, including some of the largest international law firms in the world. These law firms advise a variety of clients from multinational companies and financial institutions to Government departments, often in relation to complex, multi-jurisdictional legal issues.

The CLLS responds to a variety of consultations and other requests for views on issues of importance to its members through its 17 specialist committees. Consultation paper 15 (to which this response relates) was considered by members of the CLLS's Professional Rules and Regulation Committee. The Committee comprises representatives of 12 firms (as listed in the appendix to this letter).

We are pleased that some of the concerns which we raised in our response to Consultation Paper 15 (*Regulatory-risk information requirements – 2009*) have been taken on board by the SRA and that the SRA has recognised that the initial list of work type codes was too long.

In relation to the proposed list we have the following comments:

For the larger, corporate firms, there are only a very limited number of the current proposed work type codes which would apply to the vast majority of the work of those firms and so the result would be that a very diverse range of work would fall within the two "Company/commercial" headings.

We would therefore suggest a few more codes as follows:

- Banking/international capital markets – if not separately listed this would fall within Company/commercial. We believe this is a significant enough area of law to merit its own category and that its inclusion within Company/commercial is potentially misleading
- Competition/anti-trust - again, if not separately listed this would fall within Company/commercial; again we believe it is a significant enough area of law to merit its own category

- Pensions (since a lot of this work is for trustees so not caught by the Company/commercial category).

In addition we have a few requests for clarification:

We assume that the split between “public companies” and “non-public companies” within the Commercial/corporate work type is intended to refer to listed companies (and non-listed) but would welcome confirmation. In addition, we would suggest that the non-public category be expanded by adding “and others” at the end since many commercial clients are not in fact companies (e.g. LLPs, Government bodies, building societies etc).

On its face, “Arbitration and dispute resolution” would cover litigation which is also dealt with in a separate “Litigation-other” category. We assume that this is not intended and that the former is intended to cover alternative dispute resolution and that litigation should fall within the litigation category. Perhaps this could be clarified.

We assume that “Landlord and tenant” refers to domestic landlord and tenant rather than commercial leases. It would be helpful if this could be clarified and also is it necessary to list is separately given the overlap with “Property – residential”?

We hope these views are of assistance. Representatives of the Professional Rules and Regulation Committee would be happy to elaborate if that is required.

Yours sincerely

David McIntosh
Chairman
City of London Law Society

Chris Perrin
Chairman
Professional Rules & Regulation
Committee

APPENDIX

PROFESSIONAL RULES & REGULATION

Chris Perrin - Clifford Chance (Chairman)

Raymond Cohen - Linklaters

Sarah de Gay - Slaughter and May

Alistair Douglas - Travers Smith

Brian Greenwood - Taylor Wessing

Antoinette Jucker - Pinsent Masons

Jonathan Kembery – Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Heather McCallum - Allen & Overy

Julia Palca - Olswang

Mike Pretty - DLA Piper

John Trotter - Lovells

Claire Wilson - Herbert Smith