



Press Release

22nd March 2011

Meeting between the Board and the Law Society of Scotland

The Scottish Legal Aid Board and the Law Society of Scotland held a meeting, at SLAB's invitation, to allay both organisations' concerns arising from the publication in the media of excerpts from an alleged transcript of a private conversation between Mr Montgomery, Chief Executive of SLAB and Mr Dailly, former Law Society Council Member and the then convener of the Law Society's Access to Justice Committee.

Iain A. Robertson CBE, Chairman of the Board said, "The meeting was helpful in setting out the context of the private telephone conversation between Mr Dailly and Mr Montgomery which discussed the proposals made by the Access to Justice Committee which could have adversely affected the operation of legal aid in Scotland. The proposals did not then appear in the Committee's later discussion paper. Mr Montgomery and I again stated at the meeting that during the private telephone conversation, no disrespect whatsoever was intended to solicitors and we are very sorry if some members took offence. We reiterated at the meeting that we hold the solicitor profession in high regard and place great importance on good working relationships with the solicitor profession. We will not always agree on all matters, but it is important that there are on-going discussions between the Board and solicitors to improve the operation of legal aid and access to justice in Scotland. I welcome the President's comments that we should now move on from this topic and the Society's suggestion of a user group between the Society and SLAB which will help further encourage such a culture of respect and trust."

Ends

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