The LPLA Bill
The Clerk to the Justice 2 Committee
Room T3.60
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Sir/Madam

I support the proposal to establish a Scottish Legal Complaints Commission; and request that the new Commission handles all complaints ranging from inadequate professional service to misconduct. In the case of misconduct, I would expect the Commission to refer suspected criminal cases directly to the Police as, under the current system, lawyers may be protected from prosecution due to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Law Society and the Police.

The Commission must be able to receive, handle, investigate and determine all complaints and have powers of discipline and enforcement: the ineffectiveness of the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman proves the necessity of having such powers.

It is essential that all members of the new Commission be persons of the utmost integrity and have no conflicts of interest (such as membership of the Law Society, Faculty of Advocates, law firms, secret societies, etc).

These measures would help restore public confidence in the Scottish legal system and provide long-overdue justice to victims of incompetent and criminal lawyers.

Yours faithfully

Patricia Ann Mallaby