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# AGM 2025: Practising Certificate fee for 2025-26

The Law Society’s Council has proposed a 5.5% rise from £788 to £832 to the Practising Certificate fee for 2025-26 and a £9 increase to the Roll fee (from £155 to £164). The PC fee remains below inflation in real terms and this is the lowest percentage increase to the fee in three years, following the significant, albeit necessary, increases over the past two years to ensure longer term security and financial stability.

Background to the proposed fee

**Committed to the profession and the public interest** - we have a statutory obligation to carry out regulatory work which protects consumers of legal services and enhances the reputation of Scottish solicitors.

We set entry requirements and standards of practice for solicitors, investigate conduct complaints, carry out financial compliance inspections and undertake critical AML work to ensure our members are qualified, competent and trusted to meet the needs of all those they serve, from individual members of the public in need of bespoke legal advice to major corporations dependent on our members’ legal and commercial expertise.

**Ensuring high quality member support** - Our members also value and expect a range of high-quality services from the Society to support them in their roles. This includes CPD, our professional practice helpline, negotiating the Master Policy for the entire Scottish solicitor profession, and specialist accreditation options. This work helps sustain the high standards the profession is renowned for and sits alongside a wide range of additional support services.

Our annual income from the practicing certificate enables provision of member engagement, as well as work in important areas such as social mobility and inclusion, wellbeing, technology and cybersecurity and working to ensure we have good law that works in practice.

**Resources to deal with reforms -** with proposals to radically reform our criminal justice system, and the recently passed legislation on regulating the legal profession, we need the resources to continue to speak out strongly on issues affecting our members as well as plan for new responsibilities from the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill.

**Operating during fluctuations in inflation** – Inflation in the UK is falling more slowly than expected and remains volatile, having recently risen to its highest level in over a year. Like other organisations and businesses, we need to ensure that we have resources to carry out the full range of our work, particularly as we gear up to adopt new duties.

# How we will use the PC fee

Our proposed core PC and roll fee will maintain and improve all areas of our work, while remaining lower in real terms than 15 years ago.

The proposed fee ensures that we can carry out our essential regulatory and public interest duties and continue to provide key services our members tell us they want to see. We outline our commitments below:

**We will ensure high professional standards –** This next year is particularly critical as we look ahead to the impact of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill once enacted and integrating new responsibilities over the next few years. We will also continue our work to improve our current regulatory processes, including complaints handling, and will restart work previously put on pause due to the Bill, in relation to licensed legal services providers.

**We will deliver key services and support for members** - in addition to our statutory duties, we are committed to ensuring that we offer the support and services that our members tell us they rely on throughout their careers, including wellbeing, trainee support, accreditations, career development, and so much more.

**We will speak up for the rule of law and the profession** - We are committed to speaking out on fundamental principles such as the rule of law and access to justice and ensuring that Scottish solicitors can carry out their work without undue interference or threat. We will continue our work on proposed criminal justice reforms and other key policy areas.

**We will ensure sound financial planning –** the proposed fee for 2025-26 will ensure the Society can accommodate forecast increases in inflation and rising costs of services in addition to current and emerging obligations.

**We will invest in our people** – in a competitive job market we need to attract and retain talented people who bring expert knowledge and skills to ensure we meet our statutory regulatory obligations alongside delivering high quality member services and speaking out on issues that are important to our members.

**We will invest in modernisation, efficiency and innovation –** we will continue our investment programme to upgrade our IT systems and resources to deliver service improvements, increased efficiency and enhanced security to better serve our members

# Practising Certificate fees since 2003

The graph below illustrates that the PC fee is lower in real terms than over a decade ago, with this year’s proposed increase the lowest in three years.

