

## Response from the Sole Practitioners Group

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Solicitors Sole Practitioners Group (SPG) an independent group of sole practitioner solicitors I would like to respond to the above consultation.

Question 1 - *Do you have any comments on either the draft order or the draft recommendation? Do they deliver the policy intention of harmonising the regulatory framework, thereby removing the need for a distinct sole practice endorsement process?*

SPG welcomes any effort to reduce the current burden of regulation of sole practitioners provided that any changes do not result in adverse consequences to sole practitioners or indeed the public. This proposal would not appear to have either of these consequences so SPG supports it. In addition the proposal does have the effect of harmonising regulation with those of larger firms and ABS.

Question 2 - *Do you have any comments on the cost benefit analysis and in particular the assumptions used?*

With regard to the assumptions made the one assumption that is questioned is the statement that there are less than 3000 sole practitioners. This figure does not take into account those sole practitioners who practise in the form of a limited company or an LLP. If one takes these other sole practitioners into account the correct total figure of sole practitioners currently is well in excess of 4000. Nevertheless this does not alter the overall benefits to sole practitioners of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Martin T Smith

Solicitor

Member of the National Executive Committee of SPG