

Section 6 Consultation  
Legal Services Regulatory Authority  
P.O. Box 12906  
Dublin 7

29 Sept 2021

Dear Sirs,

RGDATA is pleased to make a formal submission to the S6 Consultation.

As the representative body for businesses that continue to face considerable insurance cost pressures we welcome the opportunity to comment on the operation of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015.

Our primary observation on the regulatory structure established by the Act is that we believe the Legal Services Regulatory Authority should have greater powers to regulate and control activities of solicitors, barristers and other legal professionals that could be perceived as encouraging or incentivising personal injury, defamation and equality claims, either through advertising, social media posts or the preparation of proforma templates which are circulated to prospective claimants.

Over the last year we have become all too aware of the activities of some legal professionals who have sought to incite or incentivise claims against our members arising from the COVID 19 pandemic. In some instance this has been to encourage complaints from groups that do not support mandatory mask wearing, while in other instances legal professionals have produced material which has sought to encourage personal injury claims arising from COVID, whether in the context of equality legislation or employer and public liability claims. All through the pandemic and lockdowns our members provided an essential service to their communities and as one of the few economic operators that remained open, are now facing opportunistic claims which will impact on their insurance premiums and operating costs.

The regulatory regime operated by the LSRA needs to be strengthened to ensure that the Authority has adequate powers of enforcement and censure to prevent legal professionals from carrying on such activities. These powers may need to be extended to legal professionals who have let their membership of the respective professional bodies lapse, but who still hold themselves out as lawyers.

I hope that you will take this submission into account in your review.

Yours sincerely



Tara Buckley  
Director General  
RGDATA