

Dear Maria

I am responding to your email inviting me to put forward my views on the efficacy of the legal services industry.

I qualified as a solicitor [£]. I ceased working as a traditional family law solicitor last year and set up as Professional McKenzie Friend/Non-Practising solicitor to assist people needing family law help in a much more affordable and user friendly way.

Whilst practising as a solicitor my hourly rate was [£] plus VAT and during the last few years it became increasingly apparent that this was not affordable for most people. Also with the demise of legal aid people were going without the assistance that they so desperately needed – this has a significant knock on effect on flooding the family courts with litigants in person.

As a solicitor I also came under increasing pressure from the equity partners to ‘bill, bill, bill’ which in the context of a family department is inappropriate in my view and was causing clients increased difficulty when they are in an emotional and vulnerable position. A situation in which I felt personally very uncomfortable.

My new service means that clients can have as much or as little help from me as they need – it works on a pay as you go basis so clients are able to budget and I am flexible in terms of meetings and hours ie. Its not strictly 9-5! Clients have my mobile number and they know that I am there for them if they need me.

So far it seems to be a service that works and I have grateful clients – a rare situation in my previous role.

I would be happy to participate further if you think that my position/observations would be of assistance.

Kind regards