

By email: christopher.hodges@csls.ox.ac.uk

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7 August 2026

Dear Professor Hodges

Re: Bar Standards Board's investigation powers

Thank you for your letter of 17 April in relation to the Bar Standards Board's investigation powers. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing this response.

The LSB shares your view that accountability for individuals and organisations implicated in the Post Office Horizon scandal matters deeply to victims and to public confidence in the legal profession. We have maintained regular engagement with both the SRA and the BSB throughout their investigations to hold them to account, maintain momentum, and support collaboration. I am pleased to note that the BSB has commenced engagement with your Board and hope such collaboration will continue over the longer term.

Turning to the specific concern you raise in your letter, the LSB is aware that there are differences between the information gathering powers available to the SRA and those available to the BSB. Our engagement with the BSB and SRA has resulted in collaboration and the sharing of information between both regulators to progress their investigations. We share the HCAB's view that cases concerning misconduct by any barrister in relation to the Post Office scandal must be pursued robustly by the BSB. The LSB will continue to engage with the BSB to ensure that this is the case.

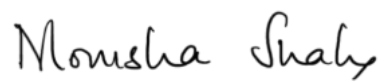
We have also been in detailed discussions with the BSB about the constraints on disclosure, and the range of mechanisms it can use to progress its investigations effectively, including but not limited to those set out in the BSB Handbook. We will continue to monitor the BSB's progress in bringing its open investigations to disciplinary hearings, mindful that the second and final volume of the Inquiry report will be important for regulators to consider in bringing cases to prosecution.

We recognise that there are important questions about the adequacy of the regulatory information gathering powers available to legal services regulators. The LSB cannot unilaterally confer additional powers on the regulators it oversees. However, we do intend to explore, with the relevant regulators and the Ministry of Justice, whether any existing statutory routes could support changes to regulatory information gathering powers, and what further steps may be appropriate.

We will continue to do what we can through the regulators to ensure action is taken which achieves accountability for victims and supports public confidence in the legal profession. My

team and I would welcome further regular dialogue with you and the HCAB as appropriate to support this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monisha Shah". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Monisha Shah

Chair

E monisha.shah@legalservicesboard.org.uk