

CONSULTING ON A SIMPLIFIED TABLE OF FEES

Purpose

1. To approve the attached consultation papers for publication.

Timing

2. *PRIORITY* – this is an agreed priority item within the 2025-26 Work Programme.

Background

3. The use of unit based charging was successfully introduced in 2019 for the recovery of judicial expenses and is working as intended. That has delivered improved transparency for those recoverable fees and simplified the update process, particularly when making straightforward % uplifts for inflation.
4. The intention is to now replicate that approach in the processes used for regulating the fees of sheriff officers and messengers at arms. The secretariat met with the SMASSO Fees Committee earlier this year on this direction of travel and they are supportive of a consultation exercise being run.
5. Given the significance of this change for both those in the industry, and those that ultimately pay these regulated fees, the running of a Public Consultation exercise is appropriate.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that the Committee:
 - **Considers the attached consultation paper, BRIA, EQIA & Respondent Information Form; and approves their publication.**

**Secretariat to the Scottish Civil Justice Council
May 2025**

Attachments:

- *Paper 3.1A – Consultation Paper*
- *Paper 3.1B – Business and Regulatory Impact assessment (BRIA)*
- *Paper 3.1C – Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)*
- *Paper 3.1D – Respondent Information Form*