

Daithi McKay MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance and Personnel
Room 144
Parliament Buildings
Belfast BT4 3XX

29 September 2015

Dear Mr McKay,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 2015.

The circumstances leading to the departure of Mr Coulter from this practice are the subject of investigation by both the Law Society of Northern Ireland and the National Crime Agency. We cannot comment on matters that may be relevant to those investigations.

The practice has retained specialist Leading Counsel to advise it in relation to the circumstances leading to Mr Coulter's departure from the practice. The practice reported Mr Coulter to the Law Society after carrying out an internal investigation, having taken the advice of Leading Counsel, and having considered the firm's duties towards its clients. The firm recovered the fee which Mr Coulter had diverted to an Isle of Man bank account and it was placed into a bank account, the details of which are known to the Law Society and the National Crime Agency. We cannot comment on matters that are the subject of legal professional privilege; however we do not accept the suggestion that there was delay in providing notification to the Law Society.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Brown
Managing Partner
Tughans