

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

POSSIBLE FEES OPTIONS FOR SAFEGUARDERS

Question 1: Do you agree that the current fee scheme should be abolished and replaced?

Yes X No

I am presently appointed as a safeguarder by South Ayrshire Council . I wish firstly to comment on the approach to remuneration which is suggested in paragraph 4 of the consultation document. I am surprised that it was felt necessary to preface the consultation questions with the statement that “The remuneration is not what drives many safeguarders.” This seems to me to indicate that no serious consideration is being given to safeguarders being paid fully, and properly for their work and is therefore an unfortunate start to a consultation on remuneration.

I question why safeguarders should be treated differently from other professionals who provide input to children’s hearings such as Reporters, social workers, teachers, health visitors, and child psychologists. Granted there is no recognised qualification for becoming a safeguarder, but the Act clearly requires that this be addressed. Why is it necessary to distinguish the role of safeguarders as being one which is more in the nature of a well intentioned volunteer? The intention of Part 4 of the Act is clearly to formalise the role and appointment of safeguarders. This implies that the appointment will require a standard of work which is professional and in keeping with the importance of this role in children’s hearings and court proceedings. To isolate remuneration and approach it alone as though the role is more akin to voluntary service seems to me to be inappropriate.

Question 2: Which of the fees options (1 - 4) would you support?

Option 1 Option 2 Option 3 Option 4 X

Option four appears to me to be the best of those offered although I would comment that the fee per subsequent children’s hearing or Sheriff Court appearance should be modified to a per day appearance since Sheriff Court cases involving safeguarders often require attendance on more than one day.

Question 3: Do you have a suggestion as to alternative method of fees payments? If so, please provide details.

An exceptional case option should be included to allow either an uplift or an additional fee in cases involving significant extra work in addition to what would normally be required.

EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES FOR SAFEGUARDERS

Question 4: Do you accept the proposal to apply Scottish Government Rates for expenses and allowances?

Yes No (if you have answered 'No' please give your reasons below

Question 5: Are there other expenses or allowances you would like to be added to the proposed list?

NO.

Question 6: If you support an alternative set of expenses and allowances, please provide detail.

