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REACTION TO LORD CHANCELLOR DECISION ON WILL-WRITING

Reacting to today's decision by the Lord Chancellor **not** to regulate will-writing services, Elisabeth Davies, Chair of the Legal Services Consumer Panel, said:

"This decision is terrible news for consumers and makes no sense given the sheer weight of evidence of consumer detriment and the wide consensus backing regulation. Anti-regulation dogma has triumphed over what is in the best interests of consumers.

"Major doubts have already been expressed about whether self-regulation will work and even the will-writing trade bodies have conceded this is unlikely to succeed. But if this is the only option then we'll do what we can to help."

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For more information, contact Steve Brooker, Consumer Panel Manager, on 020 7271 0077.

Notes to editors

1. The Legal Services Consumer Panel was established under the Legal Services Act 2007 to provide independent advice to the Legal Services Board about the interests of consumers of legal services in England and Wales. We investigate issues that affect consumers and use this information to influence decisions about the regulation of legal services.
2. The Panel's previous work on the regulation of will-writing, probate and estate administration activities can be found here <http://www.legalservicesconsumerpanel.org.uk/ourwork/Willwriting.html>.