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## **SUBJECT BENCHMARK STATEMENT: LAW**

### **RESPONSE BY THE SOCIETY OF LEGAL SCHOLARS TO THE CONSULTATION BY THE QAA, AUGUST – OCTOBER 2006**

1. The Society of Legal Scholars welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Consultation by QAA on the proposed new Benchmark Statement for Law issued in August 2006. The Society is a learned society whose members teach law in a University or similar institution or who are otherwise engaged in legal scholarship. It is the largest such learned society in the field, with over 2,700 members. The great majority of members of the Society are legal academics and researchers working in Universities, although members of the senior judiciary and members of the legal professions also participate regularly in its work. The Society was founded in 1908 and is the oldest professional association of academic lawyers in the U.K. The Society's membership is drawn from all jurisdictions in the British Isles but also includes some affiliated members typically working in other common law systems. The Society, as one of the larger learned societies in the field of humanities and social sciences, is therefore the principal representative body for legal academics in the UK.
2. Subject to one proviso, the Society is happy with the proposed revised Benchmark Statement. The proviso is that separate provision will continue to be made for Scotland, after discussion with representatives of relevant Scottish institutions. We understand that work is in hand on this matter, led by QAA Scotland (Thelma Barron), and assume that the existing Benchmark Statement will continue in effect as it applies to Scotland until that exercise is completed. The consultation draft should accordingly have references to Scotland removed and state the parts of the UK to which it applies.

S.H. Bailey

Hon. Secretary, Society of Legal Scholars

27.10.06