

**STATEMENT ON COMPENSATION FUND CLAIMS ADJUDICATION
BY THE
INDEPENDENT ADJUDICATOR OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**CAROL ANN CASEY
INDEPENDENT ADJUDICATOR OF THE LAW SOCIETY**

9TH DECEMBER 2020

Statutory governance

The office of the Independent Adjudicator was established by Statutory Instrument No. 406 of 1997 – Solicitors (Adjudicator) Regulations, 1997 and Statutory Instrument No. 720 of 2005 – Solicitors (Adjudicator) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005.

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/si/406/made/en/print>

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2005/si/720/made/en/print>

Adjudicative remit

Under Regulation 3 (ii) (2) of Statutory Instrument No. 720 of 2005 – Solicitors (Adjudicator) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005, the Independent Adjudicator is permitted to examine “*a decision of the Society relating to the making of a grant, or the refusal to make a grant, out of the Compensation Fund to that client or relating to the quantum of any such grant*”.

Compensation Fund Claims adjudicated from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020

- 11 claims were adjudicated this year (8 last year).
- 5 of the 11 claims were complex and submitted from the same claimant.
- 2 requests from the Ombudsman for Compensation Fund claim files or Adjudication Notes (2 last year). The Ombudsman sought the background to my examination of the file and the reasons for my decision, that were communicated to the claimant.
- The Independent Adjudicator observed at 3 Regulation of Practice Committee meetings (Claims Division) during the year, two by zoom.

Commentary on adjudicative year

The Independent Adjudicator did not write to the Law Society on any Compensation Fund claim matters in this adjudicative year. This is the first time since she took office that this is the case, and the Independent Adjudicator believes it speaks to the standard of handling and decisions by the Law Society and its Regulation of Practice Committee.

Given no correspondence ensued by the Independent Adjudicator with the Law Society on the adjudicated Compensation Fund claim matters she sets out no case studies within this year end statement.

This adjudicative year witnessed considerable change and turbulence for the Financial Regulation Section of the Law Society. The Independent Adjudicator would like to commend how the Section adjusted to the pandemic with remote working, managing investigations and committee meetings remotely, etc. She would also like to show appreciation for the handling of her file requests in a timely manner upon requisition throughout the adjudicative year.



Carol Ann Casey
Independent Adjudicator of the Law Society

9th December 2020