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Dear Sir

**MR GARY WAYNE SMITH AND MRS KAREN HASKER-SMITH**

I am a practising solicitor and an Equity Partner in Wilkin Chapman LLP.

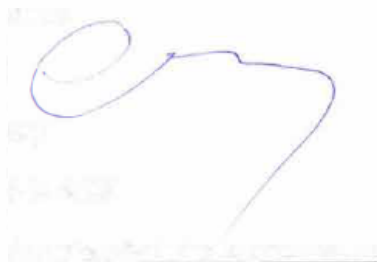
I have known Gary and Karen for 16 years, since 2003 when he was a practising law costs draftsman working for Tasker & Co in Telford. He later incorporated his own costs practice Legal Costmasters Limited in 2006.

Both with Tasker & Co and with Legal Costmasters Gary worked as an independent agent and legal cost consultant for my firm, recovering and litigating our recoverable costs in personal injury claims. I worked with Gary and Karen for 11 years in all until the introduction of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, which introduced the extended fixed costs regime for personal injury matters.

In 2014 Gary decided to take his practice into other areas of law due to the downturn in the legal costs recovery industry and the loss of business that the LASPO Act caused.

I have always kept in social contact with Gary and Karen and consider them to be loyal and trusted friends. Throughout my business relationship with them I have enjoyed excellent working relationships and success. On no occasion was I ever given cause to doubt their integrity, professionalism and trustworthiness. Their conduct has been impeccable in everything they have done within our business relationship, on behalf of Wilkin Chapman LLP, and our personal relationship

Yours sincerely



Craig McKay  
Partner  
WILKIN CHAPMAN