

Wednesday, 18 September 2013

Increasing flexibility in legal education and training

In November 2010, the Chairman of the **Legal Services Board** (LSB), David Edmonds gave his Lord Upjohn speech posing the question of whether the existing system of education and training was fit for its purposes.

Almost three years later in June 2013 the Legal Education and Training Review (LETR) delivered its response to this challenge.

The LSB launches a consultation today on its proposed guidance for education and training to set out our views before regulators proceed with detailed plans for implementation.

Chief Executive of the Legal Services Board, **Chris Kenny** said:

“Now that the LETR has made its recommendations, we must move on to immediate discussion on what needs to be done.

In this consultation we set out some principles for how regulators might review their approach to education and training. This draft guidance is built on our view that a liberalised legal services market can only function effectively for consumers if there is a significantly more flexible labour market and that this can be achieved without compromising professional standards.

A modern approach to regulation must apply equally to education and training as to everything else. This is no small task and some of the regulators already have work underway. Those that have clear plans and continue to make progress in the broad direction of the guidance will be left to deliver. From those who do not – and our hope is that there will be none - we shall seek clear explanation.”

ENDS

For more information please contact the LSB's Communications Manager [Vincent McGovern](#) on 020 7271 0068 / 0795 622 6562.

Notes for editors:

1. The Legal Education and Training Review (LETR) was established by the Bar Standards Board, Solicitors Regulation Authority and ILEX Professional Standards following the [Lord Upjohn 2010 lecture](#) which called for an assessment of the fitness of education and training in equipping the legal workforce of the future in England and Wales.
2. The LETR report was delivered in June 2013 can be found at its homepage [here](#).
3. The consultation document on proposed guidance for education and training can be found [here](#).
4. The Review was a fundamental, evidence-based review of education and training requirements across regulated and non-regulated legal services in England and Wales. Its primary objective was to ensure that England and Wales has a legal education and training system which advances the regulatory objectives contained in the Legal Services Act 2007, and particularly the need to protect and promote the interests of consumers and to ensure an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession.
5. The Legal Services Act ("The Act") created the Legal Services Board as a new regulator with responsibility for overseeing the regulation of legal services in England and Wales. The new regulatory regime became active on 1 January 2010. The LSB oversees eight approved regulators, which in turn regulate individual lawyers.
6. The LSB oversees eight approved regulators, which in turn regulate individual lawyers. The approved regulators, designated under Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2007 Act, are the Law Society, the Bar Council, the Master of the Faculties, the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys and the Association of Costs Lawyers.
7. In addition, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants are listed as approved regulators in relation only to reserved probate activities.
8. As at 1 April 2013, the legal profession comprised 126,624 solicitors, 15,335 barristers, 7,947 chartered legal executives and 4,184 other individuals operating in other areas of the legal profession such as conveyancing. The sector is currently valued at £25.49 billion per annum (total turnover in 2010).