

Tuesday, 04 March 2014

Statutory guidance on legal education and training

The Legal Services Board (LSB) consulted in September 2013 on proposed statutory guidance for education and training, in advance of regulators proceeding with detailed plans for implementation of the Legal Education and Training Review (LETR) which itself was initiated following the LSB Chairman's Upjohn Lecture of October 2010.

Chief Executive of the Legal Services Board, **Chris Kenny** said at the time "*the LETR has made its recommendations, we must move on to immediate discussion on what needs to be done*".

The LSB today issues its **summary of responses** to that consultation and its **statutory guidance on regulatory arrangements for education and training**.

The guidance issued today recommends:

- education and training requirements focusing on **what an individual must know, understand and be able to do at the point of authorisation**
- providers of education and training having the **flexibility to determine how to deliver training, education and experience that meets the outcomes required**
- standards being set that find the right balance between **what is required at the point of authorisation** and **what can be fulfilled through ongoing competency requirements**
- regulators successfully **balancing obligations for education and training** between the individual and the entity both **at the point of entry and ongoing**, and
- regulators placing **no inappropriate direct or indirect restrictions on the numbers entering the profession**.

Legal Services Board Chairman, David Edmonds, said:

"My view has always been that a liberalised legal services market will function more effectively if there is a more flexible labour market. The LSB believes that this can – and must – be achieved without compromising professional standards. Today's statutory guidance is designed to be a catalyst for modernisation of the regulatory framework for education and training. We look to the frontline regulators to implement that guidance in ways that add flexibility to regulation."

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

Notes for editors:

1. The LSB launched a consultation on proposed guidance for education and training in September 2013. The **summary of responses to the consultation** can be found [here](#). The **Statutory guidance on regulatory arrangements for education and training** issued can be found [here](#) (number 7).
2. 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.
3. The LETR report was delivered in June 2013 can be found at its homepage [here](#).
4. The LSB's September 2013 consultation document and can be found [here](#). Responses to the consultation can be found [here](#).
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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).