

SRA Board: Statement of Principles

1. Appointments to the SRA Board will be made with regard to the following principles:
 - A majority of appointments panels, including the Chair, will be drawn from outside the Law Society in its professional body capacity.
 - The Law Society will make every effort to agree with SRA as to who should chair the Appointment Panel. Where agreement is not possible, the Law Society will consult the Legal Services Board about its proposal for Chair of the Panel prior to putting a recommendation to the Council.
 - The Chair of the SRA Board or his/her nominee will always be included on the Appointments Panel for ordinary members of the Board, save where the Chair is retiring in which case the incoming Chair will be a member of the panel.
 - An SRA Board member will always be included on the panel for appointment of a new Board Chair
 - It will be open to the Chair of the SRA Board to determine that up to half the vacancies arising on any occasion should be filled by reappointment of existing members. Such reappointments are subject to a maximum overall length of service of six years, as set out in the Law Society General Regulations. The Chair of the SRA Board shall not be obliged to reappoint without competition to the full extent permitted, or at all.
 - Where it is proposed to instruct recruitment consultants, the identity of the consultants will be decided in consultation with SRA. Where tenders are considered, an SRA representative shall be included on the Tender Board.
 - Remuneration for SRA Board members will continue to be set by the Remuneration Committee.
 - The responsibility for designing and operating the appraisal process of SRA Board members will rest with the SRA Board Chair.
2. Whilst it is the Management Board's responsibility to advise the Law Society Council on the proposed arrangements for filling vacancies on the SRA Board it will do so after consultation with the SRA Board. In exercising this responsibility, the Management Board recognises that it is acting in pursuance of the Law Society's role as approved regulator, and in doing so is bound by the regulatory objectives in the Legal Services Act.
3. The Management Board will consult closely with the SRA before settling its recommendations to the Council. The Management Board's aim will be to present proposals to the Council which have been agreed between the Law Society and SRA.

4. The Law Society will consult the SRA about the arrangements for filling planned vacancies at least 9 months before the vacancies arise.
5. This consultation will cover:-
 - The question of how many vacancies require to be advertised, bearing in mind the Chair of the SRA's Board power to determine that some vacancies may be filled by reappointments of existing members, as set out in para 1.
 - Whether there is a need to alter the size of the Board.
 - Whether there is a need to alter the balance of particular experience on the Board.
 - Whether the competencies required for Board members remain appropriate.
 - What is the proposed constitution of the appointments panel.
 - Whether it is proposed to instruct recruitment consultants.
6. These principles will also be applied to vacancies arising on a casual basis, subject to any necessary modification to ensure that vacancies are filled promptly.