

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSB welcomes the publication of the Legal Education and Training Report

The Legal Education and Training Review (LETR) is a fundamental, evidence-based review of education and training requirements across regulated and non-regulated legal services in England and Wales.

The LETR, which started work in June 2011, has now delivered its final Report.

David Edmonds, Chairman of the Legal Services Board said:

“We welcome the publication of this report. It represents two years’ hard work by the three commissioning regulators and the review team. It is an important milestone, rather than the last word on the subject.

Legal education and training in England and Wales is directly linked to the regulatory objectives contained in the Legal Services Act 2007 and in particular to the need to protect and promote the interests of consumers and to ensure an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession.

At the start of my Lord Upjohn lecture of 2010 I challenged the regulators to test whether the traditional models for training lawyers in England and Wales had become outdated. This report underlines the need for greater variety and flexibility of approach to ensure that both new and existing lawyers attain and retain the necessary practical and intellectual skills to serve the public effectively. It also raises questions about the relevance of some of the existing regulatory requirements.

We now look forward to hearing the response of the commissioning regulators to the review and seeing practical proposals for action, as they consider the recommendations in the broader context of focusing regulation tightly on specific areas of consumer risk, ensuring that entities have proper incentives and systems to secure staff development and, above all, ensuring that requirements in this area, as others, are driven ever more closely by the needs of consumers.

We will also study the findings closely ourselves and consider whether to issue guidance to assist the regulators in their own action planning.

For further information, please contact our Communications Manager [Vincent McGovern](#) or by calling 020 7271 0068.

Notes for editors:

1. The report can be found at the LETR homepage [here](#).
2. 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 Review is a fundamental, evidence-based review of education and training requirements across regulated and non-regulated legal services in England and Wales.
4. The primary objective of the Review 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).