

Tuesday, 4 February 2014

LSB welcomes the High Court's decision on the QASA judicial review permission to appeal

The Legal Services Board (LSB) welcomes the High Court's order refusing the application for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal the result of the judicial review in the matter of the Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates (QASA).

The High Court has also ordered the Claimants to pay £112,500 towards the costs of the LSB and £37,500 towards those of the Bar Standards Board.

We welcome the Court's decision that *"the arguments advanced by the Claimants were simply not made out and that the LSB (along with the regulators) were entitled to conclude both that concerns about advocacy standards required regulatory action and that the scheme proposed was within its powers, not flawed by illegality or irregularity and was proportionate"*.

We look forward to seeing QASA being implemented in the measured way set out by the Joint Advocacy Group, allowing for its continued development and evaluation in the light of practical experience and the helpful guidance offered by the High Court.

ENDS

Notes for editors:

1. The High Court ruled in favour of the Legal Services Board (LSB) in the matter of the Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates Judicial Review on 20 January 2014. The High Court's decision can be found [here](#). The LSB's reaction to it may be found [here](#).
2. The Joint Advocacy Group (JAG) announced the agreement of a way forward for the joint scheme to assure the quality of criminal advocacy on 14 December 2012. More information can be found on the websites of the [SRA](#), [BSB](#) and [IPS](#).
3. The LSB approved this agreement at its meeting on 26 July 2013.
4. The Legal Services Act 2007 created the LSB 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.
5. 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 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.
6. In addition, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants are listed as approved regulators in relation only to reserved probate activities.
7. The legal profession currently consists of 15,309 barristers, 119,641 solicitors and 12,145 individuals operating in other aspects of the legal profession such as conveyancing. The sector is currently valued at £25.49 billion per annum (total turnover in 2010).