



The Law Society

Karen Merchant
Legal Services Board
Victoria House
Southampton Row
WC1B 4AD

27 January 2011

Dear Karen Merchant,

Rules for applications for Qualifying Regulator status

The Law Society welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Legal Services Board consultation "Rules for applications for Qualifying Regulator status.

The Law Society is not directly affected by the proposals as the Legal Services Act preserves the Law Society's role as regulator in respect of immigration services. We have however considered the consultation paper.

The Law Society supports the Legal Services Board's proposals, subject to one caveat. When the Legal Services Board first introduced its Internal Governance Rules, it did not require some bodies which regulated only probate services to comply fully with the arrangements for separation of representation and regulation. We do not think it would be appropriate for any such waiver to apply where bodies seek to regulate immigration services. Statutory regulation of advice on immigration matters was introduced as a direct result of concerns about the quality – and in some cases integrity – of some of those practising in the field. In those circumstances, it seems imperative to ensure that the bodies regulating providers of those services have a proper separation between their regulatory function and any representative functions which they may have, in the same way as is required of the other legal services regulators.

Yours,
Russell Wallman

Russell Wallman
Director of Government Relations

Direct Line: 020 7320 5763
Direct Fax: 020 7320 5759
russell.wallman@lawsociety.org.uk



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