

From the Chief Executive

Richard Moriarty
Chief Executive
Legal Services Board
One Kemble Street
London, WC2B 4AN

By email: Richard.moriarty@legalservicesboard.org.uk

13 February 2015

The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham B1 1RN

DX: 720293 BIRMINGHAM 47

UK 0370 606 2555
Int + 44 (0)121 329 6800

www.sra.org.uk

Dear Richard

Thank you for your letter of 9 February approving regulatory changes which introduce a new approach to continuing competence for solicitors.

We note your comments in relation to the need to evaluate and monitor how well the changes work in practice and for clear and effective communication to solicitors to minimise any uncertainty they might have about the new approach.

As you will be aware from the approval process, our focus is on competence, not monitoring the amount of training undertaken. We plan to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness and impact of our new approach by:

- undertaking a small scale review during the transitional period to explore who has adopted the new approach, analyse data to identify whether there has been a significant increase in competence issues, to gather best practice and review the content of our materials to support solicitors and entities in adopting our new approach;
- undertaking a post implementation review that explore how solicitors and entities have implemented our new approach and the resource impact of implementation;
- using the data we collect to identify systemic issues around the competence of solicitors.

We recognise the cultural shift for our regulated community. As you know, we will be publishing an online Toolkit later in the Spring, to support solicitors and their employers in moving to the new approach. This will include information about resources, examples of best practice and guidance on identifying and addressing any development needs. We also will communicate regularly with the profession through a comprehensive programme of stakeholder engagement.

Yours sincerely



Paul Philip

**Chief Executive
Solicitors Regulation Authority**