

Ongoing competence in the legal services sector (England and Wales)

Margie McCrone

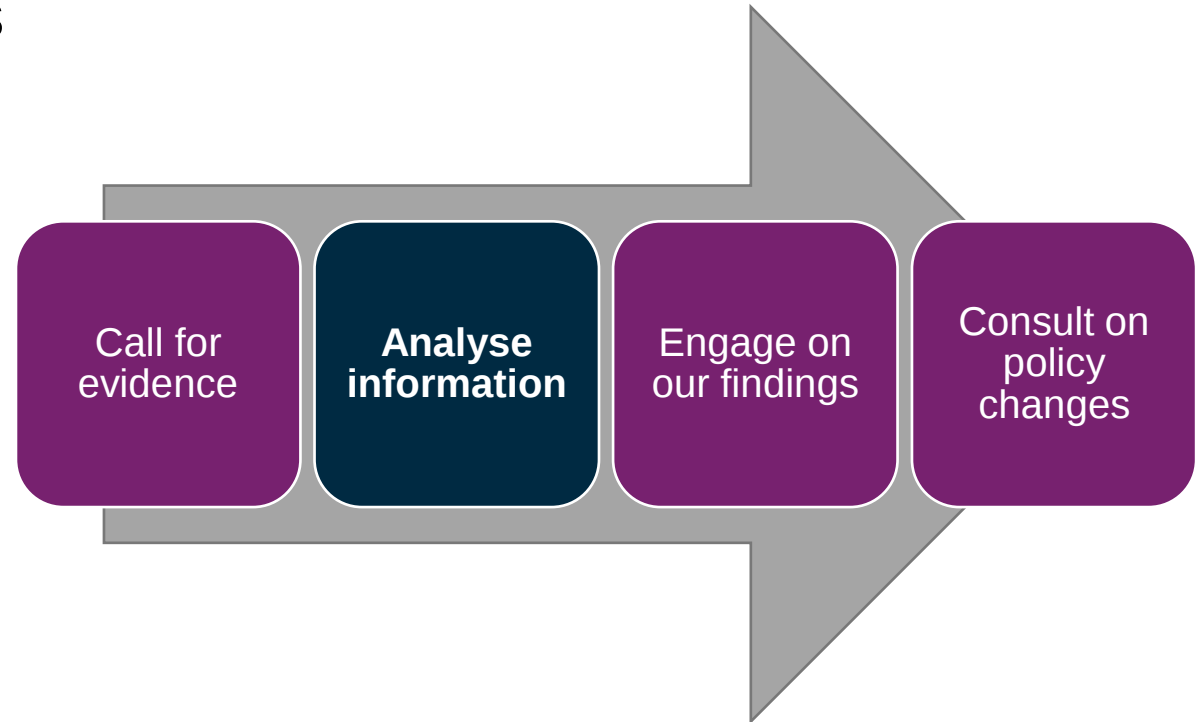
Regulatory Policy Manager
Legal Services Board

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Our ongoing competence project

Aim: to explore whether legal regulators have the right frameworks in place to ensure that the professionals they regulate remain competent throughout their careers

- Why are we doing this?
- Our approach
- Current phase of the project



Emerging themes

- Technical and specialist skills e.g. advocacy, emotional and technological competence are all important
- There is some support for a shared competence framework for all legal professionals, which could be shared with consumers
- Consumers expect that there are robust quality checks in place and have difficulty assessing quality themselves
- The legal services sector takes a light touch approach (compared with other sectors) with limited and variable testing of competence beyond CPD

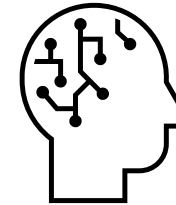
Emerging themes

- There is a lack of objective data on quality, but there are some quality concerns in some areas e.g. criminal advocacy, immigration, conveyancing
- CPD is not a proxy for competence and there appears to be support for a more robust approach
- Many parts of the sector already adopt additional methods for assuring competence e.g. collecting feedback
- Any intervention may need to be targeted to harm or risk of harm to vulnerable consumers

Competence assurance methods

What are some of the methods used to assure competence in different sectors?

Peer review	Audits
Observation	Mandatory CPD modules
Mandatory remedial training	Specialism
Accreditation and reaccreditation (revalidation)	Professional registers
Reflection	Feedback models (e.g. customers, peers, judges)



Thank you

Margie McCrone

margie.mccrone@legalservicesboard.org.uk

Legal Services Board

www.legalservicesboard.org.uk

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