

Please accept this as the response of the Midland Circuit to the consultation on Chairs of the front line regulatory bodies.

1. It is imperative that there is lay and professional representation on each regulatory body. This is already in place.
2. It is also important that each regulatory body is headed by someone who has independence of mind, power of forward thinking and the respect of their colleagues. If the Chair must be chosen from amongst those people who are classified as "lay" within the meaning of the regulations this would limit the pool of available talent and potentially lead to a less effective Chair being appointed.
3. The person most suited for the job should be chosen no matter what their status on the regulatory body. The presence of "lay" people on the board will ensure that a professional Chair considers the interests of the public as well as the profession, and the presence of professional people would ensure that a "lay" Chair was similarly focused on all "stake holders".
4. There is no established need for any change to the current position by which the best person for the job is appointed. The current Chair of the BSB has at times made herself unpopular with the Bar and (we suspect) at others the LSB: this is how it should be. The Chair of the BSB should be neither beholden to the profession nor to its uber-regulator. There is no evidence to suggest that this has not been the position with respect to each front line regulatory body throughout the period of their existence.
5. It is further doubted whether the LSB has the power to do that which

it proposes. (Full reasoning set out in the response of the Bar Council)

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Leader, Midland Circuit