

Our ref:
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Dear Robert

Consultation on removing the 7 year rule

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to your consultation on the proposal to remove the 7 year expiry rule from your alternative qualifications.

We agree with your proposal. It is consistent with our own approach in which we have removed a number of time limits from our own pathways leading to qualification as a solicitor, including the time limit for the currency of the Qualifying Law Degree, and for completing the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme.

We agree that time limits such as these create an artificial and arbitrary barrier and that other provisions, such as Work-based Learning and annual CPD requirements, are better mechanisms to ensure that applicants' knowledge and skills are up to date.

We also agree that removing the time limit and accepting all legal qualifications, regardless of when they were completed, supports the flexibility and accessibility of the CILEx route to qualification and therefore should promote access.

We are not aware of any adverse equality considerations that might arise from this proposed change.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Brannan".

Julie Brannan
Director of Education and Training
Solicitors **Regulation** Authority