



**LEGAL SERVICES
BOARD**

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Freedom of Information request

Date request received: 09 October 2015

Date of response: 03 November 2015

LSB reference: 20151009-01

Request:

Under the freedom of information act can you provide all information that states who can be called Counsel on court orders and what their occupation is?

Please can you provide all recorded information you hold that states who within the courts are responsible for regulating and identifying who is acting within the courts.

Are Solicitors and Barristers officers of the court?

Are the courts responsible for identifying Solicitors and Barristers qualification to act?

Are the courts responsible for the conduct of Solicitors and Barristers prior to entering an once inside the court?

Response:

I write in response to your emails of 9 October 2015 in which you requested information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), about court representation and entitlement to use of the title of Counsel on court orders.

The Legal Services Board (LSB) holds some of the information that you have requested.

I would start by explaining that the LSB was set up under the auspices of the Legal Services Act 2007 (the Act) to oversee the work of the ten "approved regulators", who themselves directly regulate the around 250,000 individuals providing regulated legal services in England and Wales.

In response to the first question on your court representation email, I attach a link to a page of the LSB's website which sets out and describes the six "reserved legal activities" provided under section 12 of the Act. These are the only activities for which lawyers are required to be regulated, and includes rights of audience about which you have enquired.

http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/can_we_help/faqs/Reserved_Legal_Activities.htm

You have asked who is responsible for regulating and identifying which practitioners may hold these rights. The LSB does not hold this information, but I can inform you that the following approved regulators are able to authorise practitioners to hold rights of audience. You may wish to contact them for information about how they award and regulate the use of these rights:

The Law Society: <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/>

General Council of the Bar: <http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/>

Chartered Institute of Legal Executives: <http://www.cilex.org.uk/>

Association of Costs Lawyers: <http://www.associationofcostslawyers.co.uk/>

The LSB does not hold information about use of the term "Counsel".

I hope that this has been of assistance, but if you are dissatisfied with our response to your request for information, you have the right to ask for an internal review or to submit a complaint (see LSB's Freedom of information – Complaints procedure: http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/can_we_help/l_sb_policies_procedures/freedom_of_information/index.htm).