

# Are we out of step? The legal services sector approach to ongoing competence

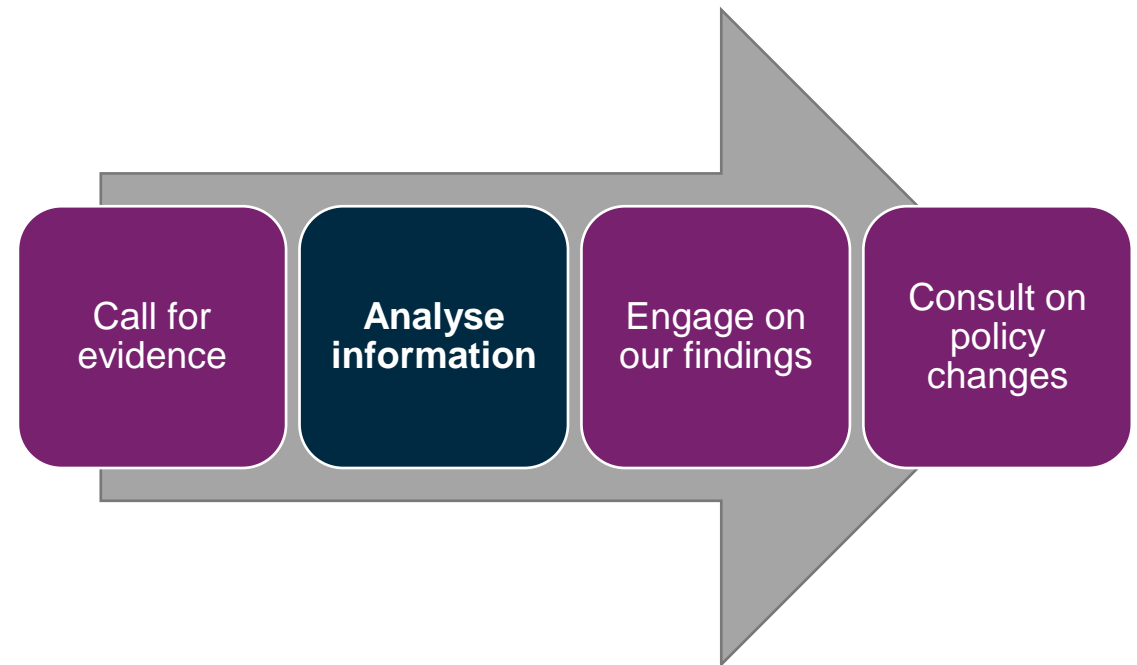
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# Our ongoing competence project

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

- **why are we doing this?**
- **our approach**
- **what phase we are in now**



# Evidence base

- 50 stakeholder meetings
- 40 submissions
- ongoing desk research
- considering commissioning research or utilising our public panel



Office of the  
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Engineering  
Council



Legal Aid  
Agency

HM Land  
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professional  
standards  
authority  
for Health and Social Care



Solicitors  
Regulation  
Authority



LEGAL  
SERVICES  
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Civil Aviation  
Authority



Law  
Centres  
Network



citizens  
advice



LEGAL SERVICES  
BOARD



BAR  
STANDARDS  
BOARD

# Emerging themes

- legal services sector takes a light touch approach compared with other sectors
- consumers expect that there are robust quality checks in place
- testing of competence is variable and limited e.g. some accreditation, peer review, audit schemes in place
- there are some quality concerns in some areas e.g. criminal advocacy, immigration, conveyancing

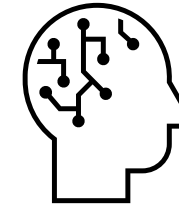
# Emerging themes

- some legal professionals may require more support to maintain their competence
- CPD is not a proxy for competence – a more robust approach may be needed
- any intervention may need to be targeted to harm or risk of harm to vulnerable consumers
- a one-size fits all approach is unlikely to work

# Competence assurance methods

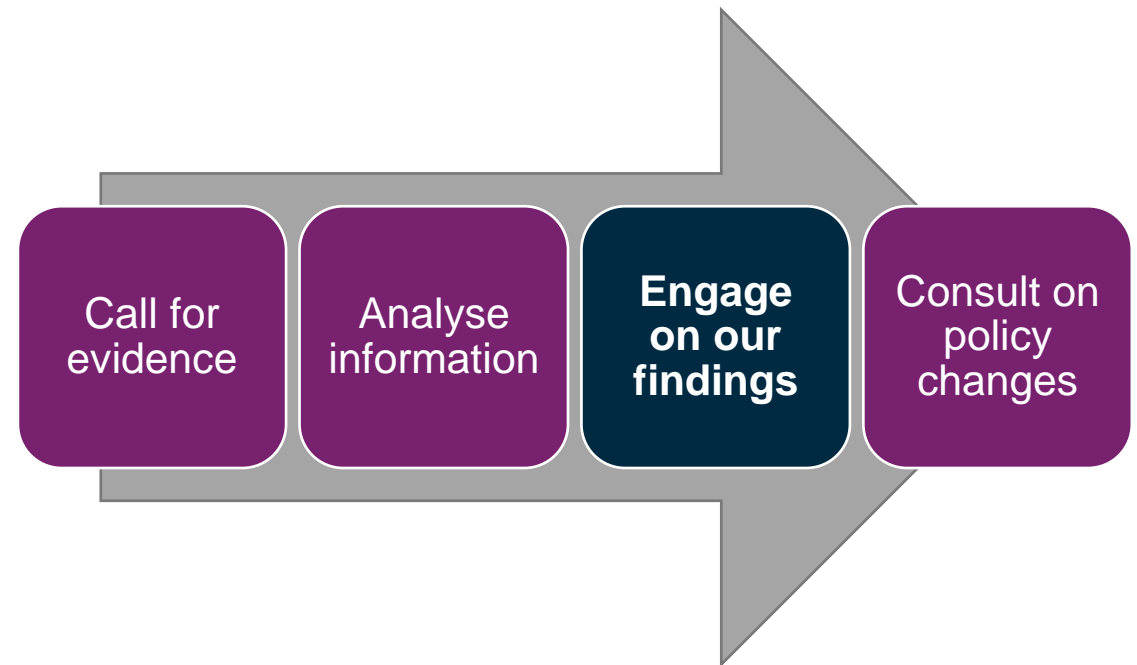
What are some of the methods used to assure competence in different sectors?

<b>Peer review</b>	<b>Audits</b>
<b>Observation</b>	<b>Mandatory CPD modules</b>
<b>Mandatory training</b>	<b>Specialism</b>
<b>Accreditation and reaccreditation</b>	<b>Professional register</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>Feedback models</b>



# Next steps for our project

- once we have finished reviewing all of the information shared with us, we will publish a report with our emerging findings
- we will engage widely on this so that as many views as possible can feed into any policy development, which would be subject to consultation




# Thank you

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