

BY EMAIL (under section 203 of Legal Services Act 2007)



**LEGAL SERVICES
BOARD**

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Paul Phillip
Chief Executive
Solicitors Regulation Authority
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24 August 2020

Dear Paul,

Extension notice issued under Part 3 of Schedule 4 to the Legal Services Act 2007

This letter is an extension notice issued under paragraph 21(5) (b) of Schedule 4 to the Legal Services Act 2007 (the "Act"). The words used in this extension notice have the meanings given to them in the Act.

On 31 July 2020 we received the Solicitors Regulation Authority's (SRA) application for the approval of changes to its regulatory arrangements to introduce the SQE Assessment Regulations and amend the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE): approach to qualified lawyers seeking admission as a solicitor of England and Wales. Paragraph 21(4) of Schedule 4 to the Act sets out an initial decision period of 28 days within which the Legal Services Board may make a decision on the application; paragraph 21(5) allows for this period to be extended by notice to the approved regulator.

The SQE application represents a significant change of policy to the framework for admission as a solicitor in England and Wales that requires careful consideration by the LSB. It will be necessary for the LSB to make additional enquiries with the SRA so that the LSB may fully understand the impact of the proposed change for both consumers and the profession.

Therefore, and in accordance with paragraphs 21(5), (6) and (7) of Schedule 4 to the Act, the Board considers it appropriate to hereby extend the initial decision period to 90 days from the date on which the application was made. The end of the decision period will therefore be 28 October 2020, although the LSB may make a decision before that date.

If you have any questions in relation to this notice, please contact Carla Duval on carla.duval@legalservicesboard.org.uk.

A copy of this extension notice will be published on the LSB's website within the next two business days.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Hill
Chief Executive
E: matthew.hill@legalservicesboard.org.uk