

Legal Services Board
1 Kemble St,
Holborn,
London
WC2B 4AN

26 June 2020

REF: Ongoing Competence Call for Evidence

CILEx fully supports the importance of ongoing competence in safeguarding minimum standards of skill, knowledge and competence amongst legal professionals for the protection and promotion of the public and consumer interests. We reiterate below the points previously made when meeting members of the LSB Team about this issue:

The CILEx qualification framework has been designed with this in mind; delivering training and education that is tailored to the specific competencies required of legal professionals working in each individual practice area. Consequently, as specialist lawyers, regulated and authorised for the specific activities they deliver, CILEx professionals are required to evidence ongoing competence to standards which directly reflect the work that they do on a day-to-day basis.

Similarly, by virtue of the regulatory framework in place (akin to models of activity-based regulation), CILEx professionals are not simply assessed for competence upon entry to the profession, but are required to undertake additional assessment to evidence their abilities to deliver those legal activities exclusive to the regulated community, providing additional mechanisms on which to assess and ensure competency levels.

Given these unique frameworks that underpin a CILEx lawyer's journey from training and education through to qualification and regulation, CILEx welcomes this early engagement with the LSB's project on ongoing competency.

Alongside direct engagements we have held with the LSB as part of this body of work, CILEx has further contributed evidence of enhanced competency frameworks that are intended to underpin our ongoing qualification review. Integral to this is a keen focus on outcome-based modules that will expand upon the competencies traditionally expected of the legal profession. For instance, plans to embed ethics and professionalism modules within the training and education of CILEx lawyers will underpin higher standards of service provision, whilst ongoing resources such as the CILEx MyCareer Hub provide additional support for assuring professionalism and wider competencies amongst CILEx practitioners. These advancements are intended to promote continued learning and development, and bolster the skills, knowledge and attributes of legal professionals in response to a changing market.

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF LEGAL EXECUTIVES

Kempston Manor, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7AB

T +44 (0)1234 841000 | **F** +44 (0)1234 840373

E info@cilex.org.uk | www.cilex.org.uk

DX 124780 Kempston 2

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CILEx is keen to continue working with the LSB within this body of work as the ongoing competency project progresses. We all have a role to play in ensuring that the legal services market is able to deliver those services that consumers can continually trust and rely upon and we welcome the LSB's collaborative approach to this project thus far.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Garrod
Director of Policy & Governance, CILEx



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