Regulatory review of advice and guidance on the reserved legal activities (excluding the conduct of litigation) provided to the profession by approved regulators and regulatory bodies

Context

Following the review of guidance relating to the conduct of litigation guidance, we published our final report on 27 July 2026. The report included the following recommendation:

- The LSB will carry out a review of the approved regulators' and regulatory bodies' guidance on the other reserved legal activities to ensure that there are no further inconsistencies. This is to help identify and resolve any similar issues as seen in relation to the conduct of litigation.

Scope of the review

The purpose of this review is to identify any issues with consistency, legal accuracy, clarity or adequacy of detail in published material providing guidance to the profession on the reserved legal activities (excluding the conduct of litigation) by approved regulators and regulatory bodies.

The review will also look at consistency with the applicable legal and regulatory framework and whether any differences between regulators' guidance are justified.

The review will consider guidance that is current and published at the commencement of the review. It may consider other material if appropriate and necessary to assist in identifying issues.

The review will consider current guidance from the approved regulators and regulatory bodies, as well as the LSB's own publications, on:

- the exercise of a right of audience
- reserved instrument activities
- probate activities
- notarial activities
- the administration of oaths

The review will consider materials providing guidance on these reserved legal activities, in the context of the relevant statutory and regulatory framework.

Out of Scope

The review will not assess the merits of the underlying legislation or comment on whether changes to the legislation are required.

The review will not consider historical guidance that is no longer published or that has been replaced or withdrawn before the start of the review. This reflects the review's focus on identifying and addressing any inconsistencies in current guidance and supporting materials, rather than undertaking a retrospective assessment of previous guidance.

Regulators covered by the review

This review will cover both approved regulators and, where appropriate, their regulatory bodies who regulate individuals and/or entities which carry on reserved legal activities.

The review will cover: the Bar Council, the Bar Standards Board, the Association of Costs Lawyers, the Costs Lawyer Standards Board, the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, CILEx Regulation, the Intellectual Property Regulation Board, the Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, the Master of the Faculties, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, The Law Society and the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Review process and provision of information

The review will principally comprise of desk-based analysis of published guidance. We will seek further information or clarification from approved regulators and their regulatory bodies where necessary. The LSB may use its powers under section 55 of the Legal Services Act 2007 where applicable.

Proposed timetable

We expect to complete the review by early 2027. An indicative timetable is set out below:

Date	**Action**
October 2026	Write to approved regulators and regulatory bodies
November 2026	Announce review

November 2026	Analysis of information
December 2026	Report writing
December 2026	Draft report to regulators for fact checking
January 2027	Publication of the report

Publication

The report findings will be published.

Legal Services Board