



Solicitors
Regulation
Authority

Assuring high standards in the police station

Consultation responses

March 2023

Consultation responses

We received six responses to the consultation:

- the Law Society¹
- Liverpool Law Society
- a solicitor
- a trainee solicitor

Two responses did not indicate their status.

The Law Society indicated they were happy for their response to be published. A trainee solicitor said they were happy for their response to be published anonymously.

¹ The Law Society's comments are from its Accreditation Team not by its Criminal Law Committee

The Law Society

2. Do you agree with the content of our proposed assessment guidelines?

Point 3.6 in annex 2 of the assessment guidelines states that solicitors and barristers are exempt from the written exam as are those who have taken the LPC, Bar Course and CILEX members who have passed level 6 professional Higher Diploma in Law which includes the criminal law and litigation papers. It then specifically states ' There are no exemptions for individuals who have passed the Solicitors Qualifying Examination'. We would like to ensure that there is not a disparity between solicitors who have completed the LPC and those who take the SQE qualification. The proposal appears to be that only the latter will not be exempt from the written examination. Does point 3.6 imply a step change, and where exemptions were previously given to individuals who have completed the LPC this is now being phased out? If so the rationale is not clear, and we would object strongly.

Point 7 in annex 2 of the assessment guidelines – Candidates are given a 30 second response time as part of the critical incidents test role play. 30 seconds is an extremely short time period. Are there reasonable adjustments in place for candidates with disabilities, visual impairments or where English is not their first language etc? We note the SRA's separate reasonable adjustment policy. Will this be adapted to specifically address how candidates with disabilities partaking in this test will be accommodated?

Anonymous responses

Anonymous response 1

1a) Do you agree that our proposed assessment standards reflect the knowledge and skills required for effective police station representation?

Agree

1b) Please tell us about the reasons for your answer

I think it is very beneficial to work on self development and keep up to date with the developments in law and police stations.

2a) Do you agree with the content of our proposed assessment guidelines?

Neutral

2b) Please tell us about the reasons for your answer

I neither disagree or agree.

3a) Do you agree with our position to not include a period or number of attempts by which a candidate must have completed the three assessments?

Agree

3b) Please tell us about the reasons for your answer

I think this is pretty fair

4a) Do you agree with the content of our proposed PSRAS regulations?

Agree

4b) Please tell us about the reasons for your answer

Yes agree

5a) Do you agree with the conclusions in our equality impact assessment?

Neutral

5b) Please tell us about the reasons for your answer

Neither agree or disagree

6) Do you have any information about the impact of our proposals on any other groups?

None
