

## **Invitation by the Legal Services Regulatory Authority for Submissions**

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) invites submissions as part of a public consultation prior to a report to the Minister for Justice and Equality on the operation of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015.

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority was established on 1 October 2016 and is responsible for the regulation of the legal profession and ensuring that standards in legal services are maintained and improved.

Under section 6 of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015 the Authority is obliged to commence a review of the operation of the Act within 18 months of its establishment date and to make a report of its findings and conclusions, within 12 months, to each House of the Oireachtas, including such recommendations, if any, to the Minister resulting from that review as it considers appropriate.

Recommendations shall include such recommendations, if any, for amendments to be made to the Act, to the Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2015 or to any instrument made under those Acts as the Authority considers appropriate arising from its findings and conclusions.

The Authority commenced its review on 16 February 2018 and intends, subject to resourcing, to report on its findings and conclusions to the Houses of the Oireachtas before the end of 2018.

As part of the review under section 6 of the 2015 Act, the Authority is required to consult with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, the Law Society, the Bar Council and the Honorable Society of Kings Inns. The Authority may also consult with such other persons, as the Authority considers appropriate.

The Authority now invites written submissions from members of the public, public representatives, members of the legal profession and any other interested party in relation to the operation of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015.

### **Scope of the Consultation**

The Authority seeks submissions in respect of the general operation of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015.

The Authority seeks submissions as to whether it should recommend for the consideration of the Minister any amendments to the 2015 Act.

This includes any recommendations for the consideration of the Minister of any amendments to Part 7 of the 2015 Act, which is entitled, *“Imposition of Levy on Professional Bodies and Certain Barristers to cover expenses of Authority and Disciplinary Tribunal”*.

The Authority seeks submissions as to whether it should recommend for the consideration of the Minister any amendments to the Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2015 or any instrument under those Acts.

Respondents may wish to comment on any other issues in relation to the operation of the Act including the objectives of the Authority under section 13(4) of the Act, which are:

- a) protecting and promoting the public interest,
- b) supporting the proper and effective administration of justice,
- c) protecting and promoting the interests of consumers relating to the provision of legal services,
- d) promoting competition in the provision of legal services in the State,
- e) encouraging an independent, strong and effective legal profession, and
- f) promoting and maintaining adherence to the professional principles of independence and integrity, acting in the client’s best interests, compliance with duties owed to the court and confidentiality.

It would be helpful for respondents to set out the reasons for the views expressed, and to provide any available evidence which they consider to be relevant.

Respondents are asked to indicate on whose behalf they are responding, for example as a member of the public, a public representative, an individual or a firm within the solicitor or barrister profession, a client or a body representing collective interest etc.

Members of the public or other interested parties wishing to contribute should send a written submission as soon as possible but in any event to be received no later than Friday 27 July 2018.

Submissions may be sent:

- By e-mail to [S6Consultation@lsra.ie](mailto:S6Consultation@lsra.ie) or
- By post to  
Section 6 Consultation  
Legal Services Regulatory Authority  
P.O. Box 12906  
Dublin 2

## **Freedom of Information**

Attention is drawn to the fact that information provided to the Authority may be disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. Therefore, should it be considered that any information provided is commercially sensitive, please identify same, and specify the reason for its sensitivity. The Authority will consult with interested parties making submissions regarding information identified by them as sensitive before making a decision on any Freedom of Information request. Any personal information, which you volunteer to the Authority, will be treated with the highest standards of security and confidentiality and in accordance with the Data Protection Acts, 1998 and 2003 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) when commenced.

## **Publication of Submissions**

The Authority intends where appropriate to publish any submissions received by it on its website and otherwise. Please note that a decision on any such publication may occur without prior consultation with respondents to this consultation notice. It is in the interest of respondents to highlight, in their submissions, any commercially sensitive or confidential information, which they would not wish to be disclosed.

**Legal Services Regulatory Authority**  
**8 June 2018**