



8 July 2021

Invitation for written submissions on statutory review of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority invites written submissions as part of a public consultation prior to a report to the Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015.

Background to Consultation

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (the Authority) was established on 1 October 2016 with a range of functions. These include regulating the provision of legal services by legal practitioners and ensuring that standards in legal services are maintained and improved.

Under section 6 of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 (the Act) the Authority is obliged to periodically conduct a review of the operation of the Act. Following a consultation process, the Authority is required to make a report of its findings and conclusions to each House of the Oireachtas, including such recommendations (if any) to the Minister resulting from that review as it considers appropriate.

The Authority began its first review under section 6 of the Act in February 2018 and submitted its [inaugural report](#), with recommendations, to the Dáil and Seanad in March 2019.

Current Statutory Review under Section 6 of Act

The Authority is currently undertaking its second review under section 6 of the Act. As part of this review, the Authority is required to consult with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, the Law Society, the Bar Council and the Honorable Society of King's 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

Under section 6 of the Act, 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, including any amendments to:
- Part 7 of the 2015 Act;
- The *Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2015* or any instrument made under those Acts.

Part 7 of the Act is entitled, *“Imposition of Levy on Professional Bodies and Certain Barristers to cover expenses of Authority and Disciplinary Tribunal.”*

Respondents may note that, following its inaugural section 6 review, revisions to the levy model are included in the [General Scheme of the Courts and Civil Law \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Bill 2021](#).

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 legal practitioners specified in the Act.

Requests for Respondents

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.



Deadline and Address for Submissions

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 **30 September 2021**.

Submissions may be sent:

- By e-mail to: S6Consultation@lsra.ie or
- By post to:
Section 6 Consultation
Legal Services Regulatory Authority
P.O. Box 12906, Dublin 7

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).

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

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