



**By Registered Post**

Section 33 Consultation  
Legal Services Regulatory Authority  
PO Box 12906  
Dublin 7

Irish Institute of Legal Executives CLG.

30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Email:** [publicconsultations@lsra.ie](mailto:publicconsultations@lsra.ie)

**RE: SECTION 33 CONSULTATION**

Dear Sirs,

As the professional body for Legal Executives in Ireland, the Irish Institute of Legal Executives welcomes the invitation to submit to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority as part of its public consultation process under Section 33 and we refer to our previous submissions of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

As previously stated in our submissions, the Irish Institute of Legal Executives plays a crucial role in the administration and admissions policies of Legal Executives within the legal profession in this jurisdiction. The Institute maintains a high-level admission policy in admitting Legal Executives to our organisation in much the same manner as the Law Society of Ireland and the Bar of Ireland.

The Institute sets out its Membership uptake during the period of 2025/2026.

| NEW MEMBERS | STUDENT MEMBERS<br>Academic Year | REGISTERED MEMBERS |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 43          | 33 (2025/2026)                   | 1,171              |
| 61          | 61 (2024/2025)                   | 1,127              |
| 45          | 30 (2023/2024)                   | 1,088              |
| 52          | 30 (2022/2023)                   | 1,045              |
| 38          | 30 (2021/2022)                   | 989                |
| 42          | 30 (2019/2020)                   | 951                |

As we see from the above table, the number of Legal Executives registered as members of the Irish Institute of Legal Executives is increasing each year. It is also noted from the recruitment sector that Legal Executives play a crucial role in the legal services industry and continue to be in demand.

Admission to the Institute is based on academic and practical legal experience, and the Institute places great emphasis on legal training for its members. To this end, the Irish Institute of Legal Executives has a long-standing relationship with Griffith College to ensure that Legal Executive training of the highest quality is available to Institute members. Griffith College's Diploma in Legal Studies and Practice is a QQI Level 7 Special Purpose Award and is the only course currently recognised by the Institute for its members wishing to join the organisation.

The demand for skilled, trained Legal Executives within legal practices and the public and private sector across the country has also been recognised by the Law Society of Ireland in recent years with the introduction of a diploma course in legal skills aimed specifically at training Legal Executives. The Institute believe that the existence of this course is a visible and practical acknowledgment by the Law Society of Ireland and its members of the value of Legal Executive professionals in the Irish legal services sector.



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The importance and value of the work carried out by professional Legal Executives has also been recognised by virtue of the Institute being invited to participate in the Tailte Éireann Customer Focus Group together with Solicitors, Architects, Local Authority Legal Agents, the IFA and other stakeholders.

This is further underlined by the fact that Tailte Éireann, Solicitors, Barristers and recruitment agencies have all given annual talks for the Irish Institute of Legal Executives over the years.

As in previous submissions, the Irish Institute of Legal Executives believes it is imperative that we reiterate the following:-

- Statutory recognition and regulation of Legal Executives would provide greater choice to the consumer and more competitive legal costs across the legal services sector.
- Regulation offers protection for consumers of legal services and Legal Executives. Legal Executives are conducting high levels of legal work on a daily basis that requires recognition and regulation to ensure that the high standards for Legal Executives are maintained and to ensure that any person holding themselves out to be a Legal Executive is properly trained and has the requisite skill and knowledge to carry out their professional Legal Executive duties at the highest level.
- Legal Executives are highly experienced professionals and hold vast knowledge in their chosen field of legal practice. Legal Executives do very similar work to Solicitors and work alongside them on a daily basis (drafting documents, attending Court, closing sales/purchases, meeting with clients and dealing with client files from beginning to completion)..
- The demand for Legal Executives in all sectors of the legal service industry is a strong indicator of the importance of the role of professional Legal Executives in that industry.
- 90% of our fully qualified Legal Executive members (MIILEX) are educated in legal disciplines to HETAC Level 7 in collaboration with Griffith College and above, with many holding third level Diplomas, Degrees, Masters and PhDs.
- Legal Executives are employed across a wide range of organisations in Ireland including but not limited to Revenue Solicitors' Office, banks, public service, local authorities, the Chief State Solicitor's Office, ODPP, the Legal Aid Board, CSSO, and the Approved Housing Bodies in addition to private sector legal departments and legal practices and law firms across the country.
- The high and perceived high cost of legal services is preventing people on lower income levels from equal access to justice. Recognised and regulated Legal Executives professionals could assist in providing access to lower cost legal advice for all consumers, especially in circumstances where Free Legal Aid is limited or restricted and is not accessible to many due to means testing or lengthy waiting lists.
- Our background is identical to that of Chartered Institute of Legal Executives ("CILEX") in England and Wales (see: [www.cilex.org.uk](http://www.cilex.org.uk)). Legal Executives in England and Wales can become judges, coroners, conveyancers and partners in law firms.

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The Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 addresses many issues in respect of cost and access to legal services. However, it offers no dramatic change to the way legal services are delivered. The Irish Institute of Legal Executives believes that the recognition and regulation of Legal Executives as professional legal service providers would offer a fresh and modern approach to legal services.

In particular, we believe that official recognition of the Irish Institute of Legal Executives as the professional body for Legal Executives in Ireland with similar regulatory powers as those given to the Law Society of Ireland for the regulation of Solicitors and the Bar of Ireland for Barristers would be a further important step forward in the provision of legal services in Ireland.

We therefore hope that the Legal Services Regulatory will take this opportunity to give our submission due consideration and take the necessary steps to provide us with the official regulation as professional legal practitioners which we believe our Legal Executive members and those accessing legal services deserve.

Yours faithfully,

Deborah Walsh  
Chairperson

**On behalf of the Board of the  
Irish Institute of Legal Executives**