

Higher Rights of Audience

Guidance notes for solicitors who wish to apply for rights of audience in the higher courts

Education and Training Unit

Version 3

Please read these notes carefully before submitting an application.

Application forms must be completed in typescript or black ballpoint pen to ensure quality copying for incorporation into agenda papers for the appropriate committees.

Applications must be legible. Applications which are incomplete or illegible will be returned to the applicant for re-submission.

The application form and guidance notes have been produced using Microsoft Word. On receipt of a request the forms can be emailed to potential applicants with compatible word processing packages so that where appropriate, answers may be inserted directly onto the form on screen.

The Higher Courts Qualification Regulations 2000 are available from www.sra.org.uk/framework

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Section 1 – Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Higher Courts Qualification Regulations 2000 (the Regulations) the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) may grant higher courts qualifications to solicitors seeking full rights of audience in the civil and/or criminal courts. Responsibility for the Regulations and the operation of the scheme has been delegated by the Council of the Law Society to the SRA. These notes are issued for the guidance of those wishing to make an application under the Regulations.
- 1.2 The Higher Courts Qualification Regulations 2000 (www.sra.org.uk/framework) as amended supersede the Higher Courts Qualification Regulations 1998 which in turn superseded the Higher Courts Qualification Regulations 1992.

Registered European Lawyers (REL)

- 1.3 The European Lawyers Establishment Directive 98/5/EC provides that European lawyers establishing themselves in England and Wales must be registered with the SRA or the Bar Council (or with an equivalent body in Scotland or Northern Ireland). An REL registered with the SRA will be regulated and treated in the same way as a solicitor of England and Wales.

It follows therefore that an REL registered with the SRA must be entitled to make an application to join any of the SRA's professional accreditation schemes.

In order to do this the REL must establish to the satisfaction of the scheme's assessors that he/she has the relevant experience and training to comply with the criteria for membership of the scheme.

Experience

- 1.4 Appropriate experience may be gained in this jurisdiction or in the RELs home jurisdiction. Where, however, experience gained in the home jurisdiction is relied upon it will be for the REL to provide sufficient details and evidence to satisfy the SRA that such experience is the equivalent to that which would be relied upon by a solicitor of England and Wales.

Training

- 1.5 Where the membership criteria of a scheme contains specific training requirements the REL must comply with them in full, although where the REL has undertaken training outside of England and Wales which he/she considers to be the equivalent of a specific training requirement it will be for the REL to provide sufficient details of such training to satisfy the SRA of its equivalence. Likewise, where there is not a specific training requirement, training undertaken outside of England and Wales may be relied on by the REL, but it is for the REL to provide sufficient details of such training to satisfy the SRA of its equivalence.

Advocacy and litigation

- 1.6 The directive requires that RELs can only advocate in open court and conduct litigation before the courts of record in conjunction with a solicitor or barrister.

Section 2 – Applications via the development route (Regulation 5) on an all proceedings qualification

- 2.1 The development route will have three stages. The individual must complete all three stages before applying for the qualification.

The stages are:

- training and assessment in procedure, evidence and ethics in the higher civil and higher criminal courts (the SRA provides a list of authorised course providers)
- training and assessment in advocacy skills (the SRA provides a list of authorised course providers)
- experience of either civil or criminal proceedings, some of which may take place pre-admission, evidenced by a portfolio and signed off by a mentor.

Ideally the advocacy experience period will be completed in parallel with the period of training and assessment, or will follow swiftly from the training and assessment. However, experience gained prior to the training and assessments should not be included in the portfolio under the development route.

- 2.2 The SRA will maintain a list of approved training and assessment providers. Applicants will be expected to:

- give proof of training and evidence of assessment in both procedure, evidence and ethics in the higher civil and higher criminal courts (see 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6)
- give proof of training and evidence of assessment in generic advocacy skills (see 2.8, 2.9 and 2.10)
- have evidence of advocacy experience gained in the form of a portfolio signed off by a mentor. A certificate signed by the mentor should be submitted together with the application form. Some portfolios will be called for monitoring purposes (see 2.11, 2.12 and 2.13).

- 2.3 Training and assessment may take place after successful completion of the Legal Practice Course (LPC). However, it should be borne in mind that the training for rights of audience builds on the knowledge and skills acquired not only in the LPC but also in the advocacy and communication skills module of the Professional Skills Course (PSC) which is undertaken during the training contract. It is therefore recommended that the training and assessment takes

place after attendance at the PSC advocacy and communication skills module to gain full advantage of the programme. Training courses under the development route are eligible to be PSC electives and enquiries should be made to course providers whether they are so authorised.

Procedure, evidence and ethics - training and assessment

- 2.4 The training in procedure, evidence and ethics will be provided by approved training organisations and cover both civil and criminal procedure in accordance with the standards set by the SRA. A significant amount of evidence and ethics may be taught generically and drafting skills, already so important in civil proceedings, are becoming more important in criminal proceedings. The training will include different aspects of criminal and civil procedure. It is expected that depending upon the provider and the individual's choice, the training will cover one set of proceedings in more detail. It is not envisaged that all the training will necessitate attendance at seminars etc. It is anticipated that at least part of the training could be provided by distance learning, including video and CD Rom.
- 2.5 The assessment in procedure, evidence and ethics will be provided by approved training organisations. Authorised training providers will decide on the most effective means of assessment which may take the form of a traditional written examination and which will be approved by the SRA. The assessment will cover both sets of proceedings although one may be more dominant.
- 2.6 Applicants should check which proceedings will take precedence in any training and assessment. Applicants must obtain a certificate from the provider on successfully completing the training and assessment which must accompany the application.
- 2.7 There is a guideline to providers that if a candidate fails the assessment in evidence procedure and ethics having completed the training he/she will be able to sit the assessment on two further occasions before having to undertake the training again. There is no limit on the number of occasions the candidate may undertake the training and assessment.

Advocacy skills – training and assessment

- 2.8 The advocacy training is provided by specifically authorised training organisations. The course will last for 18 hours covering skills to standards set by the SRA. Aspects of both civil and criminal proceedings will be covered although the training may specialise in one set of proceedings and applicants should check this with course providers.
- 2.9 Following the 18 hours training, applicants will attend for up to three hours for assessment in advocacy skills which may be in either civil or criminal proceedings. The applicant will have to prepare a trial strategy plan (which will be assessed) based on a case study and will have to undertake a minimum of two assessed advocacy exercises (which will be videoed):
 - Arguing a point of law before an assessor.

- A cross-examination (in accordance with the trial strategy plan).

Applicants should check which proceedings will take precedence in the training and on which procedures the assessment will be based. Applicants must obtain a certificate from the provider on successfully completing the training and assessments which must accompany the application.

- 2.10 There is a guideline to providers that if a candidate fails the advocacy assessment, having completed the training, he/she will be able to sit the assessment on one further occasion before having to undertake the training again. There is no limit on the number of occasions on which the candidate may undertake the training and assessment.

Portfolio of experience

- 2.11 In addition to the training and assessment set out above the applicant must undertake 12 months relevant experience, some of which may take place during the training contract but six months of which must be post admission. Applicants must compile a portfolio based on the experience they gain and reflect upon their development. Guidance for the development of the portfolio is available separately.
- 2.12 Each applicant will have a mentor with whom the applicant can discuss issues as he/she develops through gaining experience. Ideally the mentor will be a solicitor with a higher courts qualification with five years post qualification experience, currently practising as an advocate and who is experienced in the appropriate proceedings. If no such person is available the mentor must be either a solicitor or barrister admitted/called for at least five years, practising as an advocate and who is experienced in the appropriate proceedings. Full details on the role of the mentor are available separately. The record of experience must be submitted with the application for the qualification and be counter signed by the mentor.
- 2.13 The portfolio may be called for at the time of application for the qualification or within two years thereafter. See the separate guidelines on the procedure for the consideration of portfolios.

Timing

- 2.14 The SRA has considered the timing of the training and assessment and of the experience. It was felt that to be prescriptive might discourage individuals from seeking the qualification. Therefore the SRA has decided that as long as the training and assessment is after the LPC has been successfully completed and the experience gained is during the training contract and post admission then there should be no further restriction on timing (although see recommendation in paragraph 2.3 that the training and assessment should take place after the advocacy and communication skills module of the PSC has been attended). The experience may be mixed or may be in the proceedings in which the individual wishes to practise. The training and assessment in evidence, procedure and ethics and in advocacy skills and the 12 months experience must all take place in the five years preceding the application. (See the bottom of paragraph 2.1 for further details.)

- 2.15 Successful completion of the Bar Vocational Course will give exemption from the training and assessment under the Development route provided it has been undertaken within the time period required for completion of this route, that is, five years. See 2.14.

Appeals

- 2.16 There is a right of appeal against a decision of the SRA not to grant the qualification (see section 8.) but there is no appeal to the SRA or the Master of the Rolls against a decision by an assessment or training provider that an applicant has failed an assessment.

Section 3 – Applications via the Accreditation route (Regulation 6) for either the civil proceedings or criminal proceedings qualification

- 3.1 Applicants who wish to be considered under this route must complete the application form and the appropriate questionnaire. Successful applicants will be awarded a certificate of eligibility to undertake assessment in advocacy skills. The SRA may make the certificate subject to conditions such as specific training to be undertaken, the number of times the assessment may be undertaken or setting a time limit within which the assessment must be undertaken.
- 3.2 It should be noted that applications under this regulation must be received by the SRA before 31 December 2009.
- 3.3 Regulation 6(1)(b) refers to sound understanding of the procedure, evidence and ethics applicable in those proceedings for which the applicants seek to exercise rights of audience. It is not essential for the applicants to have extensive recent oral advocacy experience in order to demonstrate this understanding. This route is likely therefore to appeal to experienced solicitors who spend most of their time involved in either civil or criminal proceedings and are involved in all the preparatory work leading to the full trial. Often they will be present at the trial having themselves conducted the interim hearings. In this respect, when considering applications for the award of a certificate of eligibility, the Higher Courts Qualification Casework Committee (HCQCC) considers both the litigation and advocacy experience of the applicants amongst other factors for consideration. The SRA is of the view that those who have such experience and have for at least three years practised as lawyers should be able to demonstrate the requisite knowledge by completing a questionnaire which requires detailed information and evidence of the individual's experience. If they are able to show the requisite knowledge and experience then they should not have to undertake the written assessment in procedure, evidence and ethics. All applications will be considered by the SRA. It is up to applicants to decide whether or not their experience is sufficient to proceed via this route.
- 3.4 Under this route borderline applicants or applicants who have caused particular concern by their responses will be invited for interview.

- 3.5 The interview itself will be approximately 45 minutes in length. This will mainly be based upon the contents of the application form submitted, but will include a set question and a selection of additional questions on evidence, procedure and ethics in the higher courts.
- 3.6 The interview will be conducted by two SRA appointed interviewers. The SRA reserves the right for its interviewers to question applicants on any matter they regard as pertinent to awarding the applicant a higher court's qualification.
- 3.7 The interviewers will make recommendations to the SRA on whether the applicant is considered suitable to receive a certificate of eligibility to attempt the advocacy assessments.
- 3.8 Advocacy assessments will be available in civil and criminal proceedings respectively. The certificate of eligibility will state whether it is valid in respect of the civil or criminal higher courts advocacy assessment, or both, and any conditions which must be satisfied.
- 3.9 Applicants will be advised of the decision of the SRA in writing and reasons will be given.
- 3.10 The certificate of eligibility is valid subject to any conditions until the SRA gives notice of intention to revoke it.
- 3.11 There is a right of appeal against the decision of the SRA (see Section 8).
- 3.12 The SRA has discretion to specify that training must be undertaken before the assessment or in the event of failing the assessment. The SRA may specify the particular training (eg the training available under the development route or any other training it may consider desirable).
- 3.13 The assessment in advocacy skills may last for up to three hours. The individual will have to prepare a trial strategy plan (which will be assessed) based on a case study and will have to undertake a minimum of two assessed advocacy exercises (which will be videoed):
 - Arguing a point of law
 - A cross-examination (in accordance with the trial strategy plan).

Please note the advocacy assessment is mandatory and the qualification cannot be awarded until confirmation has been received that an applicant has successfully completed this part.

- 3.14 Individuals will submit an application with a certificate of successfully passing the assessment and evidence of having satisfied any other conditions prescribed by the SRA.
- 3.15 Applicants may apply to the SRA for an all proceedings qualification. Unless they satisfy the requirements in full for both the civil and criminal proceedings qualification, they will have to satisfy the SRA that they should gain a waiver of the requirements.

3.16 There is a right of appeal from a decision of the SRA (see Section 8).

Section 4 – Applications via the exemption route (Regulation 7) for either the civil proceedings or criminal proceedings qualification

- 4.1 Applicants who wish to be considered under this route must complete the application form.
- 4.2 Solicitors seeking to gain a higher courts qualification via the exemption route may apply if the preconditions in Regulation 7 are met ie the applicant has experience of the higher courts of England and Wales or of a comparable jurisdiction or a jurisdiction listed in Article 1 of the EC Parliament and Council Directive 98/5/EC.
- 4.3 If the above stated condition is met the applicant may be considered under Regulation 7. Applicants will be required to show by the totality of their experience in all courts and tribunals, not necessarily limited to the higher courts, that they are suitably experienced and qualified to exercise rights of audience before the higher courts in the proceedings in which the qualification for which they have applied would entitle them to appear. For this purpose all experience may be taken into account but particular weight will be given to recent experience, say within the last two years.
- 4.4 It should be noted that applications under this regulation must be received by the SRA before 31 December 2009.
- 4.5 Applications under this route are normally considered by the HCQCC. This committee meets on average once every two months to consider these applications.
- 4.6 Although the application form seeks information of recent advocacy experience, the committee is prepared to consider experience gained prior to the two years preceding the date of application. For this reason, applicants may find it beneficial to provide, in addition to the application form, a short résumé of their career placing particular emphasis on actual advocacy experience and judicial or quasi-judicial experience.
- 4.7 An example of relevant judicial experience would be of sitting as a Recorder or Assistant Recorder in the Crown Court in relation to the criminal proceedings qualification. Advocacy experience in the higher courts may include appearances before the Crown Court in appeals from the decisions of magistrate's courts for the criminal proceedings qualification. Experience of Courts Martial at the appropriate level may be equated to Crown Court experience.
- 4.8 Applicants relying on higher courts experience gained in jurisdictions outside England and Wales which are not defined as "comparable jurisdictions" under paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Schedule to the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Regulations 1990 must provide evidence of the court system, procedure and rules of evidence applying in that jurisdiction at the time the experience relied upon was gained.

- 4.9 Applicants who fail to satisfy the SRA that they should be awarded a higher courts qualification under Regulation 7 may have their application considered under Regulation 6.
- 4.10 There is a right of appeal from the decision of the SRA (see Section 8).

Section 5 – Barristers (Regulation 10)

- 5.1 Section 39 of the Access to Justice Act 1999 became effective on 31 July 2000. This added section 31C to the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 which provides that those who had rights of audience granted by an authorised body (e.g. the Bar Council) retain those rights when transferring to another authorised body (e.g. the SRA). This section only relates to those barristers or others who transferred on or after 31 July 2000. Further information is available from Information Services, The Solicitors Regulation Authority, Ipsley Court, Berrington Close, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 0TD (DX:19114) Tel: 0870 606 2555, Fax: 0207 320 5964.

Former barristers (Regulation 9)

- 5.2 Applicants who became solicitors before 31 July 2000 and who at the time of their admission had at any time been barristers (or European Lawyers registered with the General Council of the Bar) who had and were entitled to exercise rights of audience in all courts and in all proceedings are eligible to apply under Regulation 9. S31C of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 does not apply to them. To be eligible to apply under Regulation 9, the rights they were entitled to exercise must not have been provisional or temporary and applicants must not have been banned from exercising the rights as the result of disciplinary proceedings (unless the ban had been lifted). Applicants must produce a certificate from the Bar Council to show that they had such rights of audience. The SRA must be satisfied that applicants under this regulation have recent relevant advocacy experience. The SRA may specify any further steps which applicants must take. The recent relevant advocacy experience may have been in the higher courts (using such rights of audience as are already available to solicitors) or may have been significant experience in other courts or tribunals (including for example, arbitrations). Applicants may apply for a civil, criminal or all proceedings qualification.
- 5.3 There is a right of appeal from the decision of the SRA (see Section 8).

Section 6 – General matters relating to the completion, presentation, confidentiality and consideration of applications

- 6.1 There are factors which may affect the extent of litigation and advocacy in the period under consideration such as:
- (a) fewer opportunities to appear regularly in those parts of the country where courts sit less frequently

- (b) fewer opportunities for advocacy in more specialised practices which concentrate on High Court as opposed to county court litigation
 - (c) career breaks, maternity leave or job changes; and
 - (d) illness or disability.
- 6.2 Additional relevant factors applicants wish to have taken into consideration should be detailed in the relevant section of the application form.
- 6.3 Applicants whose advocacy record in the previous two years discloses a pattern which may be regarded as abnormal or where external factors have intervened should point this out and may wish to draw attention to more active periods of advocacy experience earlier in their careers.
- 6.4 Applications via the exemption route and accreditation route will be considered in the first instance by the HCQCC.
- 6.5 Applications via the Development route will normally be dealt with under powers delegated to the office. However, in the event of any query the application will be considered by the HCQCC.
- 6.6 Answers to any questions which indicate a course of action which is unethical or contrary to the various codes of practice and conduct for solicitors may be referred to the Legal Complaints Service (LCS).
- 6.7 Appeals from a decision of HCQCC will be considered by the Higher Courts Qualification Appeals Casework Committee (HCQACC (see Section 8 below)).
- 6.8 All applications will be treated as private and confidential and will be restricted to SRA staff, SRA appointed assessors and interviewers, the HCQCC and, if appropriate, the HCQACC.
- 6.9 It is the responsibility of the applicant to decide whether or not it is appropriate to disclose the names of parties involved in cases contained in their application. This is particularly in respect of information submitted under the accreditation route. It is the responsibility of the applicant to anonymise names contained in their application which must not be disclosed.

Section 7 – Guidance on the provision of references

- 7.1 Applicants are required to supply the name and address of a referee who primarily is able to testify to their ability as an advocate. The referee testifying to an applicant's advocacy ability should have seen the applicant 'on their feet in court' and should be a member of the judiciary, District Judge, clerk to the justices' or a professional opponent such as a solicitor higher court advocate, branch crown prosecutor or barrister. The referee should be independent and should not, for example, come from the same firm or organisation.
- 7.2 Applicants who cannot provide a reference in support of their application of the nature described above should provide the best possible reference they can obtain. This might, for example, be someone who can refer to the

applicant's litigation skills but who has not seen the applicant on their feet as an advocate. It is expected that this may particularly be so of applicants via the accreditation route.

- 7.3 Applicants may supply a second referee if they wish and space is allowed in the application form to insert details.
- 7.4 The SRA will write to the referee(s) asking them to comment on the suitability of the applicant to receive the award via the qualification route they are attempting and with regard to the requirements of that route.
- 7.5 In certain circumstances (e.g. on appeal) applicants have the right to copies of all documents pertaining to their application which have been considered by the SRA. For example, if an application is refused the applicant has the right of appeal, ultimately to the Master of the Rolls and must have the opportunity to answer any criticisms that may have been made. References are obtained on the basis that they may be disclosed to applicants.
- 7.6 Applicants may ask their referee(s) to supply the reference directly to them and attach it to their application.
- 7.7 Applicants are strongly advised to secure agreement to supply a reference from their referees before the SRA writes asking for a reference.
- 7.8 If a referee refuses to supply a reference, the applicant will be required to supply details of another reference before the application can proceed.
- 7.9 Any queries regarding the suitability of referees should be addressed to the Caseworking and Applications Unit at the address given at 9.2 of these notes.

Section 8 – Appeals against decisions (Regulation 12)

- 8.1 Applicants aggrieved by a decision of the HCQCC under the Regulations may, within 28 days of receiving notification of the decision, submit written notice of their intention to appeal the decision.
- 8.2 The HCQACC will review decisions as soon as reasonably practicable. Appellants will normally be invited to address the Appeals Committee in person for a total period not normally exceeding 45 minutes and/or submit written representations for consideration by the Appeals Committee.
- 8.3 Appellants who are aggrieved by the decision of the HCQACC may, within three months of receiving notification of the decision, appeal to the Master of the Rolls who may:
 - (a) affirm the decision of the SRA; or
 - (b) give a direction as to how the SRA should exercise its functions under these regulations, including making a direction that the SRA grant to the appellant a higher courts qualification.

- 8.4 The procedures for appeals to the Master of the Rolls are contained in the Master of the Rolls (Appeals and Applications) Regulations 2001 as amended.

Note: Appeals to the Master of the Rolls will cease on the coming into force of amendments to the Solicitors Act 1974 arising from paragraph 30 of Schedule 16 of the Legal Services Act 2007.

- 8.5 No appeal lies to the SRA or the Master of the Rolls against a decision by a course or assessment provider that an applicant has failed the assessment.
- 8.6 An additional fee of £230.00 inc. VAT at 15% is charged to appellants and is refundable at the discretion of the SRA.

Section 9 – Where to send completed application forms and request further information

- 9.1 Completed applications should be sent to

Finance Department, SRA, Ipsley Court, Berrington Close, Redditch B98 0TD or DX 19114 Redditch.

- 9.2 Queries or requests for further information or assistance should be directed to Information Services on 0870 606 2555 or by post to the Caseworking and Applications Unit, The Solicitors Regulation Authority, Ipsley Court, Berrington Close, Redditch B98 0TD. or DX 19114 Redditch or email customerapplications@sra.org.uk.

For details for the Solicitors' Association of Higher Court Advocates go to their web site at www.sahca.org

Section 10 – Rules and principles of professional conduct

- 10.1 Individuals should be competent to undertake higher courts advocacy in accordance with Rule 1.05 of the Solicitors Code of Conduct 2007.
- 10.2 Specific rules pertaining to advocacy are contained in Rule 11 of the Solicitors Code of Conduct 2007.
- 10.3 The Solicitors Code of Conduct 2007 can be accessed at www.sra.org.uk/code

Section 11 – Continuing professional development (CPD)

- 11.1 It would be helpful if applications under all routes include their CPD record for the last three years or since admission, whichever is the lesser. Please note that the SRA reserves the right to call for a CPD record.

- 11.2 All solicitors are now subject to the SRA's compulsory CPD scheme. All solicitors must undertake 16 hours' CPD a year. The SRA is committed to lifelong learning and each solicitor is encouraged to decide on his/her development needs and to undertake the CPD activities to satisfy them. However, the SRA recognises that where a solicitor specialises in a particular area of practice it is appropriate that a certain amount of CPD should be undertaken in that area, particularly in the early years after achieving the qualification.
- 11.3 All higher court advocates who gain their qualification under the 2000 Regulations must undertake at least five hours of CPD relevant to their higher court practice in each of the five CPD years after gaining the qualification. The CPD undertaken will have to be entered on the individual's training record, which may be called for by the SRA either on a random basis or in response to a complaint.

Section 12 – Equal opportunities

(Applicant throughout this statement means those applying for initial membership of and reselection, re-accreditation or reinstatement to the scheme)

- 12.1 The SRA aims to ensure that no applicant for membership of a scheme receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion, colour, nationality, ethnic origin or age, or is disadvantaged by conditions, requirements or practices which cannot be shown to be justifiable.
- 12.2 Selection criteria, assessment processes and procedures will be frequently reviewed to ensure that applicants are selected on the basis of their relative merits and abilities.
- 12.3 Applicants are required to demonstrate that they comply with the relevant selection criteria for membership as set out in the appropriate section of the scheme procedures.
- 12.4 Applicants who have a disability and find it difficult to complete the application questionnaires or assessment processes should contact the SRA for assistance. You can help us by informing us of what reasonable adjustments you need to enable you to apply to the scheme and participate in the assessment process as equally as other individuals.
- 12.6 It is unlawful to discriminate positively in favour of certain groups on the grounds of race or sex. However, the SRA is committed to having a profession which is diverse and representative of the society it serves, and will use positive action to enable greater representation of under represented groups is permitted by law.
- 12.7 Selection for membership of a scheme will continue to be based on the merits and abilities of each applicant.
- 12.8 If an applicant feels that the selection criteria or the selection process is directly or indirectly discriminatory, they can contact or write to The Manager,

Caseworking and Applications Unit, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Ipsley Court, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 0TD or email customerapplications@sra.org.uk and specify their concerns which will be considered and investigated.

Section 13 – Fees

- 13.1 The application fee for the development route is £200.00 payable on application.
- 13.2 The application fees for the accreditation route are £200.00 payable on application for a certificate of eligibility and £200.00 payable on application for the qualification.
- 13.3 The application fee for the exemption and former barristers routes is £200.00 payable on application for the qualification.
- 13.4 The above fees will not be refundable, even in the event that the application is refused. Please ensure that you have read the guidance notes before submitting your application.
- 13.5 The fee for submitting an appeal is £230.00 inc. VAT @ 15% and is refundable at the discretion of the SRA.
- 13.6 Cheques should be crossed and made payable to The Law Society.
- 13.7 The SRA reserves the right to change fees without notice.