

How we make decisions on authorisation

Reviewed 25 November 2019

Decision making guidance

In line with our decision-making guidance and principles [<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/decision-making/decision-making-sra/>] , we have published guidance that underpins all our regulatory decisions, including our decisions related to firm-based authorisation.

The decision making guidance [<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/decision-making/guidance/authorisation-firms/>] contain details of the relevant rules and policies, and presents examples to help contextualise decisions such as an approval or refusal to authorise a firm.

Key outcomes we are seeking to achieve through the authorisation process

- Clients and the general public remain confident that legal services provided by those we regulate will be delivered to the required standard.
- The firms that the SRA authorises will be managed in such a way, and with appropriate systems and controls in place to promote public confidence in legal services.
- Those who own and manage law firms have the competence, character and willingness to achieve the right outcomes for clients and third parties.
- Only those individuals and firms who/that meet the SRA's criteria for authorisation or approval (including the requirements to be suitable and capable of providing legal services to the required standard) are authorised or approved.