Solicitors Regulation Authority

SQE consultation: improving flexibility while maintaining standards

Why?

- Candidates and others have told us the process can feel unnecessarily stressful
- Candidate feedback and data show there are opportunities for improvement
- Stakeholders have broadly supported the SRA's proposals during pre-consultation
- Testing these proposals has given us confidence that proposed changes would not lower standards

Why now?

- Improved data and feedback on the SQE mean the SRA is able to now make these improvements

What's next?

- If approved, the changes would be introduced from 2028
- The SRA is continuing to explore further improvements
- An independent evaluation is underway to assess whether the SQE remains valid, reliable and fair

What is being proposed?

1. Candidates could take FLK1 and FLK2 separately
2. No limit on number of assessment attempts
3. The six-year validation period would start from a first pass, rather than a first attempt

Find out more and get involved

- The consultation is open until 11 February 2027
- The consultation is targeted at candidates, training providers, employers and the wider legal education sector
- Listen to our podcast with Director of Education and Training, Beth Black on what we want to achieve with these proposed changes
- Read the consultation in full
- Have your say by responding to the consultation: sra.org.uk/sqe-consultation

sra.org.uk