

Guidance

Can my business be authorised?

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Checklist

Where your business must be authorised, or you have chosen to be authorised, this checklist sets out a summary of the eligibility requirements. For fuller guidance on the contents, and an explanation of the terminology, please see [Firm authorisation](#).

There is also a checklist to determine whether your business must be authorised: [Does my business need to be authorised?](#)

This checklist will help you to quickly check if your business meets all the basic requirements to be authorised. Certain terms below have specific meanings, and these are explained in our [detailed guidance](#).

Be aware that meeting these requirements does not guarantee authorisation. All applications must be assessed to ensure the suitability of those involved and any risks to our regulatory objectives.

To be eligible for authorisation, your business must meet each of the following requirements:

1. Intend to deliver legal services (we may, at our discretion, allow exemptions to this requirement where we consider it is in the public interest).
2. Be one of the following:
 - the sole practice of a solicitor or a registered European lawyer (REL)
 - a legal services body, in which all managers and interest holders are legally qualified, or
 - a licensable body, in which at least one manager is an authorised person (other than another licensed body).
3. Meet the practising address requirements, which are:
 - licensable bodies must have a practising address in England and Wales
 - legal services bodies and sole practices must have a practising address in the United Kingdom.
4. If the business is a company, meet one of the following company registration requirements:
 - incorporated and registered in England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland under Parts 1 and 2 of the Companies Act 2006, or
 - incorporated in an Establishment Directive State and registered as an overseas company under Part 34 of the Companies Act 2006, or
 - incorporated and registered in an Establishment Directive State as a *societas Europaea*.

If you apply for authorisation, as part of that application you will need to:

- provide evidence that you can obtain the required level of qualifying professional indemnity insurance with a participating insurer
- nominate a Compliance Officer for Legal Practice (COLP) and a Compliance Officer for Finance and Administration (COFA)
- identify all managers and owners of the body
- identify a manager or employee, or other individual you have procured the services of, who has practised as a lawyer of England and Wales for at least three years
- apply for approval of all role holders that require it under the SRA Authorisation of Firms Rules 2018 and, where applicable, the MLR 2017.

Next steps

If you wish to apply for authorisation, please go to our [Firm-based authorisation](#) page where you will find all the necessary application forms, along with details of fees and timescales.

Further help

If you require further assistance, please contact the [Professional Ethics helpline](#).

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