



Training for Tomorrow

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Legal Education and Training Review (LETR)



- Historically managed through input methods, e.g. study periods
- Easy to demonstrate and measure, but did not necessarily assure standards
- SRA's primary focus was on regulating the pathways.
- Large number of organisations involved in assessment, absence of direct assurance of consistency



Training for Tomorrow



Followed LETR



Core objective – uphold public confidence in the profession, both domestically and internationally:

- consistent, rigorous standards
- innovation and flexibility in solicitors' training
- promotion of a broad, diverse profession



Three strands of work

Training regulations

Review and update of existing approach

Continuing competence (CPD)

New approach for practising solicitors

Professional standards

A new Competence Statement for solicitors and
a new assessment framework for admission



 Changes made from July 2014

 Red tape removed:

- student enrolment
- certificate of completion of academic stage of training
- specification of terms of training contracts

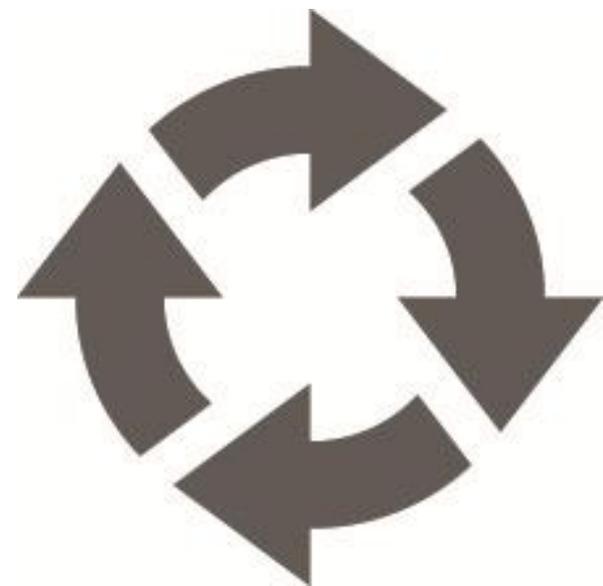
 “Equivalent means” introduced:

- learning equivalence recognised, including Practising outside of recognised training
- first candidates now qualified in this way



A new approach to continuing professional development

-  Removes requirement for solicitors to undertake 16 hours per year of CPD
-  Focuses instead on training needs, making sure training is relevant and useful
-  Professional standards: reference to new Competence statement for solicitors



A new approach to continuing professional development

➤ Opt-in from April 2015 (voluntary); full (compulsory) implementation by 1 November 2016

➤ To help firms and solicitors benefit from the new approach, we created:

- An online toolkit including guidance, forms, case studies
- a package of webinars and events on identifying training needs, addressing them, and recording and reflecting on training completed.



Statement of solicitor competence

Describes the core skills the public should be able to expect from solicitors in four broad areas:

- ethics, professionalism and judgement
- technical legal practice
- working with other people
- managing yourself and your work



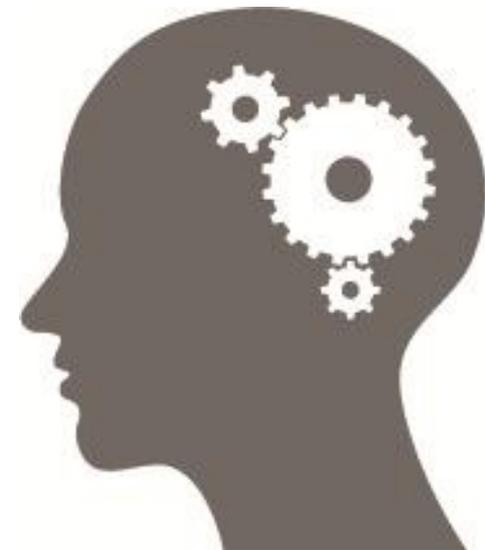
Statement of Legal Knowledge and Threshold Standard



Background knowledge areas set out in a **Statement of Legal Knowledge**



Threshold Standard – defines the performance standards needed to meet the competences included in the competence statement and required at the point of qualification



How we developed the statement

 Comprehensive engagement programme with 2,000 consumers, solicitors and academics

 The programme involved

- workshops and interviews
- online surveys and questionnaires
- Delphi group of experts



Implementation timetable

- **1 April 2015:** Published and came into force for practising solicitors
- **Next phase:** Develop new assessment framework for intending solicitors



Early thinking

- A new professional assessment needed
- Must be quality assured, consistent and relevant to needs
- Must provide a number of flexible pathways to support the development of the profession
- The SRA would play a key oversight role in this model.
- Currently testing a possible model
- We will consult on our proposals before the end of 2015.





Solicitors Regulation Authority

www.sra.org.uk/t4t

