

ARB's Consultation Process



Architects Registration Board

Consultation paper 2008/05

Amendments to the Architects Code: Standards of Professional Conduct and Practice

Consultation Policy

ARB is committed to consulting with a wide range of key stakeholders, consumer bodies and other organisations, to assist in developing its policies.

This consultation process provides the opportunity for interested parties to participate in formulating strong, robust strategies and policies for discharging our statutory responsibilities under the Architects Act 1997.

Introduction

The Architects Registration Board is holding a consultation exercise on amendments to the Architects Code: Standards of Professional Conduct and Practice (the Code).

It is important that we have as wide a range of views as possible to assist the Board in its final consideration and implementation of these changes.

We would therefore appreciate any views or comments you might have on the proposals. Please let us have these by no later than 5pm on Friday, 16 January 2009.

Copies of the Consultation Paper are available to download from our website, www.arb.org.uk/news/consultations. A response form is also available, and can be printed or submitted by email. You will find this at the end of the paper. Alternatively, you can post your response to:

Tanya Grundy
Architects Registration Board
Ability House
7 Portland Place
London W1B 1PP

Responses may also be returned by fax to 020 7436 5269

Background

The Architects Act 1997 requires the Board to issue a Code laying down the standards of professional conduct and practice expected of architects. Section 13(2) provides that the Board 'shall keep the Code under review and to vary its provisions whenever it considers it appropriate to do so'.

The Code serves a dual purpose. It provides architects with a sound indicator of the principles of good practice and offers protection for the consumer by highlighting the standards they can expect from the profession.

The Code functions as a source of guidance and as such, it does not seek to cover every possible situation that may arise. The proposed amendments are intended to be improvements to the current Code and consider what is thought to be good practice elsewhere. The proposals also reflect the overarching principles of some European wide codes that may be relevant, in particular the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS) and the Architects Council of Europe (ACE) Deontological Code.

You are invited to comment on all the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct. The main amendments relate to the following:

- The addition of an 'at-a-glance' guide detailing each of the twelve standards
- The endorsement of recent changes to the Board's guidance and FAQ's concerning professional indemnity insurance
- The inclusion of an additional standard, making clear the need for equal and fair treatment of others
- The strengthening and clarification of certain standards indicative of concerns expressed by both architects and consumers

The amended Code is set out in the response document provided. The document does not highlight every proposed alteration as there have been numerous changes in style, content and layout however, notes are included where relevant to identify reasons for any significant changes. The Guidance section that follows the Code can be found at **Annex A**, and a copy of the current Code is available on the ARB's website should you wish to refer to the present version. We have also identified some key questions which we would welcome your responses on. The papers are also available to download from our website, www.arb.org.uk. Details of how to respond to the Consultation are included within the Consultation Paper.

Responding to the Proposal

Comments are invited on these changes to the Architects Code: Standards of Professional Conduct and Practice.

Attached to this letter is a list of those organisations that have been consulted. This letter will be available on ARB's website, and will be emailed to those individuals on the Register who have expressed an interest in receiving material from ARB on such matters.

Please return your reply to ARB as soon as possible and no later than 5pm on Friday, 16 January 2009.

List of consultees

Please see below the list of those organisations we have consulted. Following the close of the consultation, you will be able to read the responses of those who replied by visiting our website, www.arb.org.uk/news/consultations, and clicking on the highlighted organisations.

APSAA (Association of Professional Studies Advisers in Architecture)

ARCHAOS

Architects Professional Examinations Authority in Scotland Ltd

Architectural Association School of Architecture

Association of Consultant Architects

Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists

Cardiff University

Centre for Education in the Built Environment

Chartered Institute of Building

Construction Industry Council

De Montfort University

Edinburgh College of Art

General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland

General Dental Council

General Medical Council

General Optical Council

Health Professions Council

Kingston University

Landscape Institute

Leeds Metropolitan University

Liverpool John Moore's University

London Metropolitan University

London South Bank University

Mackintosh School of Architecture

Manchester School of Architecture

National Consumer Council

Northumbria University

Nottingham Trent University

Oxford Brookes University

Quality Assurance Agency

Queen's University Belfast

Robert Gordon University

Royal College of Art

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

Royal Institute of British Architects

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

Royal Society of Architects in Wales

Royal Society of Ulster Architects

Royal Town Planning Institute

Scottish Consumer Council

SCALA (Serving Construction and Architecture in Local Authorities)

SCHOSA (Standing Conference of Heads of Schools of Architecture)

Sheffield Hallam University

The Law Society

The Law Society of Northern Ireland

The Law Society of Scotland

Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects

University of Bath

University of Brighton

University of Cambridge
University of Central England
University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester
University College London
University of Dundee
University of East London
University of Edinburgh
University of Huddersfield
University of Greenwich
University of Kent
University of Lincoln
University of Liverpool
University of Newcastle
University of Nottingham
University of Plymouth
University of Portsmouth
University of Sheffield
University of Strathclyde
University of Ulster
University of the West of England
University of Westminster

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Protecting the consumer and
safeguarding the reputation
of architects