



Architects Registration Board eBulletin : February 2016

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Chair's Message

Dear Reader,

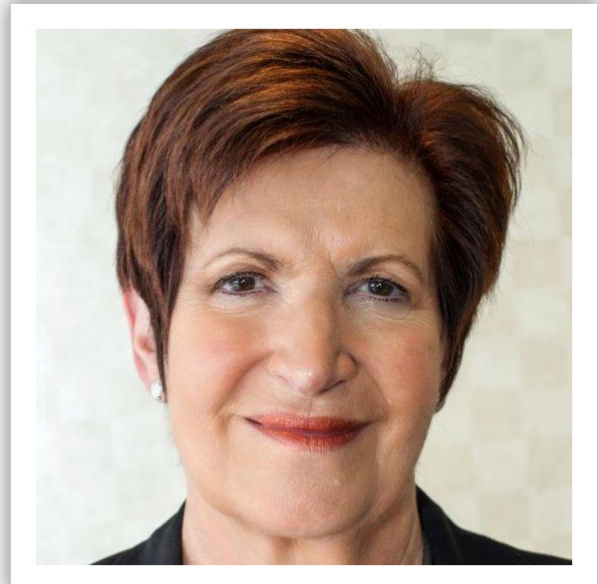
Welcome to the February eBulletin.

Strong performance in 2015 – Welcome to the February eBulletin – the first of 2016. At the recent Board Meeting, on 11 February 2016, we assessed the [delivery of the 2015 business plan](#) and considered a report on [statistics and trends from the Register](#). Performance was strong in 2015 with service levels improving from previous years. Our investment in online services is proving successful, with an increase in the number of people applying for registration and updating their contact details online. The statistical report highlights the growing Register and also includes a summary of the equality and diversity data we now hold about architects.

Impact of the Periodic Review – The Periodic Review has meant that some major projects, including the Review of Routes to Registration and a review of how ARB regulates architects have had to be postponed until the outcome of the government review is known. We are looking forward to progressing with these matters when possible. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have advised us that the Periodic Review report has gone to the Minister and that a final report is expected by Easter 2016.

Board governance focus – At the February Board meeting, we discussed and agreed amendments to key policies covering Board

governance matters, including the [Board's Open and Confidential Session Policy](#), which underpins our commitment to operating in a transparent manner. We take our governance responsibilities seriously and work to ensure that our policies and procedures are designed to enable us to discharge our oversight functions effectively. Consequently, small amendments to the terms of reference of the [Audit Committee](#) and the [Prescription Committee](#) were agreed to reinforce both Committees' ability to hold the organisation to account. We also reviewed the organisation's [Risk Management Strategy](#) which sets out our policy in relation to the anticipation of, and mitigation of risk. As a Board, we are committed to reflecting on and learning from our own performance and so we reviewed and noted the report on our own annual [Board Effectiveness Review](#).



Code of Conduct – Following the 2015 consultation on whether changes were required to the Code of Conduct, a full review of the Code has been conducted. It was felt that the Code was largely fit for purpose but that it would benefit from minor changes to wording to reduce the risk of any potential misunderstandings, as well as other small revisions to reflect recent changes to laws and regulations. As a consequence of this, a number of amendments to the Code have been proposed. [Please click here to respond to the consultation on these changes.](#)

A period of transition – At the February Board meeting, we bade farewell to four Board Members – John Assael, Ruth Brennan, Andrew Mortimer and Myra Kinghorn – whose terms had come to an end. I would like to thank them for their hard work and contributions during their time on the Board, their commitment has led to notable improvements in the way we operate as an organisation.

Spring 2016 marks a period of transition for the Board, with government appointing three new lay members at the beginning of April (although one of these won't start until August 2016). Additionally, in early March the outcome of the election of architect Board members will be announced. We will of course keep you informed about these important matters over the coming months. Please connect with us on social media or [sign up to our communications](#) to keep up to date with our latest news.

Please spend a few moments reading through this eBulletin and, if you have any questions about these or any other matters, please contact the staff team by email at info@arb.org.uk or by phone on +44 (0) 20 7580 5861.



View the latest Equality and Diversity Data

In our most recent annual statistical report to the Board, we published a summary of the equality and diversity information we currently hold for the Register.

A long term project – The collection of this data is a long term project. We need this information to ensure that there are no unintentional barriers in the services we provide to our stakeholders. We started to collect this data from registrants in 2012, with those who were joining or re-joining the Register being asked to make a submission. In 2015, we surveyed all registrants for whom we held no equality and diversity data (and for whom we have email addresses). The survey resulted in more than 5,000 responses and, consequently, we currently hold information on about 13,000 architects (35% of the Register).

Online services – We have just enhanced our online services offer so that registrants, who have not yet provided us with equality and diversity information, have the option of submitting it at the same time that they make other updates to their personal details.

Confidentiality and Reporting – Equality and diversity data is treated in the strictest confidence. The information is linked to registrants' records and is held on a private section of the Register, which is not even visible to ARB staff. When we publish equality and diversity data it will always be in aggregate form and never related to individual registrants.

Here is some of the information included in the equality and diversity section of the latest statistical report:

Of the 36,678 people on the Register as at the end of December 2015, 75% were male and 25% were female.

The percentage of female architects continues to grow slowly through new admissions to the Register. In 2015, 42% of new admissions were female and 58% were male.

We hold age information for all architects on the Register. Those under 35 represent 20% of the Register; 39% of architects fall into the 36-50 age group; 29% of registrants are 51-65 and 12% of architects are over 66.

To view the full statistical report, please [click here](#).

If you have not yet provided us with your equality and diversity data please consider [clicking here](#) to submit this information.



Dear Architect – Your Code – Your Say

In this eBulletin we cover our current consultation on proposed changes to the Code of Conduct.

Following a consultation in 2015, the Board decided that a detailed review of the Code was required. The review included a detailed assessment of the consultation responses and careful consideration of the content, language and style of the Code.

The review concluded that the 2010 Code was

largely fit for purpose but recommended changes to clarify the language used in the Code, so as to leave less scope for misunderstandings. The review also advised that small amendments to the Code were required to reflect changes in laws and regulations (including the Consumer Contract Regulations and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive).

The Board is undertaking a consultation on the proposed changes. You can take part in the consultation [here](#). The closing date for the consultation is 30 March 2016.



Prescription of Qualifications

At the last Board meeting on 11 February 2016, the Board considered applications from Higher Education institutions which wished their qualifications to be prescribed under the Architects Act 1997 for the first time. In line with its Procedures for the Prescription of Qualifications, the Board considered the responses to the consultations it had undertaken.

It decided that the following qualification should be prescribed from February 2016 until September 2017:

University of Sheffield

MArch Architecture: Collaborative Practice

It decided that the following qualifications should be prescribed from February 2016 until January 2020:

Northumbria University

BA (Hons) Interior Architecture with Postgraduate Certificate in Interior Architecture – Part 1

The Open University/Hull School of Art and Design

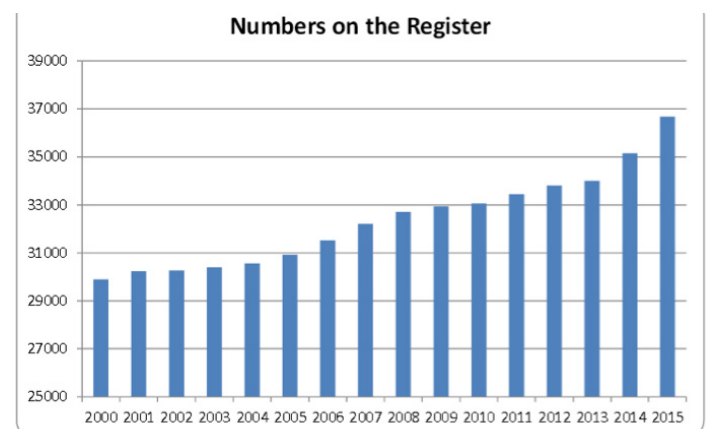
Master of Architecture M.Arch – Part 2

For further details, please see the 'Qualifications' section of ARB's website, www.arb.org.uk/information-prescription-of-qualifications



A growing Register

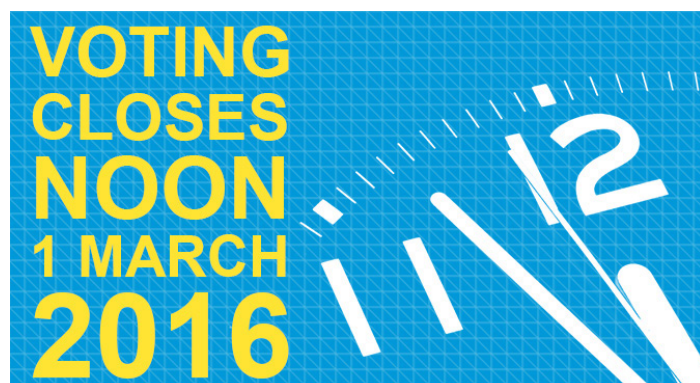
The most recent annual statistical report to the Board showed that there has been a marked increase in the size of the Register over recent years. By the end of December 2015, there were 36,678 architects on the Register, compared to 29,905 in 2000. The below chart shows how the number of registrants has grown steadily over time. You can read more about this and other data related to the Register in the recently published [annual statistical report](#).





Periodic Review Report goes to Minister

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has advised us that the report on the Periodic Review into the regulation of architects has been submitted to Brandon Lewis MP, who is Minister of State for Housing and Planning at DCLG. The Department have advised us that the Ministerial team is likely to publish a final report by Easter 2016. We will put out a press release as soon as we hear about the outcome of the government Review. To sign up to communications from ARB please update your communication preferences via the [Registrants' Services online portal](#).



Use your vote to have your say

Your vote in the election of architects is important, because only you can say who will be elected.

All architects who were on the Register at 11 January 2016 are entitled to vote in the election of architect Board members. All those who are

eligible to vote should have received their voting pack. The Electoral Reform Services (ERS), an independent provider, have been appointed by ARB to oversee the election. ERS sent out the ballot material at the beginning of February. If you are eligible to vote but have not received your ballot pack, please contact ERS directly. You can reach them by telephone at the following number +44 (0) 20 8365 8909.

The ballot information contains full details of what you need to do to cast a vote. For this election you can either vote online or by post. We hope that offering architects two options for casting their votes will encourage everyone to participate in this important process. Whichever method you choose, all votes must be received by close of voting which is at noon on 1 March 2016.

You can read more about the election of architect Board members on our dedicated [election microsite](#).



Misuse of title in website metadata results in £4000 fine and costs

On 1 February 2016, Mr Nichol Rosalie of ABE Professionals, Bolton, Lancashire was ordered to pay a total of £4,145.99 in fines and costs after he was convicted for misusing the title 'architect' in breach of the Architects Act 1997.

Mr Rosalie did not attend court and this was the second occasion he had been prosecuted for such an offence, having been fined £5000 in February 2012 while trading as UPS Architects. Bolton

Magistrates' Court heard that Mr Rosalie had failed to amend references to the title 'architect' in the website's metadata despite receiving warnings from ARB.

If you are interested to read more about ARB's misuse of title prosecutions please click [here](#).



DCLG seeking your views on Building Regulations Approved Documents

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), our sponsoring government department, has asked us to highlight an exercise it is undertaking to seek the views of architects on the usability of Building Regulations Approved Documents. The project is focused on Part B (Fire Safety) and Part M (Access to and use of buildings).

DCLG has commissioned RIBA Enterprises to undertake this study. An online survey has been set up to gather your views. This survey is for people who need to comply with the Regulations, or those who help others to comply. DCLG would like to know what you think about the **usability** of the Approved Documents. The Department will use your feedback to help develop the **style and format** of future Approved Documents.

The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. If you complete the survey you can enter into a prize draw to win £100 of John Lewis vouchers or a donation to charity of the same amount.

The deadline for responses is 29 February 2016. To complete the survey please click [here](#).



Retention fee roundup

As you may have read in the press, just over 1,400 registrants were removed from the Register for non-payment of the retention fee, payable annually by the deadline of 31 December.

84% of those removed had not provided us with an email address. This highlights the importance of making sure that you keep your email address up to date (as well as all of your other contact details). It also helps if you provide us with a second, personal email address, if you have one, so that you can be sure to receive these important communications, even if you're not in the office.

For the 2016 retention fee we also introduced a new text message reminder service. This was only used as a final reminder to those who had not paid. The feedback we received from architects about this service was positive, with over 300 payments received in the first hour after the message was sent out. If you have not already provided us with a mobile phone number, you can do so via the [Registrants' Services](#) area of the website. You can also add or update your email address via [this link](#).



Homebuilding and Renovating Show

Members of the public who are undertaking self-build or home improvement projects are one of our major target audiences. As a statutory regulator, we are committed to supporting consumers to make informed choices. Thus, property improvement exhibitions aimed at the consumer market provide us with an opportunity to meet directly with this important stakeholder group.

We will be exhibiting at the upcoming Homebuilding and Renovating Show, which will be taking place at the NEC in Birmingham from 14-17 April 2016. We will also be presenting a Masterclass at this event to inform consumers about the Register of architects and the role of the regulator.

The show's organisers are giving away free tickets to the NEC event, if you would like to register for these you can [click here](#) and register as a trade visitor.

**Check an architect
is registered**



**Visit our online
register.**