



Architects Registration Board
eBulletin : February 2017

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Chair's Message

Welcome to the February ebulletin.

This is my last message as Chair of the ARB. My eight year tenure as a Board Member will conclude on 31 March 2017 and I am handing over at this point to facilitate a smooth transition to a new chair. Richard Parnaby, who is currently the Vice Chair of the Board, will take on this role on an interim basis whilst the Board undertakes its election process.

At the February meeting we discussed the 2017 retention fee payment process and those removed for non-payment. We heard that 1,204 architects were removed this year which represents a significant reduction on previous years; this was in part due to changes implemented as a result of feedback received from the profession. Reinstatements were processed quickly and efficiently and the staff team is already reviewing comments from registrants about the retention fee collection and reinstatement processes with a view to making further improvements this year.

We spent time looking back at ARB's work over the course of 2016, reviewing and discussing the [Report on the delivery of the 2016 Business Plan](#) and the [Report on Statistics, Trends and Performance Indicators for 2016](#). The latter contains a raft of interesting data about the Register and our regulatory work in 2016 covering registration, prescription and professional conduct matters. There is also a summary of the equality and diversity data we currently hold which includes submissions from 47% of registrants, up from the 35% we held this time last year.

I want to conclude by saying that I have very much enjoyed my time serving as an ARB Board Member and particularly my time as Chair of the Board, regulating the profession in the public interest and supporting architects through regulation. I am confident that I am leaving behind a strong team, who are well placed to lead the organisation as ARB awaits the outcome of the Government's periodic review. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Board, the staff team and all those who help the Board deliver on the organisation's statutory remit for their commitment and support over the last eight years.

Sincere best wishes to you all for the future.



The Architects Code: Standards of Professional Conduct and Practice



Aidan Cullen and Helen Stanley, Welfare Officers at the Architects Benevolent Society.

The revised new Code of Conduct is now in force

The revised Code of Conduct came into force on 1 January 2017. All architects will have received a card setting out 12 key standards of the new Code along with their retention fee notice. The full version of the new Code can be viewed [here](#).

We have consulted widely and updated the 2010 Code to ensure that it remains a realistic and relevant set of standards for architects to meet. The Code continues to be a principles based document rather than a prescriptive set of rules. It sets out the broad standards expected in terms of conduct and practice. We are mindful of the areas where architects can run into trouble and so have endeavoured to ensure that the Code addresses these matters. In particular, the updated standard 4.4 of the Code sets out everything that architects need to include in their written terms of engagement. The other significant change is the introduction of a restriction from architects being able to enter into a settlement which prevents a client from complaining to the ARB.

If you have any questions about any aspects of the Code please contact us at professionalstandards@arb.org.uk

Working with the Architects Benevolent Society (ABS)

The ABS is a charity which works to help architects, assistants, technologists, technicians, landscape architects and their families, in times of need. Their support can include providing financial assistance to help members of the architectural profession with limited means to get by in difficult circumstances. They offer confidential support and advice in areas such as health, disability and benefits, and can help towards a range of costs including essential household items and repairs, respite holidays for carers, and even bills in times of particular hardship.

When architects have spoken to us and cited financial hardship we have been able to signpost them to the Society. This proved effective during the retention fee collection period with a number of registrants requesting the contact details of the Society. We will continue to maintain contact with the charity and explore further opportunities for joint working, where our respective remits allow.

To read more about the ABS please visit their website at the following link <http://www.absnet.org.uk/>



Dear Architect

Managing your client's expectations

One of the more common complaints ARB receives about architects is that they have failed to produce a scheme that meets their client's expectations; sometimes in respect of taking into account design requirements, but more often in respect of the budget available.

In our experience such alleged failings are more often than not as a result of a breakdown in communication. This can be the client failing to make their architect aware of what it is exactly that is required, but also what their budget is. It can also however be that the architect has not managed their client's expectations in terms of what can be produced for the budget, what will be permissible under planning or building regulations, or that predicting the costs of schemes at an early stage is not an exact science.

To avoid such problems clear communication is key. Before embarking on any work you will want to establish what the client wants; how much money they have to spend on it; and when they expect it to be delivered. Then confirm that understanding in writing, along with the usual explanations as to all of the elements of the project that may as yet be unknown. Also of course remember to record any changes to the scope of the project in writing as and when they occur.



Reinstatement update

Over 500 of the architects removed for non-payment have now been reinstated to the Register, with over 95 per cent being added back on within five working days. Last month we reported that 1,204 architects were removed from the Register for non-payment of the annual retention fee. The number removed from the Register at the year's start has reduced significantly year on year since 2013, and we want to do more to reduce it still further. We are looking at the feedback we have received this year and we are working to improve our communication and administration for 2018's fee.



2016 in Numbers

At the February 2017 Board meeting the Board noted our annual report on Statistics, Trends and Performance Indicators 2016. This report provides a summary of our work over the previous twelve months. We've included a few of the points related to the Register and the equality and diversity data we've collected below. To read the full report, which contains information about ARB's work on prescription, professional standards and

protection of title as well as information about ARB's corporate functions click [here](#).

- At the end of 2016 there were 38,258 architects on the Register, compared with 36,678 at the end of 2015. This 4% increase was similar to the previous year's growth.
- During 2016, there were 2,507 new admissions to the Register, an increase of 10% from 2015.
- 97% of all applications for registration were received online, compared to 91% in 2015.
- There have been a higher percentage of applicants applying via the EU route. 51% were made through the UK routes to registration, including those who qualified over 2 years ago. The remaining 49% applications were made through all EU routes (including those applying through the equivalence route).
- 121 examinations were conducted in 2016. 86 examinations were undertaken at Part 1, and 35 examinations at Part 2.
- ARB holds gender information about the entire Register. 74% of architects are male and 26% are female. The percentage of female architects continues to grow slowly through new admissions to the Register; six years ago the percentage split was 81%/19%.
- ARB holds age information for all architects on the Register; 24% are under 35, 38% are 36-50, 27% are 51-65 and 11% are 66 and over.
- ARB now holds E&D information on 47% of registrants, in excess of the 42% target set at the start of the year. This includes data about registrants' ethnic background, sexual orientation, disability and religion. For this and more information [click here](#) to view the full report.



Prescription of Qualifications

At the last Board meeting on 16 February 2017, the Board considered applications from institutions seeking to renew prescription of their qualifications under the Architects Act 1997.

The Board decided that prescription of the following qualifications should continue until September 2022:

University of Manchester/Manchester Metropolitan University
Manchester School of Architecture
BA (Hons) Architecture
Master of Architecture

That prescription of the following qualifications should continue until June 2021:

Northumbria University
BA (Hons) Architecture
Master of Architecture

And that prescription of the following qualification should continue until September 2020:

University of Central Lancashire
BSc (Hons) Architecture

For further details, please see the 'Qualifications' section of [ARB's website](#).



60 seconds is all it takes to check the Register

In March 2017, we'll be exhibiting at the upcoming Homebuilding and Renovating Show which will take place at the NEC in Birmingham. Attending these shows provides us with an excellent opportunity to meet face to face with consumers to inform them about our work.

Members of the public, considering building projects, often tell us that they have been recommended an architect by a builder, a friend or an estate agent. We demonstrate how they can use the Register to check that an architect is genuine, and hand out copies of our popular ['Meeting your Architect' form](#) which is a tool we have designed to guide consumers through an initial meeting with an architect.

This year our key message for consumers is that it only takes 60 seconds to check the Register to see if someone who has been recommended as an architect, really is an architect.

The Homebuilding and Renovating Show will take place from 23-26 March 2017; you can apply for free tickets at the following link www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/arb