



Architects Registration Board
eBulletin : July 2018

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Chair's Message

I am delighted to begin this month's message by noting the re-election of myself as Chair of the Board and my fellow Board member, Richard Parnaby, as Vice Chair. I'm hopeful our re-election will provide stability and consistency at a time when there are a number of demands on the organisation. We both welcome the opportunity to use our experience and knowledge to support the work of the organisation.

I can also announce that following a property review that considered service stability, strategic benefits and cost efficiency, the Board has decided that ARB should remain at their London offices until 2024. Location options both in and outside of London were carefully explored and the process led to additional savings and the security of a fixed-rate rent until 2024. Remaining at Weymouth Street provides a stable base from which we can continue to deliver our regulatory duties at a time when significant projects are in progress and Brexit is on the horizon.

As an organisation we are committed to continuous improvement and at [July's Board meeting](#), the Board was asked to discuss a [proposal](#) to revise the way we report to the Board. Currently, ARB works to a *Statement of Priorities* for 2017-2020 featuring 16 priority areas and an annual *Business Plan* featuring both core work and developmental operational

objectives to be achieved in that year.

The proposed new approach would introduce a three year *Strategic Objectives* plan focussed on a few strategic objectives. The achievement of these objectives would be supported by an annual *Business Plan* that reports on project work and a bi-annual *Reporting to the Board* paper that will cover core work.

The new approach will reduce duplicate reporting, enable the *Business Plan* to become a more focussed document and allow the Board to set strategic goals over a longer period of time. The Board were satisfied with the proposal and the new *Strategic Objectives* plan and *Business Plan* will be considered by the Board our next meeting on 11 September



2018.

An [update](#) on the mid-year performance against the 2017/2018 Business Plan was also presented to the Board. The Plan notes our commitment to support the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in implementing a fully appointed Board, by assisting with activities such as recruitment. We will keep you informed of updates relating to recruitment throughout the process. Visit our [Talk To Us](#) website page for a range of ways to stay connected with ARB.

July's Board meeting also included a mid-year statistical report to provide the Board with information on ARB's operational performance from January to June 2018. I'm pleased to note [the report](#) showed positive results in relation to raising awareness of the Architects Register, with visits to the Register up by nearly 20% compared to the same time frame in 2017. The Architects Register now exceeds 40,000 registrants though the report outlined a drop in both UK and EU applications to the Register in the first 6 months of the year, a trend we will continue to monitor and scrutinise.

The report also revealed that more professional conduct complaints were received than last year and more complaints were referred for further investigation. For context, 90 conduct and competence complaints were received January-June 2018 and there were nine Professional Conduct Committee hearings (equivalent to approximately 0.02% of the Register). As well as protecting users of architects' services our aim is to support architects through regulation, where we identify common areas of concern we endeavour to provide advice and guidance to help others avoid these common pitfalls. As well as offering individual advice, this support includes a dedicated [Dear Architect](#) article in every Ebulletin and [Guidance Notes](#) on our

website.

Annex A to the report showed that we have work to do in relation to some of our Key Performance Indicators. We intend to use the findings from the ongoing [Section 14 Review](#), covered in our last Ebulletin, to enhance the fairness and efficiency of the current procedures for how ARB investigates allegations made about registered architects. Information on the upcoming public consultation will be included in future communications.

I hope you enjoy reading July's Ebulletin. If you have any feedback on our Ebulletin and its contents, you can contact us via our [Talk To Us](#) page or by phone on +44 (0)20 7580 5861.

Nabila Zulfiqar

Chair
Architects Registration Board



Dear Architect

Bankruptcy and Liquidation

A core ARB objective is to support architects through regulation and we have staff on hand to offer advice and guidance on a range of topics. One of the more common queries we receive from architects is what to do if you find yourself in financial difficulty – whether that be personal or professional.

We appreciate financial instability can be extremely stressful but the good news is that advice and support is available from a number of sources. It's best to take action as early as you can to give you time to explore the range of options available to you.

If you are experiencing personal financial difficulties, a great source of useful information on *Debt and Money* is provided by [Citizens Advice](#). Information from Citizens Advice can vary depending on where you live so be sure to select advice tailored to your area of the UK.

If you are facing professional financial difficulties you can reach out to an architectural professional body, the [Architects Benevolent Society](#) or the [Insolvency Service](#). The Architects Benevolent Society provides support to people in times of crisis to help them to get back on their feet. Their support is free and eligibility doesn't depend on being a member of any professional body but is instead based on your work experience in the UK. The Insolvency Service supports those in financial distress and, through their enquiry line, provides information on insolvency and sources of further advice such as options for [dealing with debt](#).

We would recommend seeking professional advice

from an accountant before deciding on the most appropriate route forward. It will be useful to take advice from your insurance broker/provider or an insolvency practitioner to ensure your continued cover, as the availability of ongoing or run-off professional indemnity insurance can vary according to the particular situation.

You can rest assured that neither bankruptcy nor being a director of an insolvent company will automatically lead to disciplinary action or the removal of your name from the Register. Just remember you'll need to report the circumstances to ARB within 28 days if you find yourself in either of these circumstances or have made arrangements with creditors. Further regulatory action would only be considered should it appear there has been wilful disregard of responsibilities or actions without integrity. To avoid complications with your current and former clients, we also recommended acting with their interests in mind by informing them of your bankruptcy or liquidation, and how it might affect them.

We hope this information is useful but feel free to contact us by email or by phone for further advice and we'll be happy to help (professionalstandards@arb.org.uk / 020 7580 5861).



Degree Apprenticeships

Degree apprenticeships are an initiative, backed by government, the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) and industry, to enable individuals to achieve an undergraduate or postgraduate level qualification while working. Apprenticeships enable individuals to gain entry to a recognised occupation and receive on and off-the-job training, while earning a wage.

Collaborative working is essential to such initiatives

as employers, higher education institutions (HEIs), regulators and professional bodies work together to develop a common apprenticeship standard and an end point assessment.

For the architects' profession, an *Architecture Trailblazer Group* made up of 20 practices began work in late 2016 to develop two sets of standards, and were supported in this goal by ARB, RIBA and a number of UK universities.

On 27 June 2018, the Institute for Apprenticeships approved the standards and end point assessment documents for the [architectural assistant](#) apprenticeship, which encompasses a Part 1 qualification, and the [architect](#) apprenticeship, which encompasses a Part 2 qualification and a Part 3 qualification.

We welcomed the opportunity to work with a range of organisations to achieve this goal and are fully supportive of this new exciting route into the profession. For our part, we advised the Trailblazer Group throughout the development of the documents to ensure that all the relevant requirements for registration and the prescription of qualifications would be covered by the qualifications that sit within the apprenticeships framework.

We have also been in regular contact with institutions interested in offering one or both apprenticeships and expect a number of applications for prescription or changes to existing prescribed qualifications over the coming months. To help support those involved, we developed a set of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) to assist institutions considering the development of provision. We are also developing guidance for potential apprentices which will launch on our website in the near future.

If you would like more information in the meantime please contact the Qualifications Team who will be happy to assist (qualifications@arb.org.uk / 020 7580 5861).



2017 Annual Report

Our [2017 Annual Report](#) was published on 29 June 2018 and is a great way to find out more about our activities last year. Amongst the information featured, you can find a [Joint Message](#) from our Chair and our Registrar and Chief Executive, discover more about the different functions of [our role](#) and review our [performance report](#).

If you only have a few minutes to spare, fear not, we have selected some [facts and figures](#) to give you an 'at a glance' overview of our work supporting architects through regulation and protecting users of architects' services. If online viewing is not for you, there's also a handy [pdf version](#) of the Report available to download and peruse at your leisure.

In 2017 the Professional Standards team conducted 431 investigations and two prosecutions in relation to misuse of the title. We understand the strength of feeling around this issue and the significant harm it can cause and, where appropriate, we aim to resolve the issue swiftly rather than prosecute every case. All 2017 cases that did not result in a prosecution were closed because the title misuse had been resolved without the need for further action. We are committed to ensuring the action we take is proportionate, effective and cost efficient. We only pursue prosecution if it is in the public interest to do so and if there is a reasonable prospect of success. More information about our Misuse of Title Policy can be found [here](#).

We also recognise that the UK's withdrawal from the EU and its impact on the profession may be on many of your minds. The 2017 Annual Report highlights that there were fewer architects with EU qualifications joining the Register in 2017. The UK's

withdrawal could be a possible factor in the reduced number of admissions, however we do not collect data on people's reasons for applying so have no direct evidence confirming this is the cause. While the number of new admissions via the EU route in 2017 is lower than in 2016 and 2015 it's worth noting that it's higher than 2012, 2013 and 2014. The increase in new admissions during 2016 was likely due to a combination of factors including the strength of the UK economy and the availability of work at the time as well as the increased awareness of the possibility of mobility amongst EU citizens and applicants applying ahead of the EU referendum vote. We've created a set of FAQs for those who may have questions about Brexit's impact on the Registration of architects and the recognition of UK prescribed qualifications in other Member States. They are updated as we learn more and can be found on our website [here](#).

Thank you to all those who helped us deliver our statutory functions in 2017, and who continue to do so in 2018.



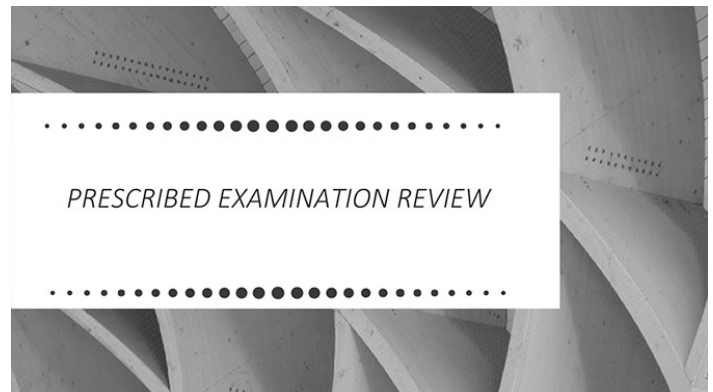
Building a Safer Future

A Steering Group on Competences for Building a Safer Future, formulated earlier this year and made up of organisations from across the construction and fire sectors, has come together to take forward the recommendations and proposals in Chapter 5 and Appendix E of Dame Judith Hackitt's [Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety](#).

The Steering Group has taken the opportunity to invite collaboration between all those involved in the life cycle of a building and 11 working groups have been established to help achieve the Group's aims. ARB has accepted the invitation to lead one of these working groups looking at the enhanced

competences of architects and other building designers.

We welcome the opportunity to work with partners on this matter and will issue regular updates on progression. The Steering Group is a sub-group of the Government-led Industry Response Group which will make quarterly reports on progress to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



Prescribed Examination Review Update

In May we [announced](#) our planned Prescribed Examination Review and in this edition we are pleased to provide an update on our progress so far.

As a brief recap, the Prescribed Examination is a way for individuals who do not hold qualifications directly recognised by ARB to progress towards registering as an architect in the UK. We are committed to seeking continuous improvement to ensure our regulatory activities are as efficient and effective as possible. This review will aim to explore whether our current procedures are fit for purpose, efficient and as streamlined as possible while remaining robust.

In June we launched our pre-consultation exercise which included holding a round-table event in Nottingham as well as inviting feedback from you via our online survey. We are in the process of analysing the responses we have received so far however there is still time to be involved and have your say!

Our pre-consultation survey is still available via our website, your feedback will play an important

part in refining the Prescribed Examination and we would welcome your contribution. Let us know your thoughts by answering a few questions on our current process.

We are also running another pre-consultation round-table in London on 8 August 2018 from 5.15pm. This is a great opportunity to have a face-to-face discussion on what works well or could be improved, with us as well as others interested in the issue. Please email us on info@arb.org.uk if you would like to find out more about attending this event.

We are looking for a wide and diverse range of opinions to support our Board in making informed decisions about our Examination Procedures so get involved if you can! You can find out more about the review, the survey and our upcoming round-table event on our dedicated webpage [here](#).



Prescription of Qualifications

Prescription of new qualifications

At the last Board meeting on 19 July 2018, the Board considered an application from an institution seeking prescription of its qualification under the Architects Act 1997 for the first time. In line with its Procedures for the Prescription of Qualifications, the Board considered any responses to the consultation it had undertaken.

The Board decided that the following qualification should be prescribed from August 2018 until September 2022:

University of Nottingham
MArch Architecture with Collaborative Practice

Research (ARB/RIBA Part 2)

Prescription renewals

The Board also considered an application from an institution seeking to renew prescription of its qualifications under the Architects Act 1997.

The Board decided that prescription of the following qualifications should continue until September 2021:

Glasgow School of Art
Bachelor of Architecture
Bachelor of Architecture with Honours
Diploma in Architecture

For further details of ARB prescribed architecture qualifications, please visit the [Schools and Institutions of Architecture](#) section of our website.