



Architects Registration Board
eBulletin : May 2015

[Latest News](#)

[Update your details](#)

[ARB site](#)

[ARB Register](#)



Chair's Message

Dear Architect,

Thank you for taking the time to read the May ebulletin.

Board Leadership and Committee Roles

- I am delighted to have been re-elected as Chair of ARB, and I look forward to continuing in this role with Richard Parnaby supporting me as Vice Chair. I very much appreciate the support that continues to be shown to both myself and Richard by the Board Members and the wider staff team. Additionally, the [membership of the Board Committees](#) was

discussed at the May 2015 Board Meeting. It was decided that this will remain unchanged for the year ahead. These solid foundations will enable us to continue to deliver on our statutory remit as we await the outcome of the Periodic Review later this year.

2016 election of architect Board Members

- At the May Board meeting, we also heard about the preparations for the 2016 election of architect Board Members. We have just launched a [consultation on administrative changes to ARB's election scheme](#) to bring the scheme into line with the 2014 amendments to the Act, which increased Board Member tenure from three to four years per term.

Financial reporting – The Board discussed key financial reports including the [2014 Financial Outturn](#) and the [2015 Management Accounts](#). The Board noted an underspend due to changes in staffing and the awaited outcome of the Periodic Review and this information will be taken into consideration when setting the 2016 budget and associated fees.

Professional Standards – The Board also discussed the [Annual Report by the Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee \(PCC\)](#), an independent Committee of the Board. We heard from Julian Weinberg, the Committee's Chair who reported that PCC cases highlighted the importance of architects putting in place

adequate written terms of engagement. The Board agreed to work on communications to highlight some of the points raised in the Report.

Equality and diversity survey – Finally, as many of you already know, we are conducting an important exercise to collect equality and diversity data from registrants and I would urge you to take a few moments to complete the survey. You can read more about our work on this [here](#).

Please take a few moments to read this ebulletin. We have a lot to update you on and are keen to gain your views on a number of key subjects.

Sincere best wishes,

Beatrice



Consultation on the Architects Code – please let us have your views

We are currently carrying out a consultation on whether the current Architects Code: Standards of Conduct and Practice (as published in January 2010) would benefit from a full review or whether it remains fit for purpose.

Given the importance of the Code for architects in practice we are seeking as many views as possible and your input would be appreciated.

The consultation is now live with a closing date of 11 August 2015 and you can view the consultation documents and submit your comments via our website [here](#).



Dear Architect

In 2015 ARB introduced a system where Professional Conduct Committee cases could be dealt with by consent, without the need for a costly public hearing. This would only be in

those cases where the architect admitted all the allegations against him or her, and agreed that the sanction proposed by ARB was fair.

This is a procedure which has been adopted by a number of professional regulators, in an attempt to deal with disciplinary cases as quickly and efficiently as possible where it is in the public interest to do so.

In March 2015 the PCC signed off its first Consent Order, details of which can be found on the ARB website [here](#).



ARB speaking at London Build 2015

We will be speaking at London Build 2015 on 18th June at the O2 arena in London. This is part of our drive to deliver on the Board's commitment to inform client organisations about the regulation of architects. This event is free to attend, to find out more [click here](#).

ARB's attendance at the Home Building and Renovating Show was a great success; we had over 1000 visitors to our stand and handed out over 500 'Meeting your architect forms'. This brings the total number of these forms distributed, since we launched them in October 2014, to nearly 2000. The exhibition organisers also gave us a free speaking opportunity to present a master class to visitors to the show. This was well attended and resulted in questions from the public and subsequent visits to the stand.



Prescription of Qualifications

At the last Board meeting on 14 May 2015, the Board considered applications from Higher Education 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 2020:

University of Brighton

Postgraduate Diploma in Management, Practice and Law in Architecture – Part 3

Architectural Association

AA Intermediate Examination (ARB/RIBA Part 1) – Part 1

AA Final Examination (ARB/RIBA Part 2) – Part 2

AA Professional Practice and Practical Experience Examination (ARB/RIBA Part 3) – Part 3

Royal College of Art

Master of Arts Royal College of Art in Architecture – Part 2

University of the West of England

BA (Hons) Architecture and Planning – Part 1
BEng (Hons) Architecture and Environmental Engineering – Part 1

Master of Architecture – Part 2
Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice and Management in Architecture – Part 3

University for the Creative Arts

BA (Hons) Architecture – Part 1
Master of Architecture – Part 2

The Board additionally decided that prescription of the following qualifications should continue until October 2020:

University of Kent

BA (Hons) Architecture – Part 1
Master of Architecture – Part 2

The Board also 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 May 2015 until April 2019:

University of Central Lancashire

Master of Architecture – Part 2

It also decided that the following qualification should be prescribed from June 2015 until May 2019:

University of the Arts London/Central St Martins

March Architecture – Part 2

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



Misuse of title in website names and email addresses will not be tolerated

In line with our policy to act in the public interest, we work to investigate and resolve any on-going misuse of title in business or practice related to architecture as quickly as possible. In reaching a decision as to whether to prosecute, two principles are applied: the public interest test (including for example the risk of the defendant reoffending and evidence of client harm) and the evidential test – whether there is a sufficient prospect of proving the case. The prospect of success will usually be determined by the quality of the evidence available. Two recent cases involving misuse of title in website domain names and email addresses resulted in successful prosecutions by ARB.

Company ordered to pay over £3,000 in fines and costs for misusing the title

On 15 April 2015, Nigel Lassetter and his company Cadz Limited, based in Birmingham were ordered to pay a total of £3,476 in fines and costs after pleading guilty to misusing the title architect. The business had not employed an architect for a number of months and had failed to amend its website to take account of the fact. In addition, several domain names that

included the title architect had been created as a further advertising vehicle for Cadz Ltd. Mr Lassetter had also used the affixes ARB and RIBA after his name, despite never being registered with ARB or a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Practice fined for a second time for misuse of title

On 29 April 2015, a different case of misuse of title was heard when Mr Youno Kim trading as Extension Architects pleaded guilty for continuing to use the title in his website and email address, despite there being no architects at the practice. This was the second time Mr Kim appeared in Court for this offence having failed to take remedial action after already being prosecuted. Mr Kim was fined £1,000 by the Court and ordered to pay a further £1,248 in costs to the ARB.



Profession urged to provide equality and diversity data

We have recently launched a survey to collect equality and diversity data from registrants who have not yet provided this information. The survey questions cover ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion and disability.

The Public Sector Equality Duty, established by the Equality Act 2010, requires public

bodies to put equality at the heart of what they do, in terms of shaping policy, delivering services and in employing staff.

Whilst it is not compulsory to provide the information, we are urging architects to complete this short survey as it will help us to ensure that we operate in a way that is accessible to everyone and fair to all. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) have issued [a statement](#) in support of this important exercise.

A set of Q&As about this vital survey can be found [here](#).

This survey was sent out to registrants via email, if you did not receive a copy of the survey please email equality@arb.org.uk or call 020 7580 5861.



Periodic Review Update

The Periodic Review into the regulation of architects continues.

The Review team are currently undertaking workshops in the devolved administrations.

It is expected that the final submission will go to the Minister by the end of June 2015.

In November 2014, phase one of the Review concluded that there remains a need for continued statutory regulation.

Phase two involves the government conducting a detailed analysis of two key regulatory functions. These are setting the standards of entry to the profession (what is often referred to as the prescription process) and the remit of the professional standards function (which deals with setting the Code of Conduct and the complaints process).

Two key Board reviews planned for 2015, the Review of Routes to Registration and the Review into Investigating Allegations under Section 14 of the Act, have been postponed until the outcome of the Periodic Review is known.

**Check an architect
is registered**



**Visit our online
register.**