



Architects Registration Board  
eBulletin : May 2017

[Latest News](#)

[Update your details](#)

[ARB site](#)

[Architects Register](#)

## Chair's Message

Welcome to the May eBulletin.

This is my first message as Chair of the ARB although I have served as a Board Member since April 2013.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome three new Board Members – Caroline Corby, James Grierson and Alice Hynes, who have recently been appointed by the Privy Council. They are each highly respected in their fields and will bring new perspectives and insights to our strong and committed Board team. I also want to thank those leaving the Board at the conclusion of their tenures, Peter Coe, Neil Watts and Alan Jago, for their many years of service.

At our May meeting we received an update regarding the [Periodic Review](#) which set out the priorities and proposed timescales for taking forward the report's recommendations. We have included an ebulletin article on this subject, please click [here](#) to read more.

The Board decided to progress with a review of the [Criteria](#) and [Procedures](#) for the prescription of qualifications. Our sponsoring government department, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have requested that they are consulted prior to the commencement of any review in order to confirm that it complies with current legislation and does not impact on any negotiations which might relate to the EU referendum.

We also dealt with a number of governance matters including agreeing the following:

- The [Board Members Code of Practice](#);
- The [Board Committee Membership for 2017/2018](#);
- The Terms of Reference for both the [Audit Committee](#) and the [Prescription Committee](#).

We received details of the outcomes of the [Board Effectiveness Survey](#) and noted the [Management Accounts](#) and the 2016 [Financial Outturn](#).

There were two further key papers that engaged the Board in a constructive debate and discussion. A detailed review of the research and literature available on the [mental health and wellbeing of architecture students was considered](#). We agreed to update the student handbook to



provide signposting information regarding health and other matters. The second paper related to [how ARB can now provide accurate data about the Register of Architects](#) to online directories. We are aware of the significant amount of incorrect entries under the 'Architects' sections of these websites, and we will be offering to provide current information to those directories in an attempt to improve accuracy. This will benefit both the public and the profession by ensuring that potential users of architect services have accurate information before making a choice as to who they engage.

Thank you for taking the time to read this eBulletin which contains a number of articles providing you with updates on ARB's regulatory workings. Our Board Meetings are held in public and we welcome your attendance, please click [here](#) for further information on attending.

Sincere best wishes to you all.

Nabila Zulfiqar



## Periodic review

On 30 March 2017 the government published its final periodic review report regarding the regulation of architects and the Architects Registration Board. This forms part of a wider programme of government reviews which have focused on ensuring public bodies are fit for purpose, well governed and properly accountable.

The review was conducted by the ARB's sponsoring government department, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), according to Cabinet Office guidelines. On 30 March 2017, Gavin Barwell MP, the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Minister for London at DCLG announced the publication of the report. The review consisted of a two phase process. Phase one concluded that there remained a case for continued statutory regulation of architects and phase two recommended that ARB's regulatory functions should remain but recommended changes to governance arrangements and the professional conduct process. The Government made further recommendations regarding reviewing routes to registration and other matters related to the area of prescription but these were placed on hold until there is clarity regarding the UK's exit from the EU. Some of the changes are within the Board's domain whereas others will require legislative amendment and so are for the Government to take forward.

The final report is available on the gov.uk website and can be viewed [here](#).

On 7 April 2017 the Board met to discuss the

Report and received a presentation from DCLG officials setting out the key findings and proposed changes to modernise the governance structures of the Board and reform the complaints handling procedures. The implementation phase of the review was also an agenda item at the Board meeting on 12 May 2017. The discussion focussed on the timetable and next steps required for the move to an all appointed Board which is anticipated to take place next spring.



## Increase in architects informing public about the Register

The number of Architects using the ARB logo is on the rise.

We have noticed an increase in the number of architects using the ARB logo, or referring to their ARB registration in their communication materials. This is supported by the data which shows that the logo webpage had been visited 771 times between January and April 2017, up 21% from 636 for the same period last year.

We fully support this approach and are keen to encourage more architects to refer to this information to raise awareness of their registered status. It encourages the public to check the Register and helps potential clients make informed decisions.

Here are three simple steps you can take to inform the public that you are a regulated professional:

1. Download and use the logo for your

- communication materials;
2. Refer to the fact that you are on the Register of Architects and are regulated by the ARB;
  3. Link to your unique page on the Register;

Linking to your unique page on the Register could not be easier. From the date that you are admitted to the Register you are assigned an individual page that is uniquely identified by your registration number. We encourage architects to share this with clients and potential clients as it gives them confidence that you are a true professional, who is both registered and abides by a Code of Conduct. Your unique page link can be created by using the below format:

[www.architects-register.org.uk/architect/INSERT YOUR REGISTRATION NUMBER HERE](http://www.architects-register.org.uk/architect/INSERT_YOUR_REGISTRATION_NUMBER_HERE)

We are also working on a project to ask universities and schools of architecture offering courses prescribed by ARB to inform students that their courses are recognised by the regulator on their websites and in their brochures etc.

We are working to inform the public and students that architect is a protected title under UK law and when architects and universities use this information it helps get this important message out. You can download the logo [here](#).



## Dear Architect

### Managing Expectations

Many complaints ARB receives about architects turn out not to be professional failings, but genuine misunderstandings by lay clients about what an

architect should be expected to do. While this lack of knowledge about the building industry may not be the architect's fault, it nevertheless results in an unhappy customer and an architect having to deal with a complaint.

We commonly receive complaints about architects failing to acquire planning permission after they had agreed to, contractors not being supervised, or builders being unable to construct complex buildings from planning drawings. While all of these complaints demonstrate a lack of knowledge about the building industry, they are also evidence of clients not having matters explained to them.

While there is no obligation on an architect to provide such explanations (and a failure to do so is unlikely to amount to misconduct), architects who engage with inexperienced clients are creating potential problems if they don't manage the expectations of their customers. It is always good to remember that things that seem obvious to those who have spent an entire career in the construction industry are inevitably less clear to a domestic client, who may be embarking on a building project for the first and only time. Often it is as important to explain the limitation of your services as it is to detail what you are going to do. It will be even better if this is put into writing as part of your letter of engagement, for then there can be no future argument about what was said and when.



## New ARB website goes live

We've undertaken a project to refresh the website, moving it to a mobile compatible platform whilst at the same time changing the layout and labelling to make it easier to navigate. This follows feedback

received from both external stakeholders and the staff team. The new website was launched on the 12 April 2017 and is now live at [www.arb.org.uk](http://www.arb.org.uk). Careful monitoring will be undertaken following its initial launch to identify changes to patterns of visits and iron out any initial issues.

If you have any feedback please do let us know, you can email us with your comments at [info@arb.org.uk](mailto:info@arb.org.uk)



## Prescription of Qualifications

At the last Board meeting on 12 May 2017, the Board considered applications from institutions seeking prescription of their qualifications 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.

The Board decided that the following qualification should be prescribed from May 2017 until September 2018:

### **University of Sheffield**

MArch Architecture and Landscape Architecture

That the following qualifications should be prescribed from May 2017 until October 2020:

### **London School of Architecture**

Professional Diploma in Designing Architecture

### **University of Kent**

BA (Hons) Architecture with a Year Abroad

BA (Hons) Architecture with a Year in Computing

That the following qualification should be prescribed from May 2017 until December 2020:

### **University of Salford**

BSc (Hons) Architecture

That the following qualifications should be prescribed from June 2017 until June 2021:

### **University of Wales Trinity Saint David**

BSc (Hons) Architecture/BSc (Anrh) Pensaernïaeth

### **Northumbria University**

BA (Hons) Architecture (with Study Abroad Year)

That the following qualifications should be prescribed from September 2017 until September 2021:

### **University of Hertfordshire**

BA (Hons) Architecture

BA (Hons) Architecture (Sandwich)

BA (Hons) Architecture with a Year Abroad

And that the following qualification should be prescribed from June 2018 until June 2022:

### **Ravensbourne**

BA (Hons) Architecture

BA (Hons) Interior Design Environment Architectures

The Board also considered applications from institutions 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:

### **Arts University Bournemouth**

BA (Hons) Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part 1)

Master of Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part 2)

### **University of Greenwich**

BA (Hons) Architecture

MArch Architecture Part 2  
Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Practice

**Liverpool John Moores University**  
BA (Hons) in Architecture  
Master of Architecture, in Architecture

And that prescription of the following qualifications should continue until September 2022:

**London Metropolitan University**  
BA (Hons) Architecture  
Professional Diploma in Architecture  
Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Architecture

**Oxford Brookes University**  
BA (Honours) Architecture  
Master of Architectural Design (MArchD)  
Part 3 Examination in Practice and Management

**Cardiff University**  
BSc (Hons) in Architectural Studies  
Master in Architecture  
Postgraduate Diploma/MA in Architecture: Professional Studies

**University of Lincoln**  
Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice and Management in Architecture

**University of Nottingham**  
Bachelor of Architecture with Honours in Architecture  
Master in Engineering with Honours in Architecture and Environmental Design  
MArch Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part 2)  
Diploma in Architecture  
Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Architecture (Part 3)

For further details, please see the '[Schools and Institutions of Architecture](#)' section of ARB's website.



## Glasgow Homebuilding and Renovating Show

ARB exhibited at the Glasgow Homebuilding and Renovating Show on Saturday 20 May and Sunday 21 May 2017 at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). There are over 3,000 architects in Scotland, with over 1,000 of these located in Glasgow. We were keen to attend the show to inform consumers about the Register of Architects and to help the public make informed choices about who they engage. We received a warm welcome from visitors with consumers asking us for advice on a range of matters.

Exhibitions such as these represent a unique opportunity to meet a key group of stakeholders who are considering undertaking renovation or self-build projects. We inform visitors to our stand about the Register, the fact that architect is a protected title as well as explaining the role of the regulator. We receive questions about how to check individuals are registered, what to discuss at an initial meeting as well as queries from students about recognised courses and people asking for advice regarding professional conduct matters.

Our attendance is always well received and here are a few quotes from people we spoke to when we exhibited at the NEC in Birmingham in March of this year.

'I think it's a good thing to get the word out about that.'

**Mrs Charles, Derbyshire**

'Now I know the most important question is – Are they an architect?'

**Mrs Christian, Devon**

Later this year, from 22-24 September, we will be exhibiting at the Homebuilding and Renovating Show at Excel in London. To find more about this please click [here](#).



## Local authority links

The local authority project, which involves asking Council's to add links to the ARB website, continues to make good progress. 20% of local authorities in the UK now link to either the Register of Architects or ARB's main website.

The Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RSUA) has recently helped us contact local government in Northern Ireland. This exercise has already generated a positive response including a link to the Register added to Belfast City Council's website. We have also been contacted by individual architects who have offered us ideas on this project.

We have seen a corresponding increase in visitors from these sites to the Register of Architects, up 150% during January to April 2017, compared to the same period in 2016.

If you would like any further information on this project please contact us at [info@arb.org.uk](mailto:info@arb.org.uk) or follow us on social media for regular updates.