



Architects Registration Board  
eBulletin : May 2018

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## Chair's Message

As a Board we understand the importance of healthy relationships and effective joint working both internally and with those impacted by our role as regulator of the profession. I am keen for us to develop our understanding of the professions' needs and its future landscape to help inform our policy and how we communicate with those most interested in our work.

The Chief Executive and I met with the President, Chief Executive and Executive Director of Professional Services of RIBA on 21 March 2018. Much of our conversation focussed on working together to raise awareness of the Register to ensure consumers make informed choices. As you may have seen the RIBA president, Ben Derbyshire, and I recently co-wrote an [article](#) for the RIBA Journal stating our commitment to working in a complementary way. We recognise the value of a wide range of views and welcome the opinions of those who wish to engage with us.

In February I wrote to Dominic Raab MP, Minister of State for Housing, to invite further engagement about the work we are undertaking at present and our Registrar and Chief Executive recently met with William Richardson our new sponsor lead at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. In regards to Brexit we

are continuing to work with our sponsoring government department in planning for our departure from the EU and the opportunities this may bring.

I recently met with ARB's Operational Management Group (OMG) to explore opportunities to refine our working relationship to ensure we are as effective as possible. The OMG is headed by our Registrar and is responsible for managing and overseeing all aspects of ARB's operations. The meeting was productive and generated ideas to improve the way we work together including, for example, a commitment to include more context on items in Board/Committee papers so that members have the appropriate level of information to meet its responsibilities.



As we move beyond the Periodic Review, ARB is entering a new phase of reflection and development. We're dedicated to seeking continuous improvement and ensuring we deliver effective and efficient regulation. We have a number of reviews underway or starting including the [Criteria and Procedures](#) review, the [Section 14](#) review and the [Prescribed Examination](#) review which you can read more about in this edition of our Ebulletin.

I hope you enjoy reading May's Ebulletin and If you have any feedback or comments 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

### General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This month will see the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) come into force on 25 May 2018, replacing the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be made into UK law through a new Data Protection Bill soon after.

The purpose of the GDPR is to protect the rights and freedoms of individuals and ensure that personal data is not processed without their knowledge, and wherever possible, is processed with their consent.

While the GDPR is an evolution of current data protection laws which architects should already be compliant with, it's important to be mindful that it introduces new accountability and transparency obligations in respect of how personal data must be handled.

### How to prepare for the GDPR

What you will need to do to remain compliant with the law will vary depending on the type and amount of personal data you currently hold, your uses of it, the current systems you already have in place, the size and nature of your practice and your responsibility within it. Establishing your situation in these areas should be a top priority, bearing in mind that it's likely even the best run practices with the lowest risks will need to make some changes to its processes.

It follows that the compliance guidance each architect should follow will also vary. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) provides useful [guidance](#), including a 12 step guide to compliance and data protection checklists.

### Regulator

The ICO is the organisation responsible for upholding

compliance with GDPR. While the Commissioner has made clear that her first priority is to assist organisations in meeting the requirements of the data protection laws, it should be noted that the new legislation provides the regulator with the power to issue substantial fines where serious breaches have occurred.

Guidance on how the ICO expects compliance with GDPR continues to be published. You can stay updated on the latest information [here](#).



## Section 14 Review

At its meeting on 11 May 2018, the Board considered the recommendations arising from its internal Section 14 review of how ARB investigates allegations made about registered architects.

As part of the review a pre-consultation document was issued in July 2017 to the public, the profession, professional bodies and those who are already involved in delivering the disciplinary proceedings. ARB staff also visited other regulators in order to identify best practice.

The review noted that ARB had previously requested changes that could be made to the Architects Act 1997, to allow for significant reform of its disciplinary procedures. These changes were accepted by Government as part of its Periodic Review of Architect Regulation, but have been put on hold because of the impact of Brexit on parliamentary time.

The review therefore made a number of recommendations which would not require a change to the law but may enhance the fairness and efficiency of the current procedures. These included exploring the greater use of architectural expertise

within the disciplinary process and removing the requirement for a Clerk to attend Professional Conduct Committee hearings.

All recommendations were accepted in principle by the Board.

A copy of the review and its recommendations can be found [here](#). The next step will be for the recommendations to be formalised into proposed changes to the relevant Rules, and subsequently consulted upon. Information on that public consultation will be included in future communications.



## Prescribed Exam Review

ARB will soon be undertaking a 'business as usual' review of the Prescribed Examination and we would welcome your views to help shape the process going forward.

The Prescribed Examination is a way to progress towards registering as an architect in the UK for those who hold qualifications in architecture that are not directly recognised by ARB. As long as an individual can demonstrate that their qualification is principally in architecture, ARB can determine whether the qualification has given the individual an equivalent level of competence to satisfy Part 1 and Part 2 requirements through the Prescribed Examination. More information about the Prescribed Examination and its current process can be found on our website [here](#).

The review will aim to explore:

- whether the procedures remain fit for purpose following completion of the Criteria/Procedure reviews

- whether the eligibility requirements remain fit for purpose
- whether the process is efficient and robust in offering assurance that those who pass the exam have equivalent competence to an architect undertaking an ARB prescribed qualification at the appropriate level

Another objective of the review will be to streamline processes where possible.

We will be consulting with our stakeholders on the Prescribed Examination process and would value comments and opinions on what works well or could be improved, especially from those who have experienced the process or may experience it in the future. Further information will be available on the [Consultations](#) page of our website from **Friday 1 June 2018**. The survey will be open until the end of June.



## Criteria & Procedures Review Update

### Background

In order to ensure that the qualifications and practical training experience UK graduates need for registration as an architect are appropriate, the Board has established Criteria and Procedures. The Board uses these documents to prescribe or recognise qualifications in architecture. These are reviewed regularly and are updated as necessary. A pre-consultation exercise was undertaken throughout September and early October 2017 and Task and Finish Group members in addition to an independent Chair were appointed to lead on the reviews. The Task and Finish Groups' initial recommendations were presented to the Board in November 2017 and in January 2018 a joint working



group was set up with the RIBA to try and ensure we retained a set of Criteria in common.

### Latest developments

At its meeting on 11 May 2018, the Board considered a paper on the Criteria review to date. In summary, the joint working group's first meeting took place in February 2018 and opinions on the structure and content of the revised Criteria were discussed. At the meeting it was agreed that both parties would continue to work on proposals and the RIBA subsequently provided suggestions for Criteria at Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 which were passed to the Task and Finish Group for review.

After careful review the Task and Finish Group felt that the RIBA's proposals would not fulfil the review's objectives, but upon reflection felt that its own original proposals could also be improved upon. The Group therefore proposed alternative approaches to the structure and content of the Criteria be explored. RIBA expressed disappointment in the Group's initial feedback and indicated they would re-engage with the Criteria review once there was a set of draft Criteria at Parts 1, 2, and 3 for them to consider.

The Board noted the progress of the Criteria review and the position of the RIBA and there was much discussion about the work of the Task and Finish Group and stakeholders' positions. Ultimately the Board:

- Agreed the Task and Finish Group should continue to develop Criteria that would satisfy the review's objectives as agreed in [July 2017](#)
- Advised that the Task and Finish Group should focus on developing Criteria at Part 1 and 2 levels using the 11 points of the Professional Qualifications Directive and other relevant amplifications in order to differentiate between each level. As part of this, the Board requested that the Group should review whether programme level qualification descriptors, for example, were an appropriate way of differentiating between the Criteria at Part 1 and Part 2 level
- Agreed that the Group should continue its review of the Part 3 level Criteria

It was also agreed the Task and Finish Group should provide an initial draft of their revised Criteria to the

Board and, once considered by the Board, ARB should re-engage with the RIBA as requested.

We post updates on this project on our website [here](#) and additional updates can also be found via our social media channels – follow [@ARBUK1997](#) on Twitter to keep up to date.



## Prescription of Qualifications

At the last Board meeting on 11 May 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 the responses to the consultation it had undertaken.

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

### **Centre for Alternative Technology / University of East London**

MArch Sustainable Architecture

The Board also 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:

### **London South Bank University**

BA (Hons) Architecture  
Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture  
MArch: Master of Architecture  
Professional Practice Part 3

## University of Strathclyde

BSc/BSc (Hons) Architectural Studies  
BSc/BSc (Hons) Architectural Studies with  
International Study  
MArch in Advanced Architectural Design  
Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Architectural  
Design

## University of East London

BA (Hons) Architecture  
MArch Architecture

## De Montfort University

BA (Hons) Architecture  
MArch

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

## University of Westminster

BA (Hons) Architecture  
Master of Architecture  
Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice in  
Architecture

The Board decided that prescription of the following  
qualifications should continue until September 2023:

## Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA) / University of Edinburgh

BA Architecture  
MA (Hons) Architecture  
Master of Architecture

## University of Plymouth

BA (Hons) Architecture  
Master of Architecture

## University of Dundee

BA Architecture  
Master of Architecture  
Master of Architecture with Urban Planning  
Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture

## Robert Gordon University

BSc Architecture  
Master of Architecture

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



## Brexit FAQs

On 23 June 2016 the EU referendum took place and the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the EU. Following the referendum we put together a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) in recognition that many of you have questions about what this may mean for you and the profession.

We are committed to providing updates on developments in this area and as we learn more we revise our FAQs to ensure they reflect our current understanding and are as useful as possible.

Our recently revised Brexit FAQs can be found on our website [here](#). If you have a question not covered by the FAQs or would like more information on any of the subjects covered please let us know via our [Talk to Us](#).



## Government Consultation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), our sponsoring department, are seeking views on whether 'desktop studies' are appropriate for all construction products, wall systems (cladding) or for any other purpose.

The Government is proposing to issue amendments to Appendix A which clarify the existing text and creates new requirements for assessments in lieu of fire tests. These amendments come in response to the recommendations made by Dame Judith Hackitt in her Interim Report of her Review of the Building Regulations and Fire Safety published in December 2017.

This is an excellent opportunity to share your professional views and support building safety improvement. The consultation can be found [here](#), it will close at 11:45pm on 25 May 2018.