

# Chair's Message

February 2014

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Latest News

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## Chair's Message from ARB

### Chair's Message



**Our first Board meeting of the year gave us the chance to review 2013 and to look ahead to the challenges of the next 12 months.**

It was a busy year, and as we did for 2012, we undertook a Board Effectiveness Review, which enabled us to monitor, evaluate and improve our performance. The Board and Committee questionnaires provided a powerful and valuable feedback mechanism, maximising our strengths and highlighting areas for further development. During the past 12 months Board members have developed a solid understanding of their corporate role and the roles of individual Board members within this. It is a relatively *new Board*, even though some of us have been on the Board for some time, and the external environment has also changed. I have found the support of individual Board members to be of great personal help and I believe we are well placed to face 2014 and the Periodic Review ahead.

We also discussed the 2014 stakeholder and communications strategy, with the aim of supporting the Board and staff team to deliver the organisation's business plan. The Board continues to focus all its activities around the two objectives which underpin all our work i.e. to protect the users and potential users of architects' services and to support architects through regulation. These objectives are the foundations of ARB's 2014 business plan for which you'll find further details on our website (<http://www.arb.org.uk/Boards-Business-Plan>).

And finally, we say a fond farewell to our Registrar and Chief Executive, Alison Carr, who leaves this month, after seven years with ARB, to join the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) as Director of Governance and Policy. We wish her every success in the future and thank her for her outstanding contribution during her time with us. Karen Holmes, who has been Deputy Registrar since 2006, has been appointed Interim Registrar and Chief Executive whilst we recruit to fill this key post. We have already started the recruitment process and will keep you updated as it progresses. Details about this and all our other news can be found at [www.arb.org.uk/news-releases](http://www.arb.org.uk/news-releases)

Best wishes,

**Beatrice Fraenkel, Chair, ARB**

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### Communications Strategy



**The ARB has agreed a Communications Strategy to support ARB's Board and staff team to deliver the organisation's business plan. In delivering the Act, ARB's objectives are to protect the users and potential users of architects' services and support architects through regulation.**

To do this we work to increase public and professional awareness of the role, functions and culture of ARB and the UK Register of Architects. We are committed to communicating with stakeholders, and to maintaining and enhancing the reputation of the ARB as an independent statutory regulator which maintains professional standards and public confidence in the profession.

Much has already been achieved; ARB maintains strong links with the profession both directly and through the professional bodies. ARB also has excellent relationships with students and schools of architecture. Furthermore, steps to raise public awareness of the Register through the development of online, accessible Register and the re-launched website have been extremely successful. We will be working hard in the coming year to increase public and professional awareness of the role and function of ARB and to extend the network of stakeholders to support ARB to deliver its business plan.

### Period Review update



**In December we reported the Government's Periodic Review begins this Spring. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), will be leading the review throughout 2014, with a final report due later in the year.**

The Board heard a presentation from the DCLG, which outlined the Periodic Review process and the anticipated timeframes involved. Board members were given the opportunity to raise queries and concerns as part of a discussion. Members of the Board also made suggestions regarding the stakeholders who could be included in and/or consulted as part of the review, including those who understand the European aspects of our work. The DCLG confirmed that it was committed to keeping the board up to date throughout the review and welcomed the board's full engagement with the process.

Keep an eye on our homepage where we will be adding a direct Periodic Review link, for you to access all the available information and to see how you can get involved. DCLG have also confirmed that the tenure of Board Members will increase from a three year term to a four year term for the appointed and elected members of the Board. This means that elected members will serve an additional year to what was originally planned. DCLG felt this was a necessary step to take in order to provide continuity during the periodic review.

### Prescription of Qualifications

## Prescription of Qualifications



As part of the regular cycle of reviews, the Board at its meeting of 12 February 2014 considered applications from Higher Education institutions which wished their qualifications to become and remain prescribed by the Board under the Architects Act 1997.

The Board decided that prescription of the following qualifications should continue until September 2018:

### **Arts University Bournemouth**

BA (Hons) Architecture

### **University of Edinburgh**

#### **Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture**

The degree of Bachelor of Arts, in the College of Humanities and Social Science, in Architecture

The degree of Master of Arts, in the College of Humanities and Social Science with X Class, Division Y Honours in Architecture

The degree of Master of Architecture, in the College of Humanities and Social Science

The Board also considered an application from an organisation which wished its qualification to be prescribed under the Architects Act 1997. In line with its Procedures for the Prescription of Qualifications, the Board considered the responses to the consultation it had undertaken. It decided that the following qualification should be prescribed until February 2016:

### **ARCEX Ltd**

The Final Examination in Architectural Practice at ARB Part 3 Level – Part 3

For further details, please see the 'Qualifications' section of ARB's website, [www.arb.org.uk](http://www.arb.org.uk)

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## Board Effectiveness Review



**The 2013 Board Effectiveness Review was undertaken to identify ways to improve working practices and decision making. This Review has seen the introduction of a timed agenda providing a guide as to the anticipated length of each item and should assist members to better prepare for meetings.**

Board members observed that it had sometimes been difficult to maintain and develop strong working relationships when meetings were infrequent and members were located across the UK. Two development days, as well as the regular Board meetings, have been scheduled in for 2014. The development days coincide with two of the Board meetings, meaning that the Board will spend more time together as a whole over the next 12 months. This should enable Board members to spend time together and to continue building stronger working relationships.

Further work will be carried out during the year in this area, including a review of the structure of the Board meeting agenda, the papers and the annual rolling programme of work.

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## Performance Against 2013 Business Plan



**An annual report showing ARB's performance against the Business Plan is made at the first Board meeting after the year end. The management team keeps the plan under review on a monthly basis and also assesses performance mid-year.**

The financial performance is monitored through the budget setting process and management accounts, which are considered regularly by the management team and provided to the Board four times a year.

The business plan covers all areas of our work. The review highlighted some of the key activities undertaken during the year. To be of value, the Register must be accessible, and users and potential users of architects' services must understand the distinction of the title "architect" and the importance of the Register in confirming an architect's registered status. We therefore work to increase awareness of the Register, to inform the public about the qualifications held by and competence of architects and to alert members of the public to the Architects Code of Conduct and Practice. We also work to prevent the misuse of the title "architect" which may only be used by those on the Register.

Areas of progress include, a new system for processing change of details internally, without rekeying data, which was introduced in November 2013 to help reduce the time taken for updates to be made to the Register. We have also improved the prominence of the

Code of Conduct on the website, in addition to advice to users of architects on common issues or problems they may encounter. Planning Authorities have been contacted, to place links to the ARB website where potential users of architectural services might visit. Links to the Architects Register site have increased by 48% and use of the logo has increased by 40%, supporting the objective of raising awareness of ARB and our work.

During 2013, we also played a key role in advising the UK Government on the revisions to the Directive as well as inputting into European forums regarding the likely impact of the revisions. In particular, we assisted in securing flexibility with the requirements for practical training experience.

You can see a full breakdown of our key activities and our performance against the set key performance indicators at <http://www.arb.org.uk/Agenda-12-02-14>.

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## Interim Registrar and Chief Executive appointment



**The Architects Registration Board (ARB) is pleased to announce the appointment of an Interim Registrar and Chief Executive.**

Karen Holmes, whose appointment was approved by the Board at its meeting on 12 February 2014, will take up her post on 17 February. Karen Holmes joined the ARB in 1999 as Head of Registration and has been Deputy Registrar since 2006. She previously undertook the role of Acting Registrar for a six month period in 2006.

Commenting on her appointment, Karen said:

*"I am delighted to be appointed as the Interim Registrar and Chief Executive of ARB, I look forward to ensuring the organisation continues to deliver its regulatory function effectively whilst at the same time contributing to the government's periodic review."*

ARB Chairman Beatrice Fraenkel said:

*"The Board is pleased to appoint Karen Holmes to the role of Interim Registrar and Chief Executive. Karen is a highly capable and professional leader. The Board is delighted that she has accepted this post which will provide the Board and the staff team with stability whilst we undergo the process of recruiting a new Registrar and Chief Executive. I would like to congratulate Karen on her appointment."*

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# Update your details

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Latest News

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## Can clients **find you?**

These are the contact details that clients and potential clients see when they view your personalised Register web page. See below for details of how to update.



### Address

ARB  
address1  
address2  
address3  
address4  
address5  
postcode



### Registration Number

XXXXXXI



### Contact Details

T: 01234 567 890  
F: 01234 567 890  
E: xxx@arb.org.uk  
W: www.arb.org.uk

## Why is this important?

The ARB online Register allows you to amend your contact details, email and web address, so consumers can find you more easily. It's important we hold your current details to ensure our mailings reach you and are kept up to date with ARB news. It's also beneficial to display your current email and phone numbers so clients can get in touch with you.

**If you would like to change or update these details please copy your unique code below:**

**BG SQ YB XXXX XXXX**

Login

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