

Chair's Message

May 2014

Latest news

Chair's Message

Update your details

Chair's Message from ARB

Chair's Message



Welcome to the May e-bulletin update, following the latest Board meeting.

It's been a busy Spring, with the launch of the government's Periodic Review consultation. We have been hard at work preparing our submission. Board members and the staff team have all contributed to this process. We've also been raising awareness that the Periodic Review is underway via our website and posts on social media to ensure that as many people as possible know about the review and how to contribute. As a Board, we are extremely keen to ensure the government debate on the future of the regulation of architects receives wide participation.

Senior members of the staff team attended the RIBA's Council meeting on the 19th March 2014. At this meeting, the RIBA Council decided to approve a change to its policy on the regulation of architects. The RIBA motion supported maintaining statutory protection of the title 'architect' by an independent registration body. We welcome this decision which paves the way for constructive debate around the on-going need for regulation of the architects' profession.

Over the coming months, we will finalise the ARB's submission to the Periodic Review. We will also continue to work hard to undertake our regulatory function effectively. The review is extremely important, but we must also deliver our day job. Budget and business planning for the year ahead is already underway with our focus on fulfilling our statutory duty, whilst also maintaining a culture of continuous improvement.

As previously reported, the tenure of all Board members has been extended by government to provide consistency for the organisation during the Periodic Review process. This means that the Architects Election planned for 2015 will not take place until 2016 (dependent on the outcome of the Periodic Review). Board members who have been appointed by government have also had their tenure terms extended. Stability is very important during this period and consequently it was also felt prudent that no major changes should be made to the membership of the Board's Committees until the Periodic Review is complete later this year.

Our next communication is likely to be our annual report which will go out in the summer. If you have any feedback on our work or this ebulletin please get in touch at info@arb.org.uk.

With all good wishes,

Beatrice Fraenkel, Chair, ARB

For more information about our work, please visit our website, www.arb.org.uk

Latest News

May 2014

Latest news

Chair's message

Update your details

Latest News from ARB



What's your view on the regulation of Architects? Have you completed the government survey?

On 16 April 2014, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced its call for evidence for people's views on the regulation of architects.

The call for evidence asks for views on three distinct subject areas:

- The case for the regulation of architects
- Different models of regulating architects
- Evaluating the current model of regulation and the Architects Registration Board.

The government has advised that it has no preferred outcome to the review process.

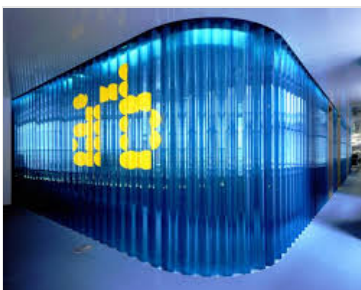
DCLG have created an online survey for you to have your say. The consultation page on the DCLG website can be found at the following link: [DCLG consultation](#).

The launch of the call for evidence follows the announcement of the Periodic Review in the House of Commons on 31 March 2014.

This was made by Stephen Williams MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in the form of a Written Ministerial Statement. This statement can be viewed at the following link: [Written Ministerial Statement](#).

We have created a page on our website where we will post updates regarding the Periodic Review. This can be found at the following link: <http://www.arb.org.uk/periodic-review>

We will also use social media to keep you informed about Periodic Review developments. On Twitter we will use the hashtag #ARBReview in tweets about the periodic review.



Highlights of the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) Annual Review

The annual review of the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) aims to give consumers and architects confidence in ARB's process for investigating a complaint about an architect's conduct or competence. Some of the key findings are highlighted, with further details on our website.

During the course of 2013, the whole range of sanctions available to the PCC was employed at some stage. Three architects were erased from the Register and three were suspended for periods of between eighteen months and two years (the maximum permitted under the legislation). Seven architects were issued with penalty orders – ranging from £500 - £3000 (the latter comprising the maximum of £2,500 for one charge, plus £500 for the second). Ten were issued with a reprimand. In one case, despite the architect being found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct, the PCC did not consider it necessary to impose a disciplinary sanction because issues had been satisfactorily resolved.

The PCC reported that the main issues that lead to complaints about architects continue to centre around the administrative running of their practices in relation to their clients. The most common issues include a failure to provide adequate terms of engagement and failing to keep their clients updated on issues that may affect their project.

You can read the full details of the Professional Conduct Committee Annual Review on our website at [PCC Annual Review Report](#)

National Homebuilding & Renovating Show

The project to raise awareness of the Register continues at pace. In March, we exhibited at the National Homebuilding & Renovating Show held at the NEC in Birmingham, where the attendance for this event was a hugely impressive 32,353 people over four days.

Visitors to our stand, which included both the general public and a number of architects. We promoted information about the work of



the Board and the value of the Register. Both groups were encouraged to complete a short interactive survey to gauge their understanding of our work. Feedback received from consumers was extremely positive, including the following selection of comments:

“This information has been most helpful and knowing what I now know, I will definitely be using the online Register facility”

“I owe you a big thank you, following your helpful advice at last year's show, I have made very good use of your Register”

“I didn't check to see if my architect was registered but I would in future, then I will have peace of mind that they are appropriately qualified and insured, things I hadn't considered!!”

A good number of architects also visit the stand and some of their comments included:

“Good to see you here!!”

“Your presence will help raise awareness of the Register”

All of the architects who completed the survey felt strongly that the title ‘architect’ should be protected and only those who are registered should have the right to use it. ARB will be exhibiting at the NEC again in the autumn, at Grand Designs Live.



Raising ARB's profile

We have been working hard to improve our communication across all media, to keep our audiences up-to-date with relevant and timely news and events. We've had some great successes especially with Twitter, where follower growth is going strong, and is proving to be our most powerful channel. Our website visitors are now spending longer on our website, and viewing more pages on each visit. The ARB also gained coverage on the

Planning Portal ebulletin, an aide to planning advice and guidance which reaches over 90,000 users each month, and consequently raised awareness of the Register and drove new users to our website. The ARB also enjoyed editorial in various regional newspapers, details of which can be found on our website at www.arb.org.uk/news-releases.

13,439 visited www.arb.org.uk during April

14,331 visited www.architects-register.org.uk during April

Equality data survey



The public sector Equality Duty (PSED), part of the Equality Act, requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act, making the law easier to understand and strengthening protection in some situations. It sets out the different ways in which it's unlawful to treat someone.

We are committed to promoting and developing equality and diversity in all our work. We want to be sure that our policies and ways of working are fair to all individuals and groups, regardless of their ethnic origin, race, colour, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation or age. Requests for equality information on the make-up of the Register are often received from stakeholders.

To meet this requirement, we will shortly be undertaking a data collection exercise of everyone on the Register, in a cost-effective and non-intrusive way. Participation is voluntary and information received will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please help us by filling in the survey.



HSE consultation on replacement of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is conducting a consultation on its proposals to replace Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM 2007) and withdraw the approved code of practice.

There has been significant improvement in the industry's performance on health and safety over recent years. However, it remains one of the highest risk industry sectors in which to work - with unacceptable standards, particularly on smaller sites still routinely encountered. HSE hopes to improve worker protection and simplify the regulatory package.

We particularly want to draw architects' attention to the HSE's proposals to replace the CDM co-ordinator role with a new 'principal designer' role. The HSE says it wants to ensure that this co-ordination function is delivered by a person who is integral to a project rather than a separate and, in many cases, externalised add-on. The role of principle designer could be fulfilled by architects and guidance for principal designers will be issued defining their obligations.

To read more about the HSE's consultation and to contribute your views please visit the following link [HSE consultation](#)

Prescription of Qualifications

As part of the regular cycle of reviews, the Board at its meeting of 2 May 2014 considered applications from Higher Education institutions which wished their qualifications to remain prescribed by the Board under the Architects Act 1997. The Board decided that prescription of the following qualifications should continue until September 2018:

Sheffield Hallam University

BSc (Hons) Architecture and Environmental Design

M.Arch

University of Plymouth

BA (Hons) Architecture

Master of Architecture

The Board also decided that prescription of the following qualifications should continue until September 2019:

University of Cambridge

BA (Hons) Architecture

BA (Hons) Architecture

MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design*

MPhil in Environmental Design in Architecture (Option B)

Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Architecture

University of Liverpool

BA (Hons) Architecture

MArch Architecture

Kingston University

BA (Hons) Architecture

MArch (Architecture)

Graduate Diploma in Architecture*

Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture

Nottingham Trent University

BArch (Hons)Architecture

* These qualifications are being run out by the relevant universities

For further details, please see the 'Qualifications' section of ARB's website, www.arb.org.uk

Update your details

May 2014

Latest news

Chair's Message

Update your details

Can consumers 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
Addressline1
Addressline2
Addressline3
Addressline4
Addressline5
Postcode



Registration Number

XXXXXXI



Contact Details

T: 01234 567 890
F: 01234 567 890
E: xxx@arb.org.uk
W: <http://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 consumers can get in touch with you.

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

AW SQ YB 6794 5798

Login