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Architect listings

We are pleased to report that the Which? Local website now has a unique 'Architect' classification to help Which? members find an architect. We are really pleased that Which? Local have agreed to ensure only those entitled to use the title 'architect' are listed under this category. We continue to try and build similar relationships with other directories which in turn reduces the level of misuse of the title on the internet.

Which? Local is one of a number of Which? products, it lists over 77,000 businesses and over 400 business categories. Reviews are made by Which? members and verified for authenticity by the team of Which? Local moderators. Businesses cannot ask or pay to be listed on the website - they must be recommended by a Which? member.



Periodic Review update

The Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Review Panel are working on the submission to go to the Minister, Stephen Williams MP. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will consider the submission, more information is expected before the next Board meeting in November. Look out for updates on our website homepage.



Annual Report now online

Our 2013 Annual Report is now online. See how we have delivered against our objectives of maintaining an accurate Register and raising awareness of that Register as well as maintaining standards within the profession for the benefit of the public and architects alike. To read the Annual Report please [click here](#).



2015 Retention fee and other fees update

In line with the Architects Act and its General Rules, we have reviewed and agreed the 2015 fees for joining and re-joining the Register, undertaking the Prescribed Examination, the annual cost of providing a Register of Architects (in PDF format) and producing Certificates of Architectural Education.

The Board agreed to increase the annual retention fee for 2015 from £105 to £107. This represents a 1.9% increase, which is below the current RPI of 2.5%. The Board also agreed to reduce the prescribed fee applicable to those re-joining the Register after removal for non-payment from £30 to £20.

It's important for you to keep your details on the Register up to date, in order for any correspondence to reach you. You can do this by clicking on the link on this email. We send only one retention fee reminder by post, which will be mailed to you during October.

Further information on the 2015 fees will be added to our website shortly.



Visit us at Grand Designs - 9-12 October 2014

Once again, we will be exhibiting at Grand Designs, Birmingham between 9th-12th October.

Following very positive feedback from industry professionals and the public, we are not only building awareness amongst consumers but also highlighting the importance of checking the Register. **Come and find us at stand B162.**



ARB focus groups - can you help us?

Have you visited our website recently or engaged with us on social media? If so, we'd value your feedback and would like to invite you to a focus group or telephone interview to learn about your views. These will take place during late October to gather feedback about how we communicate with our key audiences through our digital channels.

The purpose of these sessions is to understand how users experience our digital channels (e.g. website and social media) and in what ways we could improve these to ensure they are as effective as possible.

We are looking for participants from three key groups:

- Architects on the Register
- Consumers/potential clients of architects (either using or thinking of using an architect)
- Students/potential students of architecture

For further information please [click here](#).

If you are interested in helping us gather feedback and insight about how we communicate, please do get in touch by emailing info@arb.org.uk and telling us your name, contact number and which audience group you represent. Please also mention whether you would like to attend a focus group in London or participate in a phone interview. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for focus group attendees. The deadline to submit applications to participate is Wednesday 15th October 2014.



Professional Standards

Recent Professional Conduct Committee cases raised the question of whether architects are subject to the Architects Code of Conduct and Practice, even if they are not practising architecture in the traditional sense. Examples of such practices include the marketing of architecture, or acting as a Party Wall Surveyor. The Professional Conduct Committee has been clear in its findings that all business of architects - especially those connected with architecture - should be guided by the Code, and that architects are expected to abide by proper standards of conduct no matter what professional work

they are undertaking.

Architects are further reminded that they are expected to report to ARB any instance where they may have fallen below the standards expected by the Code. Examples of this may include being convicted of a criminal offence, being made the subject of a bankruptcy order, or failing to pay a judgment debt.

Please do call our Professional Standards department on 020 7580 5861 or contact them at professionalstandards@arb.org.uk if you have any questions about standards in professional practice.



Prescribed Qualifications update

At the last Board meeting on 18 September 2014, the Board considered an application from a Higher Education Institution 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 2018:

University of Sheffield

BA (Hons) Architecture - Part 1

BA (Hons) Architecture and Landscape - Part 1

MEng Structural Engineering and Architecture - Part 1

MArch Architecture - Part 2

MArch Architecture and Town Regional Planning - Part 2

The Board also considered an application for a Higher Education Institution which wished its qualification 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 consultation it had undertaken.

It decided that the following qualification should be prescribed from January 2015 until January 2018:

Anglia Ruskin University

BSc (Hons) Architecture - Part 1

For further details, please [click here](#).

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Welcome to our September ebulletin. We've had a busy summer, since submitting our evidence to DCLG's Periodic Review regarding the regulation of architects and ARB.

The Board held its most recent meeting on 18 September 2014, during this meeting we agreed our 2015 Business Plan and budget, and agreed the retention fee for 2015. Our Business Plan for 2015 includes a review of the routes available to join the Register, preparation for a review of our disciplinary processes and further commitment to ensuring our services are accessible to all. We unanimously agreed an increase of £2 to the annual retention fee for 2015, bringing the annual fee to £107. The increase represents a 1.9% rise, which is below the current RPI of 2.5%.

As we start to prepare for the collection of next year's annual retention fee, it is very important that we hold you up to date contact details. If you have new contact details please let us know so that we can ensure we send your renewal notice to the correct address.

Our Annual Report for 2013 has now been published, to read this please [click here](#). The report includes information about how the organisation has delivered on its objectives as well as the audited 2013 Annual Report and Financial Statements. The format of the review has been updated this year, incorporating best practice reporting used by other regulators, to include additional information to provide readers with more detail regarding the work and performance of the organisation during the year. There's some interesting data, including for the first time, over 1500 new admissions onto the Register, reflecting the high regard for registered status within the profession. Female architects continue to increase, as do the number of EU applicants.

Our work with stakeholders continues to make headway. We have had articles about the work of ARB published in the Trading Standards Institute's publication and the magazine published by the Federation of Small Businesses. Also, read more in this ebulletin about how we've been working with Which? Local to raise awareness amongst their members of the statutory Register.

As part of the Board's Equality and Diversity scheme, we are committed to collecting equality information from those who use our services. We will shortly be emailing you a brief equality and diversity survey. We are requesting information from all architects, not only to comply with our legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010, but also to ensure that our day to day work doesn't discriminate against any particular group. The information you provide will be kept confidential, but we will use the aggregated data to generate statistical information, which we will publish.

Completing the survey is entirely optional, but only by collecting statistics about the diversity of the people we deal with are we able to fully understand the impact of our policies and decisions. It will also allow us to target our work more effectively, and reduce the administrative burden on the profession. Should you be interested in finding out more about our survey, answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) are available on our website. I do hope you will assist us in moving this important piece of work forward.

I look forward to updating you again after our next Board meeting in November.

Best wishes,

Beatrice Fraenkel, Chair, ARB

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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: Phone Number
F: Fax Number
E: xxxx@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 you 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:

XX XX XX 1234 5678

Login