

Master of the Faculties – Advisory Board Priorities for 2018

The Master asked the Advisory Board (AB) to focus on five issues in 2018. This brief report summarises the advice and assistance which the AB has provided to the Faculty Office (FO) and offers a brief update on those matters to date:

- **Practice authorisation (entity regulation)**
Significant progress has been made with this project both in terms of the preparation of the Section 69 Order required to give the Master the powers needed to implement a regulatory regime for practices and in relation to the preparedness of the FO to operate the new regime. The draft S.69 Order is shortly to be shared with the MoJ at a meeting to be attended by the FO and LSB. The AB has assisted the FO by advising on the consultation and the principles.
- **Post-admission supervision**
The new Notaries (Training and Supervision) Rules 2019 are currently with the LSB for approval. Approval should be given by Easter with a view to the new rules coming into force on 1st May. Both the AB and the Qualifications Board have provided significant input on the proposals and the consultation.
- **Data protection (GDPR)**
The FO has reviewed and published its revised Data Protection Policy. A review of the data held by the FO has been undertaken and policies have been implemented to ensure that the FO is GDPR compliant.
- **CMA Action Plan**
The primary focus of the requirements set out in the CMA report on the legal sector was in relation to transparency for consumers to enable them to make better informed choices in relation to their need for legal assistance and in their choice of/between service providers. Consultations have taken place on the Action Plan itself and in relation to the FO proposals to amend, particularly, the Practice Rules to achieve the transparency required by the CMA. The FO will shortly be publishing a response to the consultation and the resulting amended rules which will then be sent to the LSB for approval. A three-month implementation period will be applied to ensure the profession has time to comply with the new requirements. The AB provided significant input on the proposals and the consultation.
- **LSB Regulatory Performance Assessment Action Plan**
Much of the work arising from the LSB's Action Plan was completed. In their revised Regulatory Performance Assessment which was issued in the late Autumn, there were just 4 areas where the FO were assessed as having 'Not Met' the new criteria. These are being brought to the Board for 2019 priorities.
- **Diversity**
The FO submitted its response to the LSB diversity requirements. The LSB assessment has set out the 4 outcomes and indicated where it believes further work is required. These will also come back to the Board for 2019 priorities.

Neil Turpin

Chief Clerk & Clerk to the Board

25th March 2019