



## FACULTY OFFICE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Qualifications Board  
held remotely via Zoom  
on Thursday 14 July 2022

Present: Nicholas Hatzis (Chair)  
Roger Eastman  
Alex Galloway  
Sophie Milburn  
Anna Ostrowska  
Iain Rogers

In attendance:  
Ian Blaney, Deputy Registrar, Faculty Office  
Neil Turpin, Chief Clerk, Faculty Office

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Nicola Plant, Elaine Standish, Ugljesa Grusic, Howard Dellar and Patrick Roberts.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

With one typographical amendment to the final paragraph of item 7 (replacing 'department' with 'departure'), these were confirmed as correct nem con and will be signed by the Chairman at the next in-person meeting.

Iain Rogers raised an issue regarding the decision of the Board in relation to one application and whether the candidate ought to have been awarded an exemption in Wills, Probate & Administration based on her LPC results. However, as the applicants had been advised of the outcome the Board agreed that it would not be appropriate to re-visit the application on this occasion.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

#### 4. NOTARIAL PRACTICE COURSE

Iain Rogers reported that 35 students had passed Year 2 with 5 failing. This is on a par with previous years.

#### 5. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

There sub-committee had not met.

#### 6. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION

##### (a) New Applicants

- 1) GO (2022/35) – is a solicitor who was in full-time practise until June 2021. They hold a current SRA practising certificate but is not currently practising. The Board agreed to grant exemptions in the five ‘core’ subjects based on their long experience in practise and in Conveyancing and Wills Probate & Administration, being the areas in which they had practised, but requires that they obtain a module in Company Law.
- 2) NJ (2022/36) – is a recent graduate who is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption on the grounds of in-date qualifications. The Board agreed that they be granted exemptions in the five ‘core’ subjects and in Company Law and Conveyancing but requires that they obtain a module in Wills Probate & Administration as this was not a full examined elective in their LPC.
- 3) SM (2022/37) – is a solicitor in a general practice and a STEP practitioner who is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption. The Board agreed to grant exemptions in the five ‘core’ subjects and in Conveyancing and Wills Probate & Administration, being the areas in which they practise, but requires that they obtain a module in Company Law.
- 4) LZ (2022/38) – is a solicitor in a specialist conveyancing practice who is applying for a Certificate of Exemption save for Wills Probate & Administration. The Board agreed that they be granted an exemption

from the five 'core' subjects and in Conveyancing but did not consider their experience in Company Law to be sufficient to warrant an exemption and therefore requires that they obtain modules in Company Law and Wills Probate & Administration.

- 5) AR (2022/39) – is a legal assistant/paralegal who is qualified in Spain and completed the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme in 2021 and is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption. Based on in-date QLTS the Board granted a full Certificate of Exemption.
- 6) TJ (2022/40) – is a recent graduate and a solicitor in a general practice who is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption on the grounds of in-date qualifications. The Board agreed to grant an exemption from the five 'core' modules but required sight of LPC transcripts before making a decision on the professional subjects. On receipt, they can be referred to the sub-committee for a decision.
- 7) KK (2022/41) – is a barrister and a solicitor-advocate in a general practice who is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption. The Board agreed that they be granted a full Certificate of Exemption based on their professional experience.
- 8) KD (2022/42) – is a solicitor in a general practice (but see additional minute below) who is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption. The Board granted an exemption from the five 'core' modules and in Conveyancing based on their experience in practise but requires that they obtain modules in Company Law and Wills Probate & Administration as their academic qualifications in these subjects were awarded more than five years ago.
- 9) HS (2022/43) – is a solicitor in a niche Crime & Immigration practice who qualified through the QLTS in 2003 and who is applying for a Certificate of Exemption save for Conveyancing. The Board noted inconsistencies in the application as regard the areas in which they practised. The Board requires them to provide full details of their recent caseload covering each of the professional subjects to be referred to the full Board.
- 10) PV (2022/44) – is a recent graduate with an in date law degree and is awaiting the results of Stage 2 of his LPC. The Board granted an

exemption from the five 'core' modules and Conveyancing and Company Law based on the LLB and Stage 1 LPC. Once the LPC Stage 2 transcript is available it should be referred to the sub-committee for a decision as regard Wills Probate & Administration. They would need to demonstrate that they had passed an elective in Wills Probate & Administration.

- 11) NB (2022/45) – is a solicitor in a two-person firm who is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption based on their experience in practise. The Board awarded a full Certificate of Exemption.
- 12) SJ (2022/46) – is a solicitor in a general practice and a recent graduate who is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption. The Board agreed that they be granted exemptions in the five 'core' subjects and in Company Law and in Conveyancing but requires a module in Wills Probate & Administration as this was not studied as an elective in their LPC.
- 13) AM (2022/47) – is a solicitor in a general practice and a recent graduate who specialises in Personal Injury and Commercial law who is currently on parental leave and is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption on the grounds of in-date qualifications. The Board granted an exemption from the five 'core' modules and from Conveyancing and Company Law based on their experience but need to see a full LPC transcript before making a decision on an exemption in Wills Probate & Administration. To be considered by the sub-committee. They should also be asked to re-submit a fully completed application form (ie Question 5B).
- 14) RK (2022/48) – is a solicitor in a niche Criminal & Immigration practice who is applying for a Certificate of Exemption on the basis of in date qualifications but these are in fact stale. The Board did not feel able to grant any exemptions given their niche practice area and the age of their academic qualifications.
- 15) AH (2022/49) – is a recent graduate and due to start a solicitor's training contract in October 2022 and is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption on the grounds of in-date qualification. The Board agreed that they be granted a full Certificate of Exemption.

- 16) AL (2022/50) – is a solicitor in general practice and is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption based on their experience in practise in the three professional subjects. The Board agreed that they be granted a full Certificate of Exemption.
- 17) DM – is a recent graduate and a trainee solicitor in general practise who is applying for a full Certificate of Exemption on the grounds of in-date qualifications. The Board agreed that they be granted a full Certificate of Exemption.

(b) Further Consideration

- 1) NK (2022/32) – is a solicitor in general practice who had applied for a full Certificate of Exemption. The Board had agreed that they be granted exemptions in the five ‘core’ subjects but had been asked to provide more information as regard his regular and relevant experience in each of the professional subjects including an average annual caseload. By email of 5 July they listed areas of law which they indicate “extensive experience in undertaking and supervising fee earners in” but no caseload evidence was supplied. Accordingly, the Board requires that they obtain modules in all three professional subjects.
- 2) AK (2022/27) – is a solicitor in general practice who had applied for a full Certificate of Exemption on the grounds of experience. The Board agreed that they be granted exemptions in the five ‘core’ subjects and in Company Law and Conveyancing and requested that they provide further information of experience in Wills Probate & Administration. The applicant supplied further information by email of 11 July but the Board noted that this all related to conveyancing albeit involving probate elements. The Board therefore requires that they obtain a module in Wills Probate & Administration.
- 3) HA (2022/31) – is a recent graduate who is applying on the basis of in-date qualifications and pending completion of the SQE. The Board had agreed that they should re-apply once they had completed SQE 1 and 2. By email of 4 July, the applicant indicated that they were a Notary Public in Turkey and enquired whether they should have applied under Rule 8. The Board did not feel able to advise on which route they should apply under but noted that, in either case, they

would be required to evidence relevant qualifications or experience in English Law which is only likely to be achieved once they have completed the SQE. It would then be for the Board to decide, based in the chosen application route, whether to award a Certificate of Exemption to enable them to enrol on the UCL course or what aptitude test to apply. An aptitude test would normally involve passing one or more of the examinations of the notarial practice course and in all cases the year 2 examination but the Board cannot stipulate (but only strongly recommend) that applicants first follow the course of study.

- 4) MB (2022/29) – is a solicitor in a general practice who had applied for a full Certificate of Exemption. The Board had granted exemptions in the five ‘core’ subjects and in Company Law and Conveyancing but had directed that they obtain a module in Wills Probate & Administration unless they could provide evidence of regular and substantial practice in this area. By email of 11 July, the applicant provided detailed information on the extent of their practice in 2013,14 and 15 prior to parental leave and details of continued relevant practice following return to work in November 2020. The Board agreed to grant an additional exemption in Wills Probate & Administration and therefore a full Certificate of Exemption.

General Note: The Board noted that the definition of what constitutes a general practice law firm in the guidance notes needs to be considered in the context of modern working practices. For example, in the case of one of the above applicants, the business model of the firm is that it conducts the broad range of legal work expected of a traditional full service law firm and in that sense it is a general practice; but matters are allocated to a specific fee-earner to conduct and all fee-earners work wholly from home with the collegiality and mutual support of the office environment having been lost. The Board also noted that the concept of a general practitioner lawyer is largely gone with an increasing expectation of legal specialisation. Time should be set aside for a fuller discussion at a future meeting.

## 7. APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION UNDER RULE 8.2

There were none.

## 8. APPLICATIONS FOR VALIDATION OF COURSES

There were none.

9. REFERENCES TO BOARD PURSUANT TO THE SCRIVENERS  
(QUALIFICATION) RULES 1998

There were none.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

11 October\*, 12 December\*\* [\*via Zoom, \*\* in person]