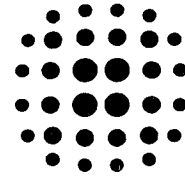




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Our ref: web-launch

23 September 2011

Mr Jonathan Smithers
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Dear Mr Smithers

Legal Education and Training Review (LETR)

As you may be aware, The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), the Bar Standards Board (BSB) and the Institute of Legal Executives Professional Standards (IPS) have commissioned a review of legal education and training in the legal services sector. We are writing to update you on progress and to invite your participation in the Review process.

The Legal Education and Training Review is the most substantial review of legal education and training since the publication of the 'Ormrod Report' (Report of the Committee on Legal Education (Cmnd 4595) in 1971. The core aims of the Review are to ensure that the ethical standards and levels of competence of those delivering legal services in regulated law firms are sufficient to secure a high standard of service for clients, and to support the public interest and the rule of law.

The UKCLE Research Consortium was awarded the contract to conduct the Review earlier this year and began work in earnest in May. The team is headed up by Professor Julian Webb of the University of Warwick and includes Professor Paul Maharg, University of Northumbria, Dr Jane Ching, Nottingham Trent University and Professor Avrom Sherr, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. The researchers will be conducting an extensive literature review, examining the current national and international context of legal education and training, and updating and developing an analysis of workforce demands in the legal services sector. The team is expected to present its final report in December 2012.

The overall conduct of the review is managed by the project's Review Executive, comprising the Chief Executive Officers of the SRA, BSB and IPS. A Consultation Steering Panel comprised of representatives from key stakeholder organisations and chaired by Dame Janet Gaymer and Sir Mark Potter, meets regularly and provides advice and information to the research team and the regulators.

We hope you will be interested in keeping in touch with the Review as it develops and to this end we are pleased to announce that the website for the LETR - www.lettr.org.uk - has just been launched by the research team. The website will be the primary up to date source of information about the work of the Review and will enable visitors to sign up for email alerts. If you register with the website you will additionally be able to comment on documents. Alternatively you can contact the Review team with any comments by emailing the dedicated email address at lettrbox@lettr.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Varnava
SRA Education Research Manager

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