

# Proposals to change how the English or Welsh language proficiency of qualified lawyers is assured

## About you

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**First name(s)**

Dawn

**Last name**

Lawson

**Please enter your SRA number (if applicable)**

██████████

**Your email address**

██████████@██████████.██████████

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on behalf of an organisation

**On behalf of what type of organisation?**

Law society

**Please enter the name of the society**

Surrey Law Society

**How should we publish your response?**

**Please select an option below.**

Publish the response with my/our name

## Consultation questions

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**1) To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should check the English language proficiency of a qualified lawyer before they are admitted as a solicitor, rather than when they apply for their first practising certificate?**

Strongly agree

**Please add any comments you wish to make:** I believe it would be beneficial for the applicants if any pre-requisites to obtaining a practising certificate were dealt with as early as possible to avoid disappointment at a later stage and to afford more time for the pre-requisites to be met. It would also afford the regulator sufficient opportunity to make any necessary checks.

**2) To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should accept as evidence of English language proficiency a qualified lawyer's professional legal qualification, where that qualification was assessed in English?**

Strongly agree

**Please add any comments you wish to make:** If a student has studied law in English and passed the relevant exams in English then I think to require a further assessment of their English language proficiency would be superfluous.

**3) To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should not accept as evidence of a qualified lawyer's English language proficiency a degree taught in English where that degree was not also the professional legal qualification of the qualified lawyer?**

Agree

**Please add any comments you wish to make:** The use of the English language in a legal context incorporates archaic and legal terminology which are not commonly found in other subjects. I think it would be prudent therefore if an applicant has studied a subject other than law in English that there is a separate assessment.

**4) To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should accept as evidence of a qualified lawyer's English language proficiency an IELTS score of 7.5 or higher (or a score of an equivalent standard in an alternative SELT)?**

Agree

**Please add any comments you wish to make:**

**5) To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should accept a score from any SELT that is approved by the UK Government for use in visa or citizenship applications?**

Disagree

**Please add any comments you wish to make:** I think there needs to be a higher standard applied to Lawyers.

**(untitled)**

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**6) To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should only accept as evidence of a qualified lawyers' English language proficiency a SELT score where the test provider considers the outcome to be valid at the time it is submitted to the SRA?**

Strongly agree

**Please add any comments you wish to make:**

**7) To what extent do you agree with our proposed transitional arrangements?**

Agree

**Please add any comments you wish to make:**

**8) Are there any additional impacts, either positive or negative, to those we have identified in our initial equality impact assessment of our proposals?**

No

**9) Alongside this consultation, we have published a tracked change version of the amendments we proposed to make to our current regulations and Principles for Qualified Lawyers. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed amendments would give effect to the policy proposals on which we are consulting?**

Agree

**Please add any comments you wish to make:**