

SRA BOARD

1 June 2016

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Legal Services Board Performance Reports

Purpose

- 1 To share the Legal Services Board's (LSB) latest performance report on the SRA and Regulatory Standards Thematic Report with the Board.

Recommendations

- 2 The Board is asked to note:
 - a) the Solicitor's Regulation Authority's Regulatory Standards Report 2015/16 at Annex 1;
 - b) the Regulatory Standards Thematic Report 2015/16 at Annex 2.

If you have any questions about this paper please contact: Paul Philip, Chief Executive, paul.philip@sra.org.uk, 0121 329 6940

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CLASSIFICATION – PUBLIC**Legal Services Board Performance Reports****Background**

- 3 These reports are the process by which the LSB holds the regulators to account for their performance. It carries out a full assessment every two years (and this is their second full assessment of the SRA – the first being in 2012/13) and last year they produced a shorter Update Report. The first full assessment was mostly critical and the fact that this report is so much more positive is testament to the work which has been done in the last two years or so and the considerable improvement that that enabled us to show in our self assessment.
- 4 We saw the reports in draft and the substantive comments that we made have been accepted by the LSB. Overall the reports are positive. Board members who were in post last year will remember that we discussed our self assessment, on which the SRA performance report is based, at the 21 October 2015 Board meeting. The Board agreed that the “undertaking improvement and work is well underway” grading was appropriate for each of the five standards against which we were asked to self assess. You will see from page 5 and paragraph 25 of the performance report that for the risk assessment standard the LSB has graded us higher at “satisfactory”.
- 5 In addition to risk assessment, areas on which the LSB has commented positively in its report on us include:
 - efforts to engage effectively with consumers (paragraph 17);
 - provision of clear information on enforcement (paragraph 43);
 - engagement of the senior team with the profession, local law societies and SRA staff (paragraph 54); and
 - efforts to clarify and refine the focus of committees (paragraph 58).
- 6 Areas on which the LSB calls for further improvement include:
 - demonstrating that outcomes are achieved (paragraph 15);
 - approach to consultation (paragraph 21);
 - improvements in transparency on interventions activity (paragraph 45); and
 - development of an effective IT solution (paragraph 56).

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Recommendations: to note

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- b) **the Regulatory Standards Thematic Report 2015/16 at Annex 2.**

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Annexes

Annex 1 Solicitor's Regulation Authority's Regulatory Standards Report 2015/16

Annex 2 Regulatory Standards Thematic Report 2015/16