



Consultation Questionnaire - response deadline 5pm on 3 April 2017

Respondent information

What is your name?

What is your email address?

(Required)

Are you responding as an individual or and organisation?

(Required)

Individual

Organisation

What is your organisation?

If responding on behalf of an organisation, please enter the organisation's name here.

SLAB would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

NOTE - If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, anonymous publishing refers only to your name, not your organisation's name. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published. If you do not provide a response to this question we will assume that you agree to our publishing your response.

(Required)

Publish response with name

Publish response only (anonymous) - Individuals only

Do not publish response

We may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so.

Are you content for SLAB to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

(Required)

Yes

No

Specific questions for consideration

Part A - Introduction, Principles and Definitions

1. Do you agree with the structure of the new Code?

Yes No

If no, please provide further information:

2. Do you find it helpful for the new Code to set out indicators of compliance?

[These indicators are in the Code at - 4.3.3, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 5.2.8, 6.2, 6.4.5, 7.1.10, 7.4.2, 7.6.3 and 7.8]

Yes No

If no, please provide further information:

Part B - The Providers of Criminal Legal Assistance

3. (a) Do you agree that solicitors providing criminal legal assistance should be expected to conduct a minimum number of cases in any one practising certificate year?

Yes No (If no, please go to Q3(c) below)

If you answered yes to 3(a):

- how should a case be defined? For example, should this be a grant of criminal legal aid or ABWOR as a nominated solicitor?

- do you agree that 12 cases is an appropriate number?

Yes (If yes, please go to Q4(a) below) No

(b) If you answered no to 12 cases being appropriate, what number should be considered the minimum?

(c) If you answered no to 3(a), please explain why you feel there should not be any minimum number of cases:

4. (a) Where solicitors do not conduct the minimum requirement, do you consider that additional CPD is a sufficient substitute?

Yes No (If no, please go to Q5 below)

(b) If yes, what amount of CPD directly relevant to the provision of criminal legal assistance would be required?

Hours of CPD

5-10

10-15

15-20

Other - please specify

What form should this CPD take? For example, should this be organised courses rather than self study?

(c) If you answered no to 4(a), please suggest how SLAB should ensure that solicitors are equipped to represent clients:

5. Do you think that there are any other ways which a solicitor could show an appropriate level of competence in conducting criminal cases, if she/he has not had a substantial involvement in the preparation and/or met the minimum requirements?

Yes No

If yes, please suggest other ways competence could be demonstrated:

Part C - The Provision of Criminal Legal Assistance

6. Do you agree that the Code should include specific requirements (paragraphs 7.1.1 to 7.120) relating to Court and Police Station duty work?

Yes No

7. Do you consider that the specific requirements for duty solicitors are appropriate?

Yes
No

Please suggest any other specific requirements which should be included here?

General Matters

8. Do you consider that there are any matters not covered in this draft new Code of Practice which need to be included?

Yes No

If 'Yes', please give details:

9. Do you consider that there are matters included in this draft Code which should not be required?

Yes No

If 'Yes', please give details:

10. Do you have other views on the proposed Code of Practice that are not covered in the specific questions, please provide details:

By sending us your response you give us permission to analyse and include your response in our results.

How to return this questionnaire

By email or post

Completed questionnaires should be emailed to: consultations@slab.org.uk

Or printed and posted to: Kingsley Thomas, Head of Criminal Legal Assistance, Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HE

Enquiries: If you have a query about the consultation process, please contact:

Kingsley Thomas, Head of Criminal Legal Assistance, thomaski@slab.org.uk