



# ARB Business Plan 2020



Architects  
Registration  
Board

**This Business Plan outlines how ARB intends to deliver its 2019-2021 Strategic Objectives in the coming year. It has been developed during a period of significant challenge for architects, as the profession adjusts to a time of important change within the built environment.**

The Grenfell Tower Disaster and subsequent reform within the industry means that expectations are changing around how the built environment is regulated, with renewed emphasis on professionals being able to demonstrate they are competent to carry out their work. In addition to this, the climate change emergency means that architects of the future will need to have enhanced skills and knowledge to play a key role in the design and construction of safe, sustainable buildings.

In response to these challenges, ARB intends to become a catalyst for a wider conversation amongst the profession and its key stakeholders to re-establish what it is that defines a competent architect. In due course, we will revisit our standards to ensure that existing architects, as well as those joining the Architects Register, can achieve and maintain suitable competence in these core areas.

To help maintain trust in the profession, we will continue to develop robust regulatory systems, and seek greater engagement with architects at all stages of their career. As well as enhancing our communications with those we regulate, we will take a more proactive approach to increasing awareness of the Register and its role in helping the public make informed choices when commissioning architectural services.

The UK's departure from the European Union brings transition which could impact the way architects are registered in the UK and potentially open up new opportunities for UK qualified architects overseas. We will manage the changes arising from the UK's departure from the EU appropriately and explore relevant opportunities as they present themselves.

Finally, and in order to deliver on this challenging agenda for change, we will continue to strive to make ARB a high-performing and innovative organisation, by continuing to invest in our workforce and by implementing a technology and data strategy that will produce improved performance, efficiency and analysis.

# Aims and Purpose

**ARB's primary purpose is to deliver the Architects Act, and the Board has identified two aims from the Act which underpin our core work, being:**

**To protect the users and potential users of architects' services:**

We will protect the users and potential users of architects' services by regulating architects so that the public can be confident that architects are appropriately qualified. We will raise the public's awareness of the Register.

**To support architects through regulation:**

We will maintain and publicly demonstrate the status of architects as competent, qualified professionals, and we will regulate use of the title "architect". We will raise awareness of the Architects Code of Conduct and Practice and the need to maintain competence.

# Strategic Objectives

**In addition to our core work, the Board has identified four strategic objectives for delivery in the years 2019-2021. The work we plan to undertake in 2020 continues us along with path of delivering that strategic plan. The strategic objectives are:**

- Organisational Excellence
- Planning an effective exit from the European Union
- Having a fit for purpose Architects Register
- Maintaining strong relationships

## Section A – Organisational Excellence

We will deliver efficiencies and improve performance in way that does not sacrifice accessibility, by:

- Maintaining high standards of **Corporate Governance**, to ensure that ARB has the robust processes, policies and procedures in place required for business to be conducted in an effective way which is in line with the principles of public life
- Delivering an **Information Technology** strategy which will provide efficiencies both in cost and time
- Maintaining **Organisational Capability** and improve performance
- Demonstrating **Financial Prudence**

We have set out below the steps we will take in 2019 to help achieve these objectives.

	Area of Work	Goals for 2020
A1	Corporate governance	Redesign Board papers so they maximise the facilitation of effective decision making
		Continue to populate ARB's committees with members who have relevant experience and expertise
		Reviewing the Board appraisal and Board effectiveness processes and implement any changes by the end of 2020
		Carry out an internal audit of governance arrangements to ensure their effectiveness and identify improvements
A2	Information Technology	Strengthen cybersecurity to mitigate risk and protect the organisation's data
		Develop new case-management systems to facilitate the efficient delivery of the organisation's objectives and IT strategy
		Deliver improvements to ensure that our technological services meet the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations when they impact on ARB in September 2020, and implement a new back-up solution to improve data availability
		Migrate appropriate email systems into cloud-based systems to improve stability and access

	Area of Work	Goals for 2020
A3	Maintain organisational capability and improve performance	Deliver the final year objectives of the three year Equality & Diversity Performance Plan; evaluate its impact, and agree new objectives with the Board
		Create a people strategy to ensure that ARB has the resource to be a highly effective regulator
		Develop a training framework to ensure that capability and support is available to deliver the organisation's needs
		Appoint and induct new Professional Conduct Committee members
		Create a performance review framework for external service providers
A4	Demonstrate financial prudence	Continue with a rolling programme of tenders for services, so to ensure we are getting the best possible value for money

## Section B - Exit from the European Union

We will respond to the UK's changing relationship with Europe and the Rest of the World in a way which continues to protect consumers and supports architects through regulation, by ensuring that ARB is able to **operate effectively** during any Brexit implementation period and **explore appropriate opportunities** post EU-exit.

	Area of Work	Goals for 2020
B1	Managing a smooth exit from the EU	If a 'no deal' EU exit happens, roll-out the plans which have been made to operate in this eventuality
		If a deal is secured, provide support and advice to relevant government departments in relation to the development of systems to support the new deal throughout the implementation period
		Ensure that key policy decisions are taken so that the organisation can continue to carry out its statutory functions
		Ensure that any changes to legislation and policy positions are embedded at an operational level and that we continue to provide clear ongoing guidance to our stakeholders on the impact of Brexit
B2	Exploring post EU-exit opportunities	Continue to explore the establishment of Mutual Recognition Agreements with other countries, if legislation permits

## Section C - Fit for purpose Architects Register

We will review the requirements for entry to and retention on the Architects Register, by:

- **Reviewing the routes** by which individuals can gain access to the Register of Architects
- **Monitoring architects' competence** so as to provide assurance to the users of architects' services that they will be engaging with an appropriately skilled and qualified professional
- Work with government and others to influence and support opportunities for **legislative change**

	Area of Work	Goals for 2020
C1	Undertake a review of how individuals can gain access to the Architects Register	Carry out research to determine what skills and competencies future architects must have to gain entry to the Register
		Develop a project-plan for delivering a review of the UK routes to registration
C2	Monitor architects' competence	Devise and consult on the Board's plan to monitor the competence of architects
C3	Work with government and others to influence and support opportunities for legislative change	Provide proposals for legislative changes to MHCLG which are supported by evidence, so that opportunities to improve the Architects Act are maximised
C4	Prescribing Qualifications	Carry out a review of the way in which the Board prescribes qualifications so as to ensure that its processes continue to deliver its statutory responsibilities in this area, and that they remain fit for purpose in a changing environment

## Section D - Strong Relationships

We will improve ARB relationships and communications with the public, the profession and other key stakeholders, by:

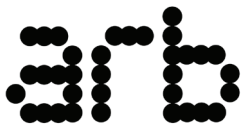
- **Raising awareness** of the Register of Architects;
- **Communicating the value** of ARB's regulatory role
- Communicate **regulatory expectations** to the profession

	Area of Work	Goals for 2020
D1	Raise awareness of the Register of Architects	Continue with the two year project dedicated to raising public awareness of the Register and title protection to support the public in making informed choices about the professionals they engage
D2	Communicate the value of ARB's regulatory role	Continue to build and develop stronger relationships with stakeholders
		Implement agreed actions arising from the 2019 Stakeholder Engagement Survey and anticipate their future communications needs
D3	Explain regulatory expectations to the profession	Develop and implement a strategy for improving communication with architects on all aspects of current and future professional standards

### Glossary

MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
PCC	Professional Conduct Committee





**Architects  
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