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Architects Registration Board

Competence Review Call for Evidence: We want to hear from you

To ensure our regulatory system protects the public and supports the profession, we are carrying out a review of architects' competence to ensure they have the right blend of knowledge, skills, experience and behaviours required in the 21st Century. The review will use research and widespread engagement with stakeholders to consider what the standard of entry to the Architects Register should be, and what skills and knowledge are required to remain on the Register. As well as defining these competences, the review will support the development of the regulatory processes needed to ensure they are met.

The current criteria for prescribing qualifications in architecture have been in place since 2010. However, technological, material, environmental, educational and political contexts are constantly evolving, impacting on the competencies required of architects. Are the current criteria fit for purpose?

In addition, people remain in work longer, but there are currently no specific requirements for architects to carry out Continued Professional Development as a condition of being on the Register, other than a general expectation under the Architects Code to maintain competence. Is this sufficient to ensure that only competent architects remain registered and to provide assurance and confidence to the public?

The review comprises a number of stages over the next 2-3 years. Throughout 2020 we will be carrying out research to gather views and evidence on what it takes to be an architect. This research will include surveys of architects and employers; qualitative research with other stakeholders, including students, schools of architecture and clients;.

This Call for Evidence is a key part of that research. We are eager to collect as diverse a range of opinions and evidence on these fundamental questions of what it means to be an architect, so that we can take informed regulatory decisions in the coming months.

Your input to the Review of Architects' Competence is greatly appreciated to help us develop a proportionate, effective regulatory model and we thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the Call for Evidence.

Personal Data
Information in response to this call for evidence *may* be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018).

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ARB will not share named data from this Call for Evidence with third parties unless obliged to.

We may publish the content of your response to this call for evidence to make it available to the public but without your name.

If you want your response kept confidential, please clearly state what information you would like to be kept confidential and why (question 2 below). This is to help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this call for evidence, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Name	
If you want your responses kept confidential in all circumstances, please provide your reason	

Call for Evidence
About you

To help with our analysis, please tell us if you are:

	Please tick one
A UK registered architect	
A non-UK registered architect	
An employer of architects (non-architect)	
A registered architect who also employs architects	
A student of architecture	
Involved in delivery of architecture education	
Other professional in construction and related industries (please state occupation)	
Have used the services of architects (individual)	
Client (organisation)	

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Other (please state)	

Is your primary business location:

	Please tick one
England	
Scotland	
Wales	
Northern Ireland	
European Union	
Other, non-EU country	

The role of an architect and competencies required

1. **What is the role of an Architect? What activities do they undertake? What activities would you expect Architects to undertake?**

2. **What competencies (skills, knowledge, experience, behaviours) does a 21st century architect require?**

Education, training and qualifying as a registered Architect

For an individual to register as an Architect, and have the right to use the title 'Architect', they must gain ARB-prescribed qualifications at Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3, with Part 3 including the requirement to gain 24 months of experience. These qualifications can be obtained through traditional prescribed degrees and post-graduate degrees at over 50 UK universities; Degree Apprenticeships and the RIBA studio (Parts 1 and 2 only). Individuals who have gained recognised qualifications in the EU may also register. Individuals with other overseas qualifications must have their qualifications tested for equivalence at Part 1 and/or Part 2 level and then complete the remainder of their qualifications via the UK route

3.   **Are the current routes to registration providing the competencies (skills, knowledge, experience, behaviours) needed? Does the current sequencing of education/experience work? Why do you say this?**

4.   **Is the time taken qualify as an architect too long, too short or about right?**

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5.   **If too long or too short, why do you say that?**

6.   **Are there different routes to registration which you think should be explored? If so, what are they?**

7. **How could the current routes to registration be changed to encourage more diversity and greater access to the profession?**

Maintaining skills and competencies throughout an architect's career

8. **The Building Safety Bill contains provisions to provide new legal powers to enable ARB to monitor the competence of architects throughout their career. There are a number of models to monitor competence. Firstly, *what* might the CPD expectations be? (tick all which apply)**

No change: a general requirement to be competent and an expectation keep knowledge up to date in respect of an architect's particular work
Specify a set minimum number of hours of formal and informal CPD per annum
Specify new when skills are required of the whole profession
Specify when new skills are required of particular specialisms
Specify when a new accredited or validated training is required of the whole profession
Specify when a new accredited or validated training is required of particular specialisms
Specify new or different behaviours required for the profession
Other (please state)

9. **And, secondly, *how* should they be implemented – what kind of model to monitor competence would be most effective for architects? (tick all which apply)?**

An on-line record of CPD completed by the architect, which can be checked by ARB for all architects
Audit of CPD activities, with architects randomly selected for audit
Audit of CPD activities, with architects selected on the basis of a risk assessment for the profession
An architect demonstrates compliance with any requirement through submitting an application for renewal of registration, but with no checks.
Regular revalidation through interview, e.g. every 5 years
Regular revalidation through on-line test or similar demonstration of knowledge and experience

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Firm -based reviews of architect performance
Other (please state)

10. Why do you say this?

Criteria Review – detailed

The following questions relate to the Prescription of Qualifications: ARB Criteria at Parts 1, 2 and 3, 2010 edition.

11. How familiar are you with the ARB Criteria?

Very familiar
Slightly familiar
Not very familiar
Not used or seen criteria before

Parts 1 and 2: General Criteria

12. **For each of the General Criteria 1-11, please make any comments or suggestions that you have relating to the detailed content, with particular consideration on ensuring architects have the competencies (skills, knowledge, experience, behaviours)required for the 21st century:**

Criterion	Comments
1: Create designs meeting aesthetic and technical requirements	
2: History and theory of architecture and related subjects	
3: Influence of fine arts on architectural design	
4: Urban design, planning and the planning process	
5: Relationship between building and people and their environment	
6: Role of architects in society	
7: Investigation and preparation of a design project brief	
8: Structural design, construction and engineering problems associated with building design	

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9: Function of buildings and technologies to provide comfort and protection	
10: Design skills to meet building user requirements within cost and building regulations	
11: Contextual knowledge.	

13. **In Parts 1 and 2, each general criterion is currently underpinned by a set of three additional bullet points and no weightings are applied to criteria (aside from a requirement that 50% of assessed work must be in design). Are some criteria more important than others? How should this be indicated? ?**

14. **Is there another way to describe required competencies which might replace the criteria? What is it and what would the advantages be?**

Parts 1 and 2: Graduate Attributes

15. **Do the Graduate Attributes reflect the required levels of competence (skills, knowledge, experience, behaviour) at Part 1 and Part 2? Are there additional attributes at Part 1 and/or Part 2 which are required and should be specified? Are they sufficiently stretching or too stretching? Why do you say this?**

16. **Does achievement of Part 1 ensure all entrants to Part 2 have consistent skills, knowledge, experience and behaviour? Why do you say this?**

17. **The General Criteria for Parts 1 and 2 are currently the same, with the differences between the two levels indicated by the Graduate Attributes. Would you prefer:**

   - **to keep the current approach to differentiating Parts 1 and 2 through the Graduate Attributes**
   - **the detail for competencies to be different at Part 1 and Part 2, removing the need for the Graduate Attributes**
   - **another approach (please describe and explain what the advantages would be)**

Part 3 Professional Criteria

18. **For each of the Professional Criteria 1-5, please make any comments or suggestions that you have relating to the detailed content, with particular focus on how attainment of Part 3 ensures architects have the competencies required for the 21st century:**

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Criterion	Comments
1: Professionalism	
2: Clients, users and delivery of services	
3: Legal framework and processes	
4: Practice and Management	
5: Building procurement	

19. Is there another way to describe required competencies which might replace the Professional Criteria at Part 3? What is it and what would the advantages be?

This is the end of the questions.

ARB is conducting further research in 2020 to inform the review. Are you willing to allow ARB and its contractors to invite you to partake in this research? If yes, please provide further contact details. If not, please leave blank and continue to the Call for Evidence questions below.

Telephone number	
Email address	
Job Title (if relevant)	
Company (if relevant)	

Thank you for your interest and for supporting us in this vital work.

If you have any queries, please email callforevidence@arb.org.uk.