

# House of Commons: Written Statement (HCWS1319)

## Ministry of Justice

Written Statement made by: **Minister of State for Justice (Sarah Sackman)** on 10 Feb 2026.

### Legal Services Board Review

I am pleased to announce the review of the Legal Services Board (LSB). It is best practice for departments to regularly review their public bodies to provide assurance to both Government and the public that these bodies are operating effectively, and that their functions remain useful and necessary. In the case of legal services, this assurance is especially significant because the sector's regulatory framework must remain demonstrably independent of Government, a key pillar of the rule of law, and of public confidence in our justice system.

The Government is committed to reducing regulatory burdens that may stifle innovation and growth across various sectors, including the legal sector. However, the legal services regulatory framework is complex, encompassing a broad range of professions and regulatory bodies, each with their own scope, governance and approach.

Within this landscape, the LSB provides oversight of the approved regulators responsible for the direct regulation of legal services providers. We must ensure that the current regulatory oversight arrangements are effective and do not duplicate frontline regulators' work and initiatives. Robust and proportionate oversight is also crucial in ensuring that the sector continues to uphold the highest professional standards and safeguard public trust.

It has been several years since the last review of the LSB in 2017 and, since then, there have been significant developments in the legal services sector. These include the introduction of a new regulatory objective, concerns around professional ethics within the sector, as well as market developments - most notably, the rapid increase in the use of lawtech. Given these changes, it is timely and appropriate to review how the work of the LSB is delivered.

This review provides an opportunity to consider the LSB's statutory remit, its strategic clarity, governance and accountability arrangements, and the LSB's current capabilities. The review will assess how the LSB and the Ministry of Justice should work together to deliver value for money and ensure sufficient focus is maintained on the evolving priorities of legal services consumers and the wider sector.

This review will also ensure that current arrangements actively support the essential work undertaken by the approved regulators and legal services providers. It will support the effective delivery of the department's priorities for delivering accessible and timely justice, for upholding the rule of law, and in promoting our world-leading legal services.

I have appointed Richard Lloyd to lead on the review. Richard is the Chair of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. He is an experienced senior executive and non-executive director, with a strong track record of chairing high-profile regulatory bodies and committees and

a reputation for integrity and commitment to public service. Richard has substantial experience of transforming the effectiveness of a wide range of organisations, improving operational delivery in public and private sector services. He is independent from the Ministry of Justice and will provide objective analysis of the LSB and the department.

As part of this review, a call for evidence will be issued to gather feedback and views. This will take place alongside targeted engagement with stakeholders to inform the review's findings. A link to the call for evidence can be found below.

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/legal-services-board-public-bodies-review/>

I will make a further announcement on completion of the review in Summer 2026. Following this, I will set out the Government's response.