

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

30 MAY 2012

LSB welcomes

Fair Access to Professional Careers report

The LSB today welcomes the progress report on **Fair Access to Professional Careers** by the Independent Reviewer on Social Mobility and Child Poverty.

LSB Chief Executive Chris Kenny said:

*We welcome today's report on **Fair Access to Professional Careers** by the Right Hon. Alan Milburn and in particular the focus on issues around progression and retention that have an impact throughout a lawyer's career. All available data suggests that these are the areas where significant progress has yet to be made in the legal profession. The report also emphasises the importance of data collection and evaluation in driving progress, where the LSB has provided decisive leadership to the approved regulators.*

We agree with the report's assessment that progress in the legal profession must be accelerated. To this end the LSB will publish tomorrow our assessment of the approved regulator's action plans for improving data collection and transparency around diversity and social mobility in the legal sector. These assessments are broadly in line with his judgement that, although headway is being made, significant progress is still required."

For further information, please contact our Communications Manager [Vincent McGovern](#) or by calling 020 7271 0068.

Notes for editors

1. The LSB's assessments of the approved regulator's action plans will be published on our [website](#) during the morning of Thursday 31 May.
2. The LSB's guidance on data collection and transparency can be found [here](#).
3. The Legal Services Act ("The Act") created the Legal Services Board as a new regulator with responsibility for overseeing the regulation of legal services in England and Wales. The new regulatory regime became active on 1 January 2010.
4. One of the Regulatory Objectives of the Act is to "encourage an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession".
5. The LSB oversees eight approved regulators, which in turn regulate individual lawyers. The approved regulators, designated under Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2007 Act, are the Law Society, the Bar Council, the Master of the Faculties, the Institute of Legal Executives, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys and the Association of Costs Lawyers.
6. In addition, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants are listed as approved regulators in relation only to reserved probate activities.
7. The legal profession currently consists of some 15,000 barristers, 119,000 solicitors and 12,000 individuals operating in other aspects of the legal profession such as conveyancing. The sector is currently valued at £24.74 billion per annum (total turnover in 2009).