

Level 6 Chartered Legal Executive and Level 7 Chartered Legal
Executive Litigator and Advocate Apprenticeship

External Quality Assurance

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Introduction

CILEx Regulation (CRL) was appointed as the External Quality Assurer (EQA) for the Chartered Legal Executive Apprenticeship in October 2018. CRL is currently responsible for the external quality assurance of the following apprenticeship standards:

- Chartered Legal Executive Level 6 (ST0244)
- Chartered Legal Executive Litigator and Advocate (ST1268)

Oversight of CRL's role as External Quality Assurer is provided by the Admissions and Licensing Committee.

This report presents a review of the work undertaken by CRL in its capacity as External Quality Assurer during the 2025 reporting period.

Work Completed during 2025

During 2025, CILEx Regulation (CRL) undertook two External Quality Assurance (EQA) audits of CILEX: an interim visit in May and a full audit visit in October.

CILEX is currently completing End-point Assessments (EPAs) for apprentices registered on the Chartered Legal Executive Level 6 Apprenticeship Standard V1.0, which is now closed to new entrants.

Reflecting the significant experience developed by CILEX since becoming an End-point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) for this standard in 2015, only one minor action point was identified across both audit visits. Reports from both audits were submitted to Skills England, which assumed the responsibilities of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education in June 2025.

A total of 67 apprentices successfully completed the End-Point Assessment (EPA) for the Chartered Legal Executive L6 Version 1.0¹ Apprenticeship Standard with CILEX during 2025.

CILEX anticipates undertaking the first EPAs for the Chartered Legal Executive Level 6 Version 2.1 and the Chartered Legal Executive Litigator and Advocate Level 7 Version 2.1² Apprenticeship Standards during 2026.

During the reporting period, CRL also worked with Summit Skills, a Department for Education-approved EPAO for a number of apprenticeship standards, including Paralegal Level 3 and Advanced Paralegal Level 5. Summit Skills submitted the required evidence to enable CRL to complete the readiness checks mandated by Skills England, in preparation for authorisation as an EPAO for the Chartered Legal Executive Level 6 Apprenticeship Standard V2.1.

In November 2025, CRL applied for and was granted authorisation from the Legal Services Board (LSB) to award stand-alone litigation practice rights in Civil, Criminal and Family Litigation. As these practice rights are benchmarked at Level 6, they were automatically incorporated into the

¹ Leads to authorisation as a CILEX Fellow. Last date for new starts of 13 June 2023

² Leads to authorisation as a CILEX Fellow with independent practice rights. For new starts from 14 June 2023

approved specialist pathways within the Chartered Legal Executive Level 6 Apprenticeship Standard. It is anticipated that this development will lead to a significant increase in the uptake of the standard, particularly as it represents the only apprenticeship route funded for individuals aged over 21 that enables the award of rights to conduct litigation.

Forward Look

In 2026, CILEx Regulation (CRL) will continue to undertake External Quality Assurance (EQA) audits of CILEX to ensure that End-point Assessments (EPAs) are conducted in full compliance with the requirements of the relevant Apprenticeship Standards, associated Assessment Plans, and applicable regulatory guidance.

CRL will also commence EQA activity in relation to Summit Skills, following the completion of their initial End-point Assessments. This will ensure that consistent standards of quality and compliance are maintained across all approved End point Assessment Organisations (EPAOs) authorised to assess Chartered Legal Executive Apprenticeships.

In addition, CRL will continue to engage with Skills England and the Apprenticeship Trailblazer Group to promote the Chartered Legal Executive and Chartered Legal Executive Litigator and Advocate Apprenticeship Standards. This work will focus on supporting the recognition of these pathways as credible and effective routes for those wishing developing careers within the legal services sector.

