CILEx REGULATION INVESTIGATION, DISCIPLINARY AND APPEAL ENFORCEMENT RULES 2015
CILEx\textbf{ REGULATION INVESTIGATION, DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALSENFORCEMENT RULES}

\textbf{PART I: GENERAL}

\textbf{Application of Rules, Establishment of Panels and Tribunal}

\textbf{1.} (1) These Rules apply to any:

(a) allegation of misconduct made against a Relevant Person; or
(b) declaration of prior conduct made by an Applicant or Relevant Person.

(2) In these rules \textit{misconduct} means any breach of the CILEx Code of Conduct.

(3) The Professional Conduct Panel is established for the purposes set out in Part II.

(4) The Disciplinary Tribunal is established for the purposes set out in Part III.

(5) The Appeals Panel is established for the purposes set out in Part IV.

(6) Responsibility for the application and administration of these Rules is delegated by CILEx to CILEx Regulation.

\textbf{Panellists}

\textbf{2.} (1) CILEx Regulation must appoint and maintain lists of lay and professional members to act as panellists on:

(a) the Professional Conduct Panel;
(b) the Disciplinary Tribunal; and
(c) the Appeals Panel.

(2) A person must not at any one time be included in more than one list maintained under paragraph Rule 2 (1).

(3) CILEx Regulation must remove from the relevant list the name of any panellist:

(a) whose term of appointment has ended and not been renewed;
(b) who has resigned by giving notice in writing to that effect to CILEx Regulation; or
(c) who in the opinion of CILEx Regulation has ceased to be a suitable person to act as a panellist.

(4) The term of appointment of a panellist must be not more than \textit{five three} years and no panellist may serve for more than \textit{ten six} years.
Interpretation

3. (1) In these Rules, unless otherwise provided:

**allegation:** has the meaning given in Rule 15(1);

**Appeals Panel:** means the Appeals Panel established under Rule 1(5) as constituted from time to time;

**Applicant:** means a person applying:

(a) for Membership or Authorisation;

(b) to be an Approved Manager;

(c) to be licensed or to be an owner, designated officer or manager of a licensed body;

**Approved Manager:** has the meaning given to it in the CILEx Authorisation Rules;

**Authorisation:** means:

(a) authorisation or licensing by CILEx Regulation as an Approved Manager, Authorised Entity; or

(b) Authorisation or approval by CILEx Regulation as a Relevant Person CILEx Practitioner;

**Authorised Entity:** means a partnership (including a limited liability partnership), company or sole principal authorised by CILEx under the Legal Services Act 2007 to:

(a) carry on an activity which is a reserved legal activity; or

(b) provide immigration advice or immigration services;

**Chair:** means the Chair of the Professional Conduct Panel, the Tribunal or Appeals Panel as the case may be;

**CILEx:** means the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives;

**CILEx Member:** means a person who has been admitted to membership of CILEx in any grade;

**CILEx Regulation:** means CILEx Regulation Limited;

**CILEx Practitioner:** means a practitioner authorised by CILEx to provide one or more regulated legal activity;

**Clerk:** means the Clerk to the Professional Conduct Panel, Tribunal or Appeals Panel as the case may be;
complainant: means a person who has made a complaint against report in respect of a Relevant Regulated Person to CILEx Regulation;

Compliance Manager: has the same meaning given in the CILEx Authorisation Rules;

Designated Officer: has the same meaning given in the CILEx Licensing Rules;

Employee: means an employee of a licensed body;

Investigator: means a person or persons appointed by CILEx Regulation to conduct investigations and/or make such delegated decisions as may be provided for under these Rules;

Disciplinary Tribunal: means the Disciplinary Tribunal established by Rule 1(4) as constituted from time to time;

lay member: means a person who is not and who has never been an authorised person (within the meaning of section 18 of the Legal Services Act 2007) or registered by CILEx in any grade of membership;

Licensed Body: has the same meaning given in the CILEx Licensing Rules;

Manager: has the same meaning given in Section 207 of the Legal Services Act 2007;

Membership: means enrolment or reinstatement as a CILEx Member;

misconduct: has the meaning given in Rule 1(2);

Person: includes an individual, body corporate or other entity;

Practice Management Agreement: has the meaning given in Rule 30(6);

Professional Conduct Panel: means the Professional Conduct Panel established under Rule 1(3) as constituted from time to time;

Prior Conduct: has the meaning given in Rule 11(4);

professional member: means a Fellow of CILEx who is not a member of the CILEx Council or the CILEx Regulation Board of Directors and who is otherwise eligible to be appointed to a list of panellists under Rule 2;

regulated legal activity: means:

(a) a reserved legal activity;
(b) immigration advice or immigration services;

Regulated Person: means either a Relevant Person or an Employee;

Relevant address: has the meaning given in Rule 5(2);

Relevant Person: means an Approved Manager, Authorised
reserved legal activity: Entity, CILEx Member or CILEx Practitioner; has the same meaning as in the Legal Services Act 2007;

Respondent: means a person against whom allegations have been made;

Tribunal means the Disciplinary Tribunal established under Rule 1 (4) as constituted from time to time.

(2) Subject to Rule 3 (1) and Rules 7, 21 and 33, the Interpretation Act 1978 applies to these Rules as if they were an Act of Parliament.

Extension of Time

4. Where these Rules prescribe a time limit by which a person must act or after which they may not act, an Investigator, the Professional Conduct Panel, the Disciplinary Tribunal or the Appeals Panel (as the case may be) may, upon application to the Panel or Tribunal dealing with the matter, vary that time limit if satisfied that in all the circumstances it is reasonable to do so.

Service of Documents

5. (1) Any notice required to be given under these Rules may be given to a person or that person’s representative:

   (a) by sending it by first class post to a relevant address; or
   (b) by leaving it at a relevant address; or
   (c) by personal service, effected by leaving the document with an individual or, in the case of a body corporate or other entity, with a director, officer or manager of that body corporate or entity; or
   (d) by such other method as the Professional Conduct Panel, the Disciplinary Tribunal or the Appeals Panel (as the case may be) may direct.

   CILEx Regulation may adopt a written policy as to the forms of electronic service which would constitute effective service under this Rule.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph Rule 5 (1), a relevant address means:

   (a) in the case of an individual, the last known address of that person, including their usual or last known residence or usual or last known place of business; or
   (b) in the case of a body corporate or other entity, its principal or registered office, its last known address or any other office or place of business which is connected to the proceedings to which the notice relates; and for this purpose, the last known address of a Relevant Person is the address of that person as it appears in records maintained by CILEx Regulation.
A notice which is served in accordance with paragraph Rule 5 (1) is deemed to be served at the time of personal service or delivery or on the second working day after it was posted. In the case of service under the written policy provided under Rule 5 (1) above then the policy may provide for the deemed time of service.

Where it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is in the public interest to do so, the Professional Conduct Panel, the Disciplinary Tribunal or the Appeals Panel (as the case may be) may:

- deem service to be effective even though the requirements of paragraph Rule 5 (1) have not been complied with; or
- dispense with the requirement of service altogether; or
- make an order for substituted or alternative service on such terms as it considers appropriate.

Effect on Membership or Authorisation

Where a Relevant Person is the subject of any investigation or proceedings under these Rules termination of the Membership or Authorisation will not be valid until any such investigation or proceedings are determined. Determination includes any determination by consent order entered into with the Relevant Person, must not be permitted to terminate their Membership or Authorisation whilst the subject of any investigation or proceedings under these Rules.

PART II: INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS AND THE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT PANEL

Interpretation of Part II

In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires:

- Clerk: means the Clerk to the Professional Conduct Panel;
- Investigator: means a person appointed by CILEx Regulation to conduct investigations under this Part;
- Panel: means the Professional Conduct Panel; and
- prior conduct: has the meaning given in Rule 11(4).

Professional Conduct Panel

The Panel must consider:

- declarations of prior conduct made by or on behalf of Applicants and Relevant Persons and other information relating to their prior conduct; and
- allegations made against Relevant Regulated Persons.
Composition of the Panel

8.9. (1) The quorum for a meeting of the Professional Conduct Panel is three members from the list of panellists maintained under Rule 2(1)(a), of whom two must be lay members and one must be a professional member.

(2) The Panel must:

(a) before the commencement of the meeting select one of their number to chair the meeting; or
(b) if different members are to chair different parts of the meeting, elect one of their number to chair the different parts before considering each particular matter before considering that matter.

(3) If during the course of any consideration of a matter by the Panel, a member of the Panel is unable to continue to attend the meeting, then subject to there being two remaining members, the Panel may, with the consent of the parties continue with the meeting.

(4) Where under Rule 8 (3), a matter is considered by the remaining two members and they are unable to reach a determination, the matter must be re-considered by a new Panel;

(5) The validity of any proceedings of the Panel shall not be affected by any defect in the appointment of a member.

Conduct of Meetings

9.10. (1) The Panel may determine its own procedure in accordance with these Rules, the guidance published from time to time by CILEx Regulation and the overriding requirement that proceedings are fair;

(2) Meetings of the Panel are to be held in private.

(3) Meetings must be held at the offices of CILEx Regulation unless the Panel decides otherwise but nothing in these Rules requires any meeting to be held outside the United Kingdom.

(4) Minutes and a record of the decisions of the Panel must be made by the Clerk.

(5) The Panel may resolve to consider and determine a matter without a meeting and, in that event, a decision signed by the members of the Panel is as valid as if it was made at a meeting.
In considering a matter, subject to 10(2) below the Panel:

(a) may take account of, but is not bound by, the findings, views or analysis of an Investigator who may submit their views in writing and/or orally at a meeting of the Panel;
(b) may seek further information from the Relevant Person;
(c) may take account of any further representations and material adduced by the Applicant or Relevant Regulated Person.

Where, in accordance with Rule 14(1)(c) or 17(56), the Panel has requested that:

(a) an Applicant or Relevant Person attend a meeting of the Panel; or
(b) where the Applicant or Relevant Person is an entity, that a representative of that entity attend a meeting of the Panel;

an Applicant or Relevant Person who so attends or which is so represented may be represented at the meeting by any person, whether or not legally qualified, but the Panel may refuse to permit a particular person to assist or represent a party if the Panel is satisfied that there are good and sufficient reasons for doing so.

Decisions at a meeting of the Panel are to be made by a majority vote of the panellists present.

The Panel must give reasons for its decisions and inform the parties of any right of appeal.

Within 14 days of a decision made by the Panel:

(a) the Clerk shall deliver to CILEx Regulation any decision and reasons of the Panel; and
(b) within seven days of receipt of the decision of the Panel, CILEx Regulation shall notify the Applicant or Relevant Person of that decision and, in the case of an allegation, CILEx Regulation must notify any complainant of the decision once it takes effect.

Evidence

10. (1) The burden of proof rests upon CILEx Regulation and the standard of proof is the balance of probabilities.

(2) Subject to the requirements of a fair decision, the strict rules of evidence do not apply and the Panel may:

(a) admit evidence whether or not it would be admissible in civil proceedings;
and
(b) exclude evidence that would otherwise be admissible.

Duty to Declare Prior Conduct

11. (1) Every Applicant or Relevant Person who is an individual must declare in writing to CILEx Regulation if that individual has at any time:

(a) been convicted or accepted a caution in the United Kingdom for a criminal offence, or been convicted elsewhere for an offence which, if committed in England and Wales, would constitute a criminal offence;
(b) been removed from being a trustee of, or being concerned with the management or control of, a charity;
(c) been removed from office as a member, director or manager of any public body;
(d) been adjudged bankrupt or made a composition with creditors;
(e) been disqualified from acting as a director of a company;
(f) been the subject of a civil judgment;
(g) been subject to any investigation or proceedings concerning the person’s fitness to practise by any regulatory or professional body;
(h) been involved in any other matter which may be relevant to a decision by CILEx Regulation to admit, authorise or approve that individual.

(2) Paragraph (1)(a) applies subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

(3) In respect of every Applicant or Relevant Person that is not an individual, a declaration must be made in writing to CILEx Regulation if:

(a) a resolution for a voluntary winding-up of the Relevant Person has ever been passed without a declaration of solvency under section 89 of the Insolvency Act 1986;
(b) the Relevant Person has ever entered administration within the meaning of paragraph Rule 1(2)(b) of Schedule B1 to that Act;
(c) an administrative receiver within the meaning of section 251 of that Act has been appointed in respect of that Relevant Person;
(d) a meeting of creditors has been held in relation to the Relevant Person under section 95 of that Act;
(e) an order for the winding up of the Relevant Person has been made;
(f) a civil judgment has been made against that Relevant Person;
(g) that Relevant Person has been the subject of any investigation or proceedings conducted by any regulatory or professional body;
(h) been involved in any other matter which may be relevant to a decision by CILEx Regulation to authorise or approve that individual.

(4) Each of the matters in paragraph Rule 11 (1) and (3) is referred to in these Rules as prior conduct.
In paragraphs Rules 11(1)(f) and (3)(f) references to a civil judgment are to a judgment of a civil-court concerning any debt, fraud, misrepresentation or conduct related to the administration of justice in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

A declaration of prior conduct is to be considered and determined in accordance with Rules 13 and 14.

**Timing of Declaration**

12.12. (1) Every Applicant must disclose full details of prior conduct at the earliest opportunity and, unless the conduct occurs later, in any application for Membership or Authorisation.

(2) Every Relevant Person must disclose full details of prior conduct at the earliest opportunity and in any event (if not previously disclosed to CILEx Regulation or CILEx):

(a) in the case of a CILEx Member:
   (i) in any application for Membership;
   (b) in the case of an Approved Manager, Authorised Entity or CILEx Practitioner:
      (i) in any application for Authorisation; and
      (ii) in any annual return form.

(b) in the case of a CILEx Member:
   (i) in any application for Membership;
   (ii) in any application for a change in Membership grade;
   (iii) in any other application to CILEx or CILEx Regulation; and
   (iv) in an annual return.

(3) Where requested to do so by CILEx Regulation, an Applicant or Relevant Person must provide further details of any prior conduct.

(4) Failure by a Relevant Person to comply with this Rule and Rule 11 may be treated as misconduct.

**Investigator Decisions: Prior Conduct**

13. In considering any declaration or any other information relating to prior conduct the Investigator should have regard to any guidance published by CILEx Regulation.

13. (1) An Investigator may determine that no action is to be taken in relation to a declaration of prior conduct where:

(a) the Applicant or Relevant Person has declared an outstanding judgment and there is no evidence of:

   (i) persistent or deliberate failure to meet financial obligations;
   (ii) a related criminal offence; or
   (iii) failure to make arrangements to pay off any debts;
(b) the Applicant or Relevant Person has declared a caution or spent conviction and is not a CILEx Fellow or CILEx Practitioner, or applying for CILEx Fellowship or CILEx Practitioner;

(c) the Applicant or Relevant Person has declared a driving offence and:

(i) there is no evidence of a persistent pattern of offending,
(ii) a custodial sentence was not imposed; and
(iii) the duration of any disqualification imposed was not 18 months or more;

(d) the Applicant or Relevant Person is or has been subject to a bankruptcy Order or has entered into an arrangement with their creditors; or

(e) the prior conduct is of a kind which the Panel has given the Investigator delegated authority to determine.

(2) The Investigator must, within 21 days of making a decision, notify the Applicant or Relevant Person of that decision and, in respect of a decision made under paragraph Rule 13 (1)(e), must at the same time inform the Panel of that decision.

(3) An Investigator may decline to make a determination under this Rule if, in the opinion of the Investigator, it would be more appropriate for the declaration to be determined by the Panel, in which case the investigator will make a referral to the Panel and notify the Applicant and/or Relevant Person within seven days of the referral.

(4) This Rule does not apply when an opinion in relation to prior conduct is sought by CILEx Regulation under the CILEx Licensing Rules.

Panel Decisions: Prior Conduct

14.14(1) In considering any declaration or other information relating to prior conduct, the Panel must have regard to any guidance published by CILEx Regulation and may:

(a) seek advice from or refer the matter to an Investigator or any CILEx or CILEx Regulation committee it considers appropriate;
(b) request that the Applicant or Relevant Person provide such further information as the Panel may reasonably require; and
(c) request that the Applicant or Relevant Person or, where the Applicant or Relevant person is an entity, a representative of that entity, attend a meeting of the Panel. If the Relevant Person and/or their representative attends the meeting of the Panel then CILEx Regulation shall be represented if it considers it appropriate.
(2) Failure by an Applicant or Relevant Person to comply with a request under paragraph Rule 14(1)(b) or (c) may be treated as misconduct.

(3) In respect of any prior conduct the Panel may:

(a) refuse any application for Membership or Authorisation or any other application to which the prior conduct relates;
(b) determine that the prior conduct does not affect any application for Membership or Authorisation or any other application to which the prior conduct relates;
(c) decide to take no further action and make a direction to an Investigator as to how to deal with the matter under Rule 13(1)(e) above;
(b) accept or refuse any application for Membership or Authorisation or any other application to which the prior conduct relates;
(ed) impose conditions on the Applicant or Relevant Person as it may think appropriate in respect of their future conduct and, in the case of an individual, their employment;
(de) require the Applicant or Relevant Person to give an undertaking as to their future conduct; or
(ef) reprimand the Relevant Person, warn the Relevant Person as to their future conduct or both; or
_fg) refer the matter to the Disciplinary Tribunal as if it was an allegation;
(h) in the case of an application under the CILEx Licensing Rules provide an opinion to CILEx Regulation when required by those Rules.

Investigating Misconduct: Initial Procedure

15.15. (1) Where CILEx Regulation receives a complaint or any other information to the effect that a Relevant Regulated Person may have engaged in misconduct (an allegation), it may investigate the allegation in accordance with these Rules.

(2) An Investigator must investigate an allegation as follows:

(a) the Investigator is to by gathering information about and investigating the issues involved including, where the allegation arises from information is provided by a complainant, obtaining:

(i) any further factual information about the complaint-allegation that the complainant wishes to provide; and
(ii) the consent of the complainant to provide a copy of the complaint-allegation and any supporting information to the Relevant Regulated Person;

(b) the Investigator must at an appropriate stage notify the Regulated Person that an allegation has been made against them, provide the Relevant Regulated Person with details of the allegation (including a copy of any complaint or supporting information) and a copy of the Rules and
invite the Relevant Regulated Person to submit representations to the Investigator within 14 days;

(c) the Investigator may seek information or advice from third parties.

(3) In order to assist in the investigation the Investigator may supply the complainant with a copy of all or part of any response from the Relevant Person and, in that event:

(a) must allow the complainant a period of 14 days in which to make written observations provide any further relevant information; and
(b) must allow the Relevant Regulated Person a period of 14 days in which to comment on any observations further information received from the complainant.

(4) At the conclusion of the investigation, the Investigator must prepare a report containing a summary of the information obtained and an analysis of the issues for consideration and must forward the same to the Relevant Regulated Person and complainant and invite them within a period of 14 days to comment in writing on the report.

(5) Upon receipt of comments from the Relevant Regulated Person or the expiry of the time allowed for comments (whichever is the sooner), the Investigator must either determine the matter or refer it to the Panel.

(6) The investigator may provide a copy of the report to the complainant and invite their comments where that would assist the inquiry or if it is in the public interest to do so;

(7) A Relevant Person is obliged to comply with and respond to reasonable enquiries made by an Investigator and failure to do so may be treated as misconduct.

Decisions by Investigators in Certain Cases

16.16. (1) Where an Investigator is of the opinion that:

(a) there is no evidence available to substantiate an allegation;
(b) the facts alleged does not disclose any misconduct by the Relevant Regulated Person;
(c) CILEx Regulation has no jurisdiction to consider the allegation; or
(d) the time which has elapsed since the events (or knowledge of those events, if later) giving rise to the allegation exceeds the prescribed period;

the Investigator may reject the allegation without further reference to the Panel.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph Rule 16 (1)(d), the prescribed period means such period of not less than one year as CILEx Regulation may prescribe.
where an investigator is of the opinion that the evidence available indicates that the relevant regulated person has a case to answer in respect of an allegation and either:

(a) the allegation is of a serious nature; or
(b) an adverse finding has previously been made against the relevant regulated person by the professional conduct panel or disciplinary tribunal in respect of an allegation of a similar nature;

the investigator may refer the allegation directly to the disciplinary tribunal without further reference to the panel.

(4) An investigator must:

(a) provide reasons for rejecting or referring to the disciplinary tribunal any allegation under this rule;
(b) notify the relevant-regulated person and any complainant of the decision within 21 days; and
(c) report any such decision to the panel.

Powers of the Professional Conduct Panel

17. (1) The panel must consider any allegation which is referred to it and determine whether the relevant-regulated person has a case to answer.

(2) In determining whether there is a case to answer, the panel must consider whether, based upon the available evidence, there is a realistic prospect that cilex regulation would be able to prove the allegation of misconduct before the disciplinary tribunal.

(3) In respect of an allegation, the panel may determine that:

(a) there is no case to answer; or
(b) there is a case to answer and:

(i) refer the allegation to the disciplinary tribunal; or
(ii) with the admission and consent of the relevant person, dispose of the allegation in accordance with paragraph rule 17 (4).

(4) Where the relevant person admits an allegation and consents to the panel doing so, the panel may dispose of the matter by:

(a) requiring the relevant person to give undertakings as to their future conduct;
(b) imposing conditions on the relevant person in respect of their conduct or, in the case of an individual, their employment;
(c) reprimanding the Relevant Person, warning them as to their future conduct or both.

(5) Where the Panel makes a determination under (3)(b)(i) above and the Relevant Person admits the allegation within 14 days of notification of the Panel’s decision and consents to the Panel dealing with the matter under Rule 17–(4) then the Panel may consider whether to substitute its determination with a disposal under Rule 17–(4).

(6) Before reaching a decision under Rule 17 paragraph-(4), the Panel may request that the Relevant Person or, where the Relevant Person is an entity, a representative of that entity, attend a meeting of the Panel and failure to comply with such a request may constitute misconduct. If the Relevant Person attends or is represented at the meeting of the Panel then CILEx Regulation shall be represented if it considers it appropriate.

(7) If at any time after allegation(s) have been referred under Rules 16(3) or 17(3)(b)(i), but before any proceedings have been commenced in accordance with Rule 24(1) below, CILEx Regulation considers that the matter should no longer be referred then it can withdraw the allegations.

Determination by Consent

18.18. (1) Where, in respect of any allegation:

(a) an Investigator is of the opinion that the Relevant Person has a case to answer; and
(b) the Relevant Person admits the allegation;

then subject to Rule 18 paragraph (3), the Investigator and the Relevant Person may agree to determine the allegation by consent and agree a sanction that would be available to the Panel or Tribunal considering the matter.

(2) The terms of any determination by consent must include:

(a) the allegation(s) and a statement to the effect that the Relevant Person admits the allegation(s);
(b) the imposition on the Relevant Person of one or more of the sanctions available to the Professional Conduct Panel under Rule 17 or the Disciplinary Tribunal under Rule 30 (other than the imposition of costs); and
(c) a provision that CILEx Regulation may in its absolute discretion notify any person or publish the terms of the determination by consent.

(3) A determination by consent must not take effect until:
(a) it has been approved by order of the Panel who have the power to approve any sanction as agreed by the Investigator with the Relevant Person; and

(a)(b) the determination by consent is signed by the Chair of the Panel.

(4) Failure by a Relevant Person to comply with the terms of a determination by consent constitutes misconduct.

**Interim Orders**

19.19. (1) The Panel may at any time, on the application of an Investigator or of its own motion, consider whether it is necessary for the protection of the public, in the interests of the Relevant Person concerned or otherwise in the public interest to suspend or restrict a Relevant Person’s Membership or Authorisation pending a hearing before the Disciplinary Tribunal.

(2) The Panel must give the Relevant Person not less than 7 days’ reasonable notice of an application for an Interim Order. If however, the Panel is satisfied that notice is not possible or is inappropriate due to the seriousness or urgency of the matter, then the Interim Order will become immediately effective. In this event, CILEx Regulation must arrange for the Interim Order to be reviewed by the Panel following notification to the Relevant Person, of a meeting to consider the imposition or review of an interim order, unless the Panel consider that due to the seriousness or urgency of the case a shorter period of notice is appropriate.

(3) The notice under Rule 19 paragraph (2) must inform the Relevant Person of the time, date and place of the hearing, brief details of the matters giving rise to the application for an interim order and of the right to appear before and be heard by the Panel.

(4) In considering whether to make an interim order, the Panel may determine its own procedure in accordance with these Rules, any guidance published by CILEx Regulation and the overriding requirement of fairness. CILEx Regulation shall be represented at the meeting of the Panel if it considers it appropriate.

(5) The Panel may order that the Relevant Person’s Membership or Authorisation be:

(a) suspended; or

(b) subject to such restrictions as the Panel considers appropriate, for a maximum period of 18 months and any such order must be reviewed by the Panel every 3 months.

(6) Where the Panel makes an interim order it shall provide:

(a) that the order can only be in force for a maximum period of 18 months;
(b) a review date for the Interim Order which is not later than six months from the date of the Interim Order;
(c) for subsequent review dates;
(d) for the review date being vacated with the consent of CILEx Regulation and the Relevant Person;
(e) liberty for the Relevant Person to apply to set the Interim Order aside if there is a change in circumstances.

(7) Where the Panel makes an Interim Order against a Relevant Person that is an Authorised Entity, it may also require the Relevant Person to enter into a Practice Management Agreement, the terms of which will be determined by the Panel.

Appeals

20. (1) Decisions of the Panel (other than a decision to impose an interim suspension order which takes effect immediately) only take effect after the period for lodging an appeal against the decision has expired or, where an appeal is made, after the appeal has been disposed of or withdrawn.

(1) An Applicant or, Relevant Person -or CILEx Regulation may appeal against any decision or order of the Panel other than a decision to refer a matter to the Disciplinary Tribunal.

(2) A complainant may make an application to the Panel seeking the review of a decision of an Investigator under Rule 16 to reject an allegation.

(3) An application under Rule 20 paragraph (2) must be made in writing within 21 days of notification of the decision of the Investigator and, in conducting any review, the Panel may confirm the Investigator’s decision, require the Investigator to investigate the matter further or consider the matter as if it was a referral made under Rule 17, but subject to such modifications as the Panel consider appropriate.

(4) An appeal under Rule 20 paragraph (2) must be made in accordance with Part IV.

(5) The Panel may make an order that its decision is stayed pending an appeal on such terms as it considers appropriate.

PART III: THE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

Interpretation of Part III

21. (1) In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires:

Chair: means the Chair of a Disciplinary Tribunal
Panel: means the hearing date set under Rule 24(1)
date: Clerk: the clerk to the Disciplinary Tribunal;
finalised hearing date: means either the first hearing date or, where the first hearing date is varied by the Panel Tribunal, that varied hearing date;

first hearing date: means the hearing date set under Rule 24(1);
Panel: means the members of the Disciplinary Tribunal appointed to hear a particular matter;
Party and parties: means CILEx Regulation and the respondent(s); and
respondent: means a Relevant Person against whom an allegation is made.

(2) Any reference to the Panel or Investigator having referred a matter to the Tribunal includes a decision by an Appeals Panel under Part IV to refer a matter to the Tribunal. In this Part any reference to the Professional Conduct Panel or Investigator having referred a matter to the Disciplinary Tribunal includes a decision by an Appeals Panel under Part IV to refer a matter to the Disciplinary Tribunal.

Disciplinary Tribunal

22. (1) The Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear:

(a) matters referred to it under Part II by the Professional Conduct Panel or Investigator or by an Appeals Panel under Part IV;
(b) reviews of disqualification decisions under Rule 25 of the CILEx Licensing Rules in which case Rule 32 applies to such reviews.

(2) The Tribunal may determine its own procedure in accordance with these Rules, the guidance published from time to time by CILEx Regulation and the overriding requirement of fairness.

Disciplinary Tribunal Panel

23. (1) A matter that has been referred to the Tribunal must be heard by a Panel Tribunal of three members from the list of panellists maintained under Rule 2(1)(b), of whom two must be lay members and one must be a professional member.
(2) The members of the Panel Tribunal must, prior to commencement of the hearing, choose one of their number to act as Chair for the purposes of the hearing.

(3) If, during the course of any hearing, a member of the Panel Tribunal is unable to continue to attend the hearing, the remaining members may, with the consent of the parties, continue with the hearing.

(4) Where, under Rule 23 paragraph (3), a matter is heard by the remaining two members and they are unable to arrive at a determination, the matter must be re-heard by a new Panel comprising panellists who were not members of the original Panel Tribunal.

(5) The validity of any proceedings of the Tribunal shall not be affected by any defect in the appointment of a member.

Proceedings

24. (1) Where a matter has been referred to the Tribunal, the Clerk CILEx Regulation must, as soon as reasonably practicable:

(a) notify the parties that the matter has been referred to the Tribunal; and
(b) fix a date, time and venue for the hearing of the matter by the Tribunal.

(2) Unless the Tribunal directs otherwise, hearings are to be held at the offices of CILEx Regulation but nothing in these Rules requires any hearing to be held outside the United Kingdom.

(3) CILEx Regulation must, not less than 42 days before the first hearing date, lodge with the Clerk serve a notice setting out:

(a) the charges, including particulars of the allegations against the Respondent that are to be heard by the Tribunal; and
(b) the nature of the evidence that CILEx Regulation will present to the Tribunal.

(4) CILEx Regulation must, at the same time that any notice is lodged under Rule 24 paragraph (3), serve lodge a copy of that notice on the Respondent Clerk.

(5) Not less than 28 days before the first hearing date, each party will serve on the other copies of any documentary evidence in their possession or control relating to the allegations and any witness statements upon which they intend to rely.

(6) Any fact which needs to be proved at a hearing by the evidence of witnesses may be proved by evidence given in a witness statement, and a party who requires a witness to attend a hearing for the purpose of cross-examination upon the content of a witness statement served in accordance with Rule 24.
paragraph (5), must serve notice to that effect upon the opposing party within 7 seven days of disclosure of the statement.

(7) A party is deemed to admit the authenticity of any document disclosed under Rule 24 paragraph (5) above unless, within 7 seven days of disclosure of the document, that party serves notice requiring the document to be proved at a hearing.

Directions and Preliminary Matters

25. (1) The Panel-Tribunal may at any time give directions for the management and conduct of proceedings (and the consequences of failing to comply with such directions) and determine any preliminary issues raised by any party.

(2) The Panel-Tribunal may give directions or determine issues under Rule 25 paragraph (1) without a meeting of the Panel-Tribunal but by two or more of the Panel-Tribunal advising the Clerk of their decision and, in that event, the Clerk must notify the parties of the decision within three days of the date on which the decision was made.

(3) Where the parties consent, a single Panel-Tribunal member may give directions or determine an issue under Rule 25 paragraph (1).

(4) When giving directions or determining issues in accordance with Rule 25-(2) and (3) above the Tribunal or a single Tribunal member may also direct that submissions or evidence at the substantive hearing be heard by video link or telephone.

Additional Allegations

26. (1) Where the Panel-Tribunal is satisfied that it would not cause unfairness to the respondent, the Panel-Tribunal may permit CILEx Regulation to add or amend allegations to the matter referred to the Tribunal, and those additional or amended allegations may be treated as if they were included in the original matter referred to the Tribunal.

Hearing Documentation

27. Not less than 7 seven days before the finalised hearing date, CILEx Regulation must produce and provide the Clerk and the respondent with copies of an indexed and paginated hearing bundle comprising:

(a) the allegations;
(b) any documents relied upon by the parties;
(c) any witness statements; and
(d) any relevant notices.
Conduct of Hearings

28. (1) Hearings must be held in public unless the Panel-Tribunal is satisfied that, in the interests of justice or for the protection of the private life of the Respondent, the complainant, a person giving evidence or any other person, the public should be excluded from all or part of a hearing.

(2) The Panel-Tribunal must give CILEx Regulation and the Respondent and, in its discretion any other person, the opportunity of being heard.

(3) A party may be represented at a hearing by any person, whether or not legally qualified, but the Panel-Tribunal may refuse to permit a particular person to assist or represent a party if the Panel-Tribunal is satisfied that there are good and sufficient reasons for doing so.

Evidence

29. (1) The Panel-Tribunal may control the evidence by giving directions as to:

(a) the issues on which it requires evidence;
(b) the nature of the evidence which it requires to decide those issues; and
(c) the way in which the evidence is to be placed before the Panel-Tribunal.

(2) The burden of proof rests upon CILEx Regulation and the standard of proof is the balance of probabilities.

(3) Subject to the requirements of a fair hearing, the Panel-Tribunal may:

(a) admit evidence whether or not it would be admissible in civil proceedings; and
(b) exclude evidence that would otherwise be admissible.

(4) The Panel-Tribunal may limit cross-examination.

(5) Subject to any other provisions of these Rules, the Civil Evidence Act 1968 and the Civil Evidence Act 1995 apply in relation to the hearing of a matter as they apply in relation to civil proceedings.

(6) Production before the Panel-Tribunal of:

(a) a certificate purporting to be under the hand of a competent officer of a Court in the United Kingdom or overseas that a respondent has been convicted of a criminal offence is conclusive evidence of the offence committed;
(b) a copy of the determination of any Tribunal body in or outside England and Wales exercising a professional disciplinary jurisdiction is conclusive evidence of the facts found proved in relation to that determination;

(c) a copy of the judgment of any Civil Court or statutory tribunal is conclusive evidence of the facts found proved in relation to that judgment.

Decisions

30. (1) Decisions of the Panel-Tribunal are to be made by a majority vote of the panellists present.

(2) The Panel-Tribunal may:

(a) announce its decision and reasons at the conclusion of the parties’ cases;
(b) announce its decision at the conclusion of the parties’ cases and give its reasons on a later date; or
(c) reserve its decision and reasons to a later date.

(3) Where the Panel-Tribunal reserves its decision or reasons, the Panel-Tribunal must notify the parties of its decision, reasons, and any order made within 21 days of the conclusion of the parties’ cases hearing and, where necessary, the notice must specify a date, not more than 21 days after the date of the notice, for any further hearing.

(4) Where the Panel’s-Tribunal’s decision is that one or more of the allegations against the respondent has been proved, the Tribunal:

(a) CILEx Regulation must inform the Panel-Tribunal of any previous disciplinary proceedings in which any allegation has been proved against the respondent; and
(b) the respondent may then make submissions in mitigation and, where appropriate, in respect of costs.

(5) Where the Panel-Tribunal finds that one or more of the allegations against the respondent has been proved the Panel-Tribunal:

(a) may:

(i) take no further action;
(ii) reprimand the respondent, warn the respondent as to their future conduct or both;
(iii) impose conditions on the respondent as it may think appropriate in respect of the respondent’s conduct or, where the respondent is an individual, their employment (and such conditions may be imposed in addition to any reprimand or warning); or
(iv) order that the respondent be excluded from Membership or Authorisation for such period (which may be a minimum fixed or indefinite period) as it may decide; and
(b) may order the Respondent:

(i) except where the Panel has ordered that the Respondent be excluded from Membership or Authorisation, to pay a fine not exceeding an amount determined by CILEx Regulation from time to time; and

(ii) to pay costs to CILEx Regulation in respect of the proceedings; and

(c) may, in the case of a Respondent that is an Authorised Entity which has been excluded from Authorisation, also require the Respondent to enter into a Practice Management Agreement.

(6) For the purpose of these Rules a Practice Management Agreement means an agreement between CILEx Regulation and an Authorised Entity imposing such requirements as CILEx Regulation considers appropriate in the circumstances for the orderly conduct or transfer of the Authorised Entity’s business, funds and client files and the terms of such an agreement may include (but are not limited to) requirements that:

(a) the Authorised Entity cease to accept new business or clients;

(b) the business of the Authorised Entity be managed or supervised by a person appointed by CILEx Regulation;

(c) the Authorised Entity and those responsible for its management to execute powers of attorney, bank mandates or other instruments and take such other steps as are required to enable any person appointed by CILEx Regulation to perform their functions under a Practice Management Agreement, including safeguarding client funds, files and other assets; and

(d) the Authorised Entity meet the costs of any steps taken by CILEx Regulation or any person appointed by it under a Practice Management Agreement.

(7) Where the Panel finds that one or more of the allegations against the Respondent has not been proved, it may order CILEx Regulation to pay the reasonable costs of the respondent.

(8) An Order of the Panel takes effect 21 days after notification under paragraph (3) or (4) or, where a further hearing has been convened under that paragraph, 21 days after the conclusion of that hearing, unless before then a written notice of appeal has been given to the Tribunal on the date of the hearing unless the Tribunal orders otherwise.

(9) Where the Panel makes an Order against a respondent under paragraph (5)(a), it may also order that the respondent’s Membership or Authorisation be suspended immediately or made subject to immediate conditions until the Order takes effect in accordance with Paragraph (8) if it considers that doing so is necessary for the protection of the public, in the respondent’s own interests or otherwise in the public interest.
Where the Panel Tribunal makes an Order under Rule 30 paragraph (5) any certificate previously issued to the Relevant Person by CILex or CILEx Regulation ceases to have effect and must be delivered by the Respondent to CILEx Regulation within 14 days of the date of the Tribunal’s decision.

Interim Orders

31. (1) The Tribunal may at any time, on the application of the Investigator or of its own motion, consider whether it is necessary for the protection of the public, in the interests of the Relevant Person Respondent concerned or otherwise in the public interest to suspend or restrict a Relevant Person’s Membership or Authorisation pending the conclusion of proceedings before the Tribunal.

(2) The Tribunal must give the Relevant Person Respondent reasonable not less than 7 days notice of a meeting to consider the imposition or review of an Interim Order is made by the Tribunal. If however the Tribunal is satisfied that notice is not possible or inappropriate due to the seriousness or urgency of the case, then the Interim Order will become immediately effective. In this event, CILEx Regulation must arrange for the Interim Order to be reviewed by the Tribunal following notification to the Respondent, unless the Tribunal consider that due to the seriousness or urgency of the case a shorter period of notice is appropriate.

(3) The notice under Rule 31 paragraph (2) must inform the Relevant Person Respondent of the time, date and place of the hearing, brief details of the matters giving rise to the application for an Interim Order for suspension and of the right to appear before and be heard by the Tribunal.

(4) In considering whether to make an Interim Order, the Tribunal may determine its own procedure in accordance with these Rules, any guidance published by CILEx Regulation and the overriding requirement of fairness. CILEx Regulation shall be represented at the meeting of the Tribunal if it considers it appropriate.

(5) The Tribunal may order that the Relevant Person’s Membership or Authorisation be:

(a) suspended; or
(b) subject to such restrictions as the Panel Tribunal considers appropriate, for a maximum period of 18 months and any such order must be reviewed by the Panel every 3 months.

(6) Where the Panel Tribunal makes an Interim Order it shall provide:

(a) that the Order can only be in force for a maximum period of 18 months; Suspended
(b) a review date for the Interim Order which is not later than six months from the date of the Interim Order;
(c) for subsequent review dates;
(d) for the review date being vacated with the consent of CILEx Regulation and the Respondent;
(e) liberty for the Respondent to apply to set the Interim Order aside if there is a change in circumstances.

(7) Where the Tribunal makes an Interim Order against a Relevant Person that is an Authorised Entity it may also require the Relevant Person to enter into a Practice Management Agreement, the terms of which will be determined by the Tribunal.

Procedure in relation to Disqualification Reviews

32. (1) Where a person seeks a review of a disqualification made pursuant to Rule 25(h) of the CILEx Licensing Rules then they shall serve on CILEx Regulation a document setting out the basis of their application and any evidence or other documents relied upon in support of the review.

(2) Upon receipt of the application for a review, CILEx Regulation shall set a date, time and venue for a hearing before the Tribunal.

(3) the following Rules shall apply in relation to the procedure for the determination of the application for a review:

(a) Rules 23, 24(2) and (5) to (7);
(b) Rules 25, 27 and 28;
(c) Rule 29 save that the burden of proof shall be on the person seeking the review; and
(d) Rule 30(1) to (3).

Appeals

33. (1) Decisions of the Tribunal (other than a decision to impose an interim Order which takes effect immediately) only take effect after the period for lodging an appeal against the decision has expired or, where an appeal is made, after the appeal has been disposed of or withdrawn.

(2) The Respondent may appeal against:

(a) a finding by the Tribunal that one or more allegations has been proved; or
(b) any sanction or costs imposed by the Tribunal.

(3) CILEx Regulation may appeal against:

(a) a decision of the Tribunal which, in the opinion of CILEx Regulation, was made based upon a manifest error, is irrational or similarly flawed; or
(b) the imposition by the Tribunal of a sanction which, in the opinion of CILEx Regulation, is unduly lenient.

(4) An appeal must be made in accordance with Part IV.
PART IV: THE APPEALS PANEL

Interpretation of Part IV

33. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires:

- **Appeals Clerk**: means the Clerk to the Appeals Panel;
- **appellant**: means the person in whose name an appeal is made to the Appeals Panel and, in the case of an appeal under Rule 32(3), means CILEx Regulation;
- **Chair**: means the Chair of an Appeals Panel; and
- **Disciplinary Tribunal**: includes a Panel of the Disciplinary Tribunal that has heard a case under Part III.

Notice of Appeal

34. (1) An appeal must be made by giving notice in writing in accordance with this Rule.

(2) The notice must be addressed to the Appeals Panel at the offices of CILEx Regulation and must:

(a) state that it is a notice of appeal and whether the appeal is made under:

(i) Rule 20;
(ii) Rule 20 or Rule 32;
(iii) Rule 26 of the CILEx Licensing Rules;
(iv) Rule 5, 7 and 8 of the CILEx Admissions and Licensing Committee Rules; or
(v) Rule 9 of the CILEx Authorisation Rules.

(b) include:

(i) the name and address of the appellant;
(ii) the date, nature and other relevant details of the decision which is the subject of the appeal;
(iii) a concise statement of the grounds of the appeal; and
(iv) the name and address of the appellant's representative (if any) and state whether correspondence concerning the appeal should be sent to the representative instead of the appellant;

(c) be signed by or on behalf of the appellant; and

(d) be accompanied by a copy of any documents on which the appellant proposes to rely for the purposes of the appeal.
(3) A notice of appeal must be lodged no later than 42 days after the date on which the decision that is the subject of the appeal was made.

(4) An appeal complying with Rule 34(2) above may be served by email to an address specified from time to time by CILEx Regulation. Service by email is not effective unless receipt is acknowledged by CILEx Regulation.

Appeals Panel

35. (1) The Appeals Panel must comprise 2-lay members and 1-professional member from the list maintained under Rule 2(1)(c).

(2) The members of the Appeals Panel must choose one of their number to act as Chair for the purposes of the appeal.

(3) An Appeals Panel must consider and determine any appeal made in accordance with Rules set out at Rule 34 (2)(a) above.

(4) At the beginning of the hearing the Chair must explain to the parties the order of proceedings which the Appeal Panel proposes to adopt.

(5) The Appeals Panel may conduct the hearing in such manner as it considers most suitable to the clarification of the issues before it and generally to the just handling of the proceedings and the parties may be heard in such order as the Panel determines, taking into account that the burden of proof rests upon the appellant.

(6) In determining an appeal, the Appeals Panel may admit any evidence it considers fair and relevant to the case before it, whether or not such evidence would be admissible in a civil proceedings.

(7) Having considered an appeal, the Appeals Panel may:

(a) dismiss the appeal;
(b) allow the appeal and make such further orders to enable it to give effect to its decision including:

(i) quash the decision appealed against;
(ii) remit the matter to the Tribunal for reconsideration on such terms as the Appeals Panel considers appropriate;
(iii) substitute for the decision appealed against any other decision that the Professional Conduct Panel, Disciplinary Tribunal, Admissions and Licensing Committee or CILEx Regulation (as the case may be) could have made;

quash the decision appealed against; or
(c) substitute for the decision appealed against any other decision that the Professional Conduct Panel or Disciplinary Tribunal (as the case may be) could have made;
and may make such ancillary orders, including orders for costs, as it considers just and appropriate.

(8) Decisions of the Appeals Panel are to be made by a majority vote of the panellists present.

(9) Notice of the decision of the Appeals Panel must be given in writing to the appellant within 21 days and takes effect 28 days after the date on which it was made.

(10) Where the decision in an Appeal under Rule 20(21) has the effect of referring a matter to the Disciplinary Tribunal, that referral may be treated for all purposes as if it was made by the Professional Conduct Panel.

(11) Appeals under Rule 20 of these Rules, Rule 26 of the CILEx-Licensing Rules, or Rule 5 and 7 of the CILEx-Admissions and Licensing Committee Rules, Rule 9 of the CILEx-Authorisation Rules are normally to be heard in private unless the appellant requests otherwise.

(12) Appeals under Rule 32 are to be heard in public, unless the Appeals Panel is satisfied that, in the interests of justice or for the protection of the private life of the appellant, any complainant, person giving evidence or any other person, the public should be excluded from all or part of a hearing.

Representation

36. (1) The Appeals Panel must give the appellant and the respondent to the appeal and, at its discretion any other person who appeared before the Professional Conduct Panel or Disciplinary Tribunal, the opportunity of being heard.

(2) A party may be represented at a hearing by any person, whether or not legally qualified, but the Appeals Panel may refuse to permit a particular person to assist or represent a party if the Appeals Panel is satisfied that there are good and sufficient reasons for doing so.

Determination without Convening Hearing

37. The Appeals Panel may determine an appeal without convening a hearing, on the basis of any documents or written representations provided by the parties, where:

(a) the Appeals Panel has notified the parties of its intention to do so; and
(b) the parties have consented.
PART V: OTHER MATTERS

Notice and Publication etc. of Decisions etc.

38. (1) CILEx Regulation must cause all adverse findings and orders of the Professional Conduct Panel, Disciplinary Tribunal and Appeals Panel (Decisions) to be recorded against the relevant entry in the relevant CILEx Regulation register.

(2) Where a Regulated Person against whom a Decision is made is:

(a) employed; or
(b) is a partner, director, manager of, or holds a financial interest in, a relevant body,

CILEx Regulation must notify the employer or relevant body of the Decision.

(3) In this Rule relevant body means:

(a) an Authorised Entity;  
(b) a legal services body within the meaning of s.9A of the Administration of Justice Act 1985; or  
(c) a body licensed under Part 5 of the Legal Services Act 2007.

(4) CILEx Regulation must give notice of all decisions to such other regulatory and oversight bodies as it considers appropriate.

(5) CILEx Regulation must cause all decisions and the name of the Relevant Person concerned to be published in such manner as it considers appropriate.

(6) Paragraphs Rule 38 (2), (4) and (5) do not apply to the extent that the Professional Conduct Panel, Disciplinary Tribunal or Appeals Panel directs otherwise.

Recovery of Fines and Costs

39. Any fine or costs order imposed under these Rules is recoverable as a debt.

Maintenance of Exhibits and Transcripts

40. Any exhibits produced or used at a hearing of the Professional Conduct Panel, Disciplinary Tribunal or Appeals Panel and any recording or transcript of those proceedings must be kept by CILEx Regulation for a period of at least one year after the proceedings to which they relate.
Annual Report

41. An annual report must be made to the CILEx Regulation Board of the work of the Investigators, Professional Conduct Panel, Disciplinary Tribunal and Appeals Panel during the previous year.

Transitional Provisions

42. (1) These Rules come into force on 5 January 2015 (the Commencement Date).

(2) Any allegation received by CILEx Regulation before the Commencement Date but which on that date has not been referred to the Professional Conduct Panel, Disciplinary Tribunal or Appeals Tribunal in accordance with the Investigation, Disciplinary and Appeals Rules dated 4-5 January 2010-2015 (the Old Rules) must be dealt with under these Rules.

(3) Any allegation received by CILEx Regulation before the Commencement Date and which on that date has been referred to the Professional Conduct Panel, Disciplinary Tribunal or Appeals Tribunal under the Old Rules must continue to be dealt with in accordance with the Old Rules.

(4) Any allegation received by CILEx Regulation after the Commencement Date must be dealt with in accordance with these Rules.