

CRL Consultation Webinar - 15 June 2023 Q&A

Some Introductory Comments

Thank you very much to everyone who attended one of our Webinars.

CRL has been very pleased with the level of responses and degree of engagement received from you during the Webinar. It has enabled us to have a much better understanding about your priorities.

Whilst CRL was delighted over 100 registered to attend the webinar, it was decided that asking you to post questions on the Q&A was the best way to ensure that as many people as possible could have their questions answered.

As agreed in the Webinar, CRL has set out below answers to all the questions asked in the Q&A. The questions have been copied and posted without any editing.

Please send any further queries to consultations@cilexregulation.org.uk.

[Access our consultation page for further details](#) – consultation closes 5pm 26 June, 2023.

Q & A

Question	Answer
Having embarked on my Cilex journey 6+ years ago - you could then call yourself a Cilex lawyer. Now with the qualification changing, I am now no longer allowed to call myself a Cilex lawyer. I feel with the SRA regulating us, it will just devalue us legacy learners even more so. what do you think?	<p>CILEX Lawyer is a membership title offered by <i>CILEX</i>.</p> <p>'Lawyer' is not a protected title.</p> <p>CRL awards the titles Chartered Legal Executive and CILEX Practitioner (for those with a practice right).</p> <p>CRL works to ensure that these titles are recognised by all stakeholders and institutions, for example, HM Land Registry recognise CILEX Conveyancing Practitioner..</p>
Please explain why as a student - I'm continually told that there are barriers or restrictions from the regulator for example - access to past papers, more information related to exams etc	<p>CILEX is responsible for setting and marking exams, and for any learning resources are made available to students.</p> <p>CRL sets the education standards.</p>
Please speak to the fact that it is established that a CILEX lawyer is typically paid less and treated as a lesser qualified person than the	CRL believes that CLEs and CILEX Practitioners offer unique skills and experience to the legal sector. It is unlikely

<p>traditional routes? This issue makes the regulation by the SRA much more attractive</p>	<p>that the pay of lawyers would be influenced by a move to the SRA since it is not a regulated matter.</p> <p>In their Business Plan and Budget 2023/24 the SRA say:</p> <p><i>'Furthermore, we continue to engage with the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) following its approach to us to explore the transfer of regulation of CILEX members to the SRA, while retaining their distinct identity as CILEX practitioners and their route to qualification.'</i></p> <p>To date the SRA has not provided any further detail.</p>
<p>Hi everyone this is Maria, currently studying Paralegal Foundation what will be the regulation to act in the legal environment?</p>	<p>CRL currently regulates all CILEX members including paralegals, but does not regulate those who are members only of the Institute of Paralegals.</p> <p>Whilst CRL has no plans to change this approach for CILEX members, it is consulting on a proposal that all members should contribute to the cost of regulation.</p>
<p>Based on the consultation replies to far, what is the general consensus from CILEx members on the issue of SRA regulation?</p>	<p>The majority of those responding to the consultation so far do not consider a change the current regulatory system to be a priority.</p> <p>The majority believe that the CILEX profession is enhanced by having its own regulator focused on the profession's unique place in the delivery of legal services</p>
<p>Please clarify what actions taken by CILEx were deemed to be 'unlawful' by the LSB.</p> <p><<<...but none of that is 'unlawful'>>></p>	<p>The LSB investigation report sets out their findings.</p>
<p>Why is the relationship so poor between CILEX and yourselves?</p>	<p>The LSB investigation report sets out the narrative leading to the investigation..</p> <p>CRL and CILEX have agreed to work together and focus on the future of regulation.</p>
<p>Why then when you try and ring Cilex Regulation you never get to speak to anyone, you leave a message and no one rings back. If will you stay as the regulators will this service improve</p>	<p>CRL is sorry you have had that experience.</p> <p>Since staff are undertaking detailed assessment work, we encourage CILEX members to leave a voicemail with contact details and brief details of the query.</p>

	CRL will continue to work on improvements to the service provided.
Picking up on that question about the relationship - how can we be assured that the relationship will be better in the future?	CRL and CILEX have agreed undertakings and an action plan to work together to review the future of regulation. There are regular constructive and productive meetings. Regular reports on progress are made to the LSB.
I completely agree with Robert. I am a Fellow and had no desire to continue on to qualify as a Solicitor. I was allowed to cut my teeth on advocacy (a route I could see on the basis that some solicitors didn't like attending Court). I have never felt a second-class professional alongside colleagues, but perhaps it is a geographical issue? I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't qualified with CILEX. Much depends on us as professionals to push our own careers forward.	<i>No response required</i>
CILEX has not been building trust with its membership. As members we are concerned that CILEX has taken a unanimous decision to hold talks with the SRA without any consultation with us.	<i>No response required</i>
Absolutely agree - as a CMC Mediator, mediation would have been the best way forward as Jonathan suggests.	CRL and CILEX have regular constructive and productive meetings.
The crux is whether SRA will consider FCILEX as equal to solicitors in qualifications in their own field. Having qualified with CILEX as a criminal law practitioner I had to take what was essentially the same course of study with the Law Society to qualify as a court & police station duty 'solicitor'	<p>The CILEX website says</p> <p><i>'CILEX education route would need to be retained with CILEX members qualifying through CPQ'.</i></p> <p>In their Business Plan and Budget 2023/24 the SRA say:</p> <p><i>'Furthermore, we continue to engage with the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) following its approach to us to explore the transfer of regulation of CILEX members to the SRA, while retaining their distinct identity as CILEX practitioners and their route to qualification.'</i></p> <p>To date the SRA has not provided any further detail.</p> <p>CRL awards the titles Chartered Legal Executive and CILEX Practitioner (for those with a practice right).</p>

<p>Given that SRA has not shared its proposals as yet dont you think the merger will destroy our independence and identity? If you are dedicated to ensure our future as an independent entity please reconcile differences?</p>	<p>CRL believes that all CILEX members must have a voice in this process.</p> <p>For CRL the purpose of the consultation and webinars is to gain that input from the CILEx community and the wider legal industry, and to provide you with the first opportunity to share any concerns and let us have observations about what you want.</p> <p>CRL believes it is well placed to understand and respond to the needs of all those it regulates.</p> <p>To help reconcile differences, CRL and CILEX have agreed undertakings and an action plan to work together to review the future of regulation.</p>
<p>Level 6 CILEX qualification is set at a degree level. Universities provide feedback after each assignment submitted / exam passed or failed. In order to assist students pass modules or understand where they failed, why don't CILEX provide electronic feedback like universities do? - CILEX students have enough hardship trying to secure sponsorship in studying the professional course as it is, providing feedback would be much appreciated.</p>	<p>CILEX is responsible for setting and marking exams, and for any learning resources are made available to students.</p> <p>CRL sets the education standards.</p>
<p>It occurs to me that CILEX are only interested in promoting themselves as a legal education business and have no interest after people have qualified and are no longer buying course.</p> <p>Is there any future for Fellows within the profession?</p>	<p>CLEs and CILEX Practitioners offer unique skills and experience to the legal sector.</p> <p>CRL was authorised in 2014 to grant individual practice rights subject to a portfolio assessment.</p> <p>The changes to the Education Standards made in 2021 allow for practice rights to be assessed as part of the CPQ process.</p> <p>Subject to appropriate authorisation, CLEs are able to practise unsupervised in a reserved (or regulated) activity once they qualify. The skills, knowledge and experience, including evidence, are still assessed.</p> <p>CRL can also offer an assessment route for Fellows through ULaw, as an alternative to submitting a portfolio. Assessments are available quarterly to the end of 2024.</p>

	CRL will apply to regulate Higher Rights of Audience (building on Advocacy Rights) before the end of 2023.
Taking your comments made today there seems to be a focus on the setting up of firms - this is not a concern for the bulk of the profession - we are more concerned with our own status and how we will be served as individuals moving forward	<p>CRL supports and regulates a diverse regulated community - CILEX members, Chartered Legal Executives, CILEX Practitioners, Chartered Legal Executive Advocates, Associate Prosecutors, CILEX Authorised Entities and CILEX-ACCA Practitioners and firms.</p> <p>CRL believes all these groups should have a voice in this process.</p> <p>Our annual budget and how we allocate resources will be set out in our next PCF consultation due to be published in July 2023 (access last year's PCF Consultation here).</p>
<p>Is the consultation adversely impacting on the much needed work of promoting CILEx members? There is a huge amount to be done</p> <p>As a FCILEx director of a high street solicitors firm I can confirm that CILEx Practitioners are most certainly still 'less than' and we urgently need help in finding equality with solicitors and the work of promoting our interests to continue</p>	<p>Promoting the interests of the membership is primarily the responsibility of CILEX as the representative body (see 2c of the Charter).</p> <p>CRL works to ensure that CLEs and CILEX Practitioners are recognised by all stakeholders and organisations.</p> <p>CRL accepts that these campaigns are likely to be more effective when CILEX and CRL work collaboratively to break down the barriers faced by the CILEX membership.</p>
I find that much of CILEX and CRL is focused on private practice practitioners and that as a local authority CILEX Lawyer I am a bit of an outsider. Can this be considered please?	<p>A significant number of CILEX Lawyers work in local authorities. We accept that insufficient attention has been paid to this sector.</p> <p>Events such as the Reshaping Legal Services Conference 2022 are starting to change that narrative. The session on Trust and ethics focused on the role of inhouse lawyers.</p> <p>This was followed up by a Roundtable on professional ethics, the rule of law and regulation. This highlighted the challenges for legal professionals working in an environment with an inadequate support system to make the correct ethical decisions.</p> <p>The important role inhouse lawyers have to play was also recognised in a Thematic Review published by the SRA.</p>

	<p>CRL has been working with CILEX to develop appropriate CPD training to meet conduct and ethics requirements beyond working in a law firm..</p>
<p>I am concerned with how SRA would treat CILEX lawyers/FILEX if we were regulated by the SRA- based on how solicitors in my local authority employer treats CILEX lawyers-i.e paid less and wont allow us to be managers as they don't want CILEX lawyers managing solicitors</p>	<p>We are sorry to read your comments.</p> <p>CRL believes that CLEs and CILEX Practitioners, as authorised persons, offer unique skills and experience to the legal sector.</p> <p>In their Business Plan and Budget 2023/24 the SRA say:</p> <p><i>'Furthermore, we continue to engage with the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) following its approach to us to explore the transfer of regulation of CILEX members to the SRA, while retaining their distinct identity as CILEX practitioners and their route to qualification.'</i></p> <p>To date the SRA has not provided any further detail.</p>
<p>It is actually highly important that we be able to set up our own firms</p> <p>We will never be equal to solicitors until we can do that</p>	<p>CRL remains committed to creating opportunities for CILEX Authorised Entities to licensed. We continue to receive from members.</p> <p>The feedback we had about the Law Firm in a Box concept remains positive. It is unfortunate that we are unable to make further progress at present.</p>
<p>as an FCilex member without the LPC, i have found that the process to move to SRA requires me to do the SQE - this questions how my cilex qualification is viewed in the legal industry as it doesnt seem to be good enough to transfer easily to become a solicitor.</p>	<p>CRL sets the Education Standards. They allow for a practice right to be assessed as part of the CILEX CPQ. This enables CLEs to provide legal services unsupervised in any practice rights for which they have been approved as soon as they qualify.</p> <p>CRL also offers an assessment route for Fellows through ULaw, to gain an individual practice right. Assessments are available quarterly through to the end of 2024.</p> <p>CRL awards the titles Chartered Legal Executive and CILEX Practitioner (for those with a practice right).</p> <p>The CILEX website says</p>

	<p><i>'CILEX education route would need to be retained with CILEX members qualifying through CPQ'.</i></p> <p>In their Business Plan and Budget 2023/24 the SRA say:</p> <p><i>'Furthermore, we continue to engage with the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) following its approach to us to explore the transfer of regulation of CILEX members to the SRA, while retaining their distinct identity as CILEX practitioners and their route to qualification.'</i></p> <p>To date the SRA has not provided any further detail.</p> <p>CRL will continue to work with CILEX to ensure that the routes to qualification remain proportionate and reflect best practice.</p>
I'm really disappointed that CILEX Regulation was not consulted - I have always been entirely happy with the way in which CILEX is regulated. Why would we want to be 4% of a membership which won't result in higher salaries?	<p>Thank you for your support.</p> <p>The SRA regulates c160,000 solicitors as against 7,200 Chartered Legal Executives and CILEX Practitioners.</p> <p>CRL has believes that all CILEX members must have a voice in this process. If you have not already done so, please respond to our consultation.</p>
Not all Local Authorities treat CILEX Lawyers differently- Birmingham City Council (my employer) employ CILEX Lawyers alongside Solicitors. Perhaps as Robert stated challenge the views of ALL Local Authorities.	<i>No response required</i>
Just to confirm, legacy learners cannot call themselves cilex lawyers now with the new CPQ qualification. legacy learners are chartered legal executives - this is the title which is seen as less qualified.	<p>CILEX Lawyer is a membership title offered by CILEX.</p> <p>'Lawyer' is not a protected title.</p> <p>CRL awards the titles Chartered Legal Executive and CILEX Practitioner (for those with a practice right).</p> <p>CRL works to ensure that these titles are recognised by all stakeholders and organisations, for example, HM Land Registry recognise CILEX Conveyancing Practitioner.</p>
I am a local authority Team Leader so my employer hasn't treated me differently, but I think the message from CILEX and CRL	This is a point well made.

<p>does. I've just done a CPD module for Ethics etc and all the case studies were private practice focused. That is just an example.</p>	<p>A significant number of CILEX Lawyers work in local authorities. We accept that insufficient attention has been paid to this sector.</p> <p>Events such as the Reshaping Legal Services Conference 2022 are starting to change that narrative. The session on Trust and ethics focused on the role of inhouse lawyers.</p> <p>This was followed up by a Roundtable on professional ethics, the rule of law and regulation. This highlighted the challenges for legal professionals working in an environment with an inadequate support system to make the correct ethical decisions.</p> <p>The important role inhouse lawyers have to play was also recognised in a Thematic Review published by the SRA.</p> <p>CRL has been working with CILEX to develop appropriate CPD training to meet conduct and ethics requirements beyond working in a law firm.</p>
<p>Is there a deadline for Cilex Fellows obtaining the higher rights when it has not been possible to put through a portfolio. There now seems to be the creation of a two tier member classification now the new route to qualify as a Cilex Lawyer has come which gives them the same rights a solicitor has on qualify which previously qualifying as a Cilex did no</p>	<p>CRL has not given any deadline for Fellows to obtain practice rights and can not comment on any deadline that CILEX may have given to Fellows.</p> <p>CILEX Lawyer is a membership title offered by CILEX. The CILEX CPQ provides a route for a CLE to obtain a practice right when they qualify but not designation as a Chartered Legal Executive.</p> <p>In addition to the portfolio route, Fellows can qualify for an individual practice right which is delivered through ULaw. Assessments are available quarterly through to the end of 2024.</p> <p>CRL awards the titles Chartered Legal Executive and CILEX Practitioner (for those with a practice right).</p>
<p>How joined up are you with CILEX in terms of the CILEX Lawyer qualification? I'd like higher practice rights but work in an unregulated sector and CILEX Reg weren't able to help with this</p>	<p>CILEX Lawyer is a membership title offered by CILEX. CRL sets the Education Standards and awards the regulated titles, Chartered Legal Executive and CILEX Practitioner.</p> <p>CRL make an application to regulate Higher Rights of Audience (building on Advocacy Rights) before the end of 2023.</p>

	Each qualification has specific knowledge, skills and experience requirements which each applicant is required to meet.
I am sorry that some members finds themselves deemed as "less than". I have never found that in my legal career. I am now a self-employed Consultant and have never had any issues with my clients. Regulation does not equate to your ability to do your job and the skills that CILEX courses have provided.	<i>No response required</i>
Why do we need a 'champion'? Is that not what CRL should be doing anyway?	<p>Promoting the interests of the membership is primarily the responsibility of CILEX as the representative body (see 2c of the Charter). The role of champion is usually seen as a function of the representative body.</p> <p>CRL works to ensure that CLEs and CILEX Practitioners are recognised by all stakeholders and organisations.</p> <p>CRL accepts that these campaigns are likely to be more effective when CILEX and CRL work collaboratively to break down the barriers faced by the CILEX membership.</p>
You have posed the breakdown in the relationship being the CILEX approach to the LSB - clearly they had issues with CILEX regulation prior to that - what were they?	The LSB provides a narrative at pages 8-11 of its Investigation Report .
Can you speak to how the younger generation are supposed to view this and be attracted to the profession with this complexity and in fighting?	<p>All relationships can experience strain at some point.</p> <p>CILEX and CRL are committed to work together to review the Future of Regulation and have been having regular constructive and productive meetings..</p>
What does that mean to CILEx Regs authorised firms?	<p>CRL is committed to creating opportunities for CILEX Authorised Entities to set up. We are still receiving enquiries from members.</p> <p>The feedback CRL received on Law Firm in a Box remains positive though we will be unable to further progress with this concept until the current issues with CILEX have been resolved.</p> <p>To date the SRA has not provided any further detail.</p>

What does that mean to me as a CILEx lawyer/advocate	<p>CRL believes that CLEs and CILEX Practitioners offer unique skills and experience to the legal sector.</p> <p>In their Business Plan and Budget 2023/24 the SRA say:</p> <p><i>'Furthermore, we continue to engage with the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) following its approach to us to explore the transfer of regulation of CILEX members to the SRA, while retaining their distinct identity as CILEX practitioners and their route to qualification.'</i></p> <p>CRL hopes that all CILEX members will respond to any CILEX consultation on the Future of Regulation</p>
Will we be expected to make the transition or change our titles?	<p>In their Business Plan and Budget 2023/24 the SRA say:</p> <p><i>'Furthermore, we continue to engage with the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) following its approach to us to explore the transfer of regulation of CILEX members to the SRA, while retaining their distinct identity as CILEX practitioners and their route to qualification.'</i></p> <p>To date the SRA has not provided any further detail.</p>
Do we have any idea on the SRAs proposals yet or will we have to wait until end of July?	To date the SRA has not provided any information about its proposals.
Thanks so much for putting on this very important webinar.	<i>Thank you for the comment</i>
Thank you for putting on this webinar. I now better understand the importance of CILEx Regulation	<i>Thank you for the comment</i>
Thank you for being so open and honest, these discussions are not easy for anyone.	<i>Thank you for the comment</i>
Thank you for doing this webinar	<i>Thank you for the comment</i>