

WHAT IS CHANGING.....

What won't change –

- Distinct identity as CILEX qualified Lawyers, Paralegals and 'CILEX-led' entities;
- Separate CILEX route into law supporting social mobility & improving diversity;
- Specialist nature of CILEX qualification and scope of authorisation based on practice specialism;
- Requirement for CILEX membership to use Chartered title;
- Rights of existing CILEX members:
 - Fellows authorised status as Chartered Legal Executives & eligibility for a practising certificate & specialist practice rights;
 - Membership of CILEX and associated right to use postnominals;
 - Career opportunities arising from CILEX qualification including eligibility for judicial appointment, ability to establish own firm or become a partner in an existing firm.

What will change –

For consumers:

- Improved ability to access and understand information on the choice of lawyer authorised to provide legal services and access details of both CILEX lawyers and solicitors through a searchable register that allows comparison based on area of law;
- Increased trust and confidence through:
 - Clarity of equivalence in level of qualification and therefore comparable ability of CILEX Lawyers and solicitors to deliver the same service by practise specialism;
 - Consistency of standards of conduct and practice applied to both CILEX Lawyers and Solicitors;
- Standardised consumer protection and redress regardless of which professional (CILEX Lawyer or Solicitor) or provider (SRA firm or CILEX-led entity) provides service;
- Simplified navigation of complaint handling with removal of need to engage with two separate regulators investigation and enforcement processes and the resulting confusion and delays where case involves CILEX professional;
- Increased access to justice through choice of either solicitor-led or CILEX Lawyer-led firm regulated by same regulator and to same standard.

For CILEX members:

- Improved recognition for CILEX lawyers as having parity with Solicitors to practice independently in their specialist area of authorisation;
- Increased brand profile for Chartered Legal Executives as Chartered Lawyers resulting in improved consumer and employer understanding of status and ability to offer specialist legal services;
- Increased recognition and enhanced career development for paralegals as a distinct professional group within the institute with the opportunity to obtain Chartered status;
- Equality of voting rights and opportunity to participate in CILEX governance for all CILEX members regardless of membership grade;
- Ability to establish own entity with same access to lender panels, insurance, referral contracts, regulatory kitemark and compensation fund as solicitor-led firms.

For providers of legal services:

- Removal of duplication and regulatory overlap arising from two different regulators having jurisdiction over employees in SRA firms through;
 - Aligned standards of conduct and practice for CILEX Lawyers and Solicitors;
 - Standardised set of processes relating to authorisation, CPD, complaint handling, enforcement and consumer protection for all those working in regulated firms;
- Clarity on comparability of the competence and scope of authorisation to practice of CILEX Lawyers compared to Solicitors;
- Entitlement to same recognition and access to market opportunities regardless of whether a Solicitor-led or CILEX Lawyer-led business;
- Ability to support career progression and retention of paralegals through professional development and recognition as Chartered professionals and resulting commercial benefits;