

Professor Carl Stychin
Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
London, UK

24th of March 2020

To the Membership of CHULS,

Thank you for all of your efforts in relation to the difficult issue of assessments which you are managing in relation to your various programmes. The CHULS Vice-Chair, Penny Carey, and I, working with the professional associations, have been communicating with Julie Brannan concerning these issues.

The SRA's position in relation to QLD and GDL assessments has been set out already but there still seems to be some confusion remaining. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to try to restate that position, as follows.

With respect to QLD and GDL programmes, first, the starting point is the Joint Statement. This makes clear that it is for providers of these programmes to satisfy themselves regarding any particular form of assessment in terms of adequate coverage of the learning outcomes. The SRA does **not** approve the assessment form, relying instead on the assurance that the assessment satisfies a university's own QA regulatory requirements. This continues to be the case.

Second, the SRA has requested that they be kept informed of any changes to the assessment regime but this is **not** in order to approve any changes (since, pursuant to the Joint Statement, the SRA does not approve the form of assessment in the first place).

Third, although the SRA does not approve the form of assessment, what is required under the Joint Statement is that the Foundations of Legal Knowledge **are** assessed in some form in order to determine whether competence has been achieved. But - to repeat - the form which that assessment takes is entirely up to providers. For example, assessment could be on the basis of course work produced to this point in the year and graded on a pass/fail basis, **should your university approve such a model**. That is simply an example. In short, it is a matter for you and your institution to work out the form of assessment most suited to the circumstances faced by yourselves and your students.

Turning to the Legal Practice Course, I have been advised by Julie Brannan that a communication will be released shortly by the SRA on assessment. I understand that some provision will be made for the relaxation of assessment requirements. However, please be guided by communication to LPC providers from the SRA.

I hope that this answers any confusion. With respect to the QLD/GDL, my interpretation is that this is a discretion which **already existed** under the Joint Statement. The only addition is a request for notification of changes to the assessment regime, which can take the form of a brief email to the SRA.

I wish you all the best as you manage the many challenges you face.

Professor Carl Stychin
Chair, CHULS.