

Not to be used before 00:01 hours, 23 April 2012

CONSUMER PANEL WELCOMES PLANS TO REGULATE WILL-WRITING AND ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

Commenting on the Legal Services Board's announcement, Elisabeth Davies, Chair of the Legal Services Consumer Panel, said:

"This is the clearest signal yet that will-writing and estate administration will become regulated. That's great news for consumers, and we are delighted that the Legal Services Board's proposals closely mirror the Panel's recommendations.

"It will still be some time before regulation arrives, even with a fair wind. That's frustrating, but this makes it vital for everyone - including solicitors - to redouble their efforts to address the evidence of poor quality wills revealed by the Panel's investigation last year."

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For more information, contact Steve Brooker, Consumer Panel Manager, on 020 7271 0077.

Notes to editors

1. The Legal Services Consumer Panel was established under the Legal Services Act 2007 to provide independent advice to the Legal Services Board about the interests of consumers of legal services in England and Wales. We investigate issues that affect consumers and use this information to influence decisions about the regulation of legal services.
2. The Panel published a report recommending the regulation of will-writing In July 2011, which can be found here:
http://www.legalservicesconsumerpanel.org.uk/publications/research_and_reports/documents/ConsumerPanel_WillwritingReport_Final.pdf
3. The Panel's submissions to the Legal Services Board's call for evidence on will-writing, probate and estate administration can be found here:
http://www.legalservicesconsumerpanel.org.uk/publications/consultation_responses/index.html
4. Details of the Legal Services Board's announcement are on its website:
<http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk>