

PROVIDING A NEW APPROACH TO REGULATION



THE CLC HAS REGULATED THE LICENSED CONVEYANCING PROFESSION IN ENGLAND AND WALES FOR 30 YEARS, AND HAS RECENTLY EXTENDED ITS REGULATORY EXPERTISE TO COVER OTHER LEGAL SERVICES SUCH AS PROBATE AND ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS STRUCTURES (ABS).

AS an independent regulator, the CLC has no institutional links to bodies representing legal professions. We have an exemplary record in regulation, and promote high standards in legal services, with the capability and expertise to regulate a wider range of legal service providers.

THE BENEFITS OF CLC REGULATION

SPECIALIST REGULATION OF SPECIALIST LAWYERS

Our Code of Conduct and approach to regulation are closely tailored to the property specialisation of those we regulate. This enables us to take a genuinely light touch.

ACCREDITATION SCHEMES

Because CLC-regulated entities are specialists, there is no need for further accreditation schemes on top of regulation. Expertise is guaranteed through specialisation of regulation and practice.



REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Every single one of the practices that the CLC regulates is allocated their own Regulatory Supervision Manager (RSM). The RSM's role is to



help the practice to understand their regulatory responsibilities and to assist them in their compliance with the CLC Code of Conduct and the Overriding Principles.

TRANSACTIONS

Licensed Conveyancers have long been able to act for both sides in a transaction. We are able to permit this because we are satisfied that in the majority of transactions this does not give rise to a conflict of interest between the borrower and lender clients. It can also save buyers and sellers a great deal of time and money, and is supported by the Legal Services Consumer Panel, which has noted that it has posed no difficulties over the years and is appreciated by clients.

REFERRAL FEES

CLC's Code allows referral fee arrangements subject to absolute transparency with the client from the outset. The requirements are set out in our brief Disclosure of Profits and Advantages Code.

SUPPORTING INNOVATION

Three quarters of licensed conveyancers say that the CLC provides value for money and agree that we support innovation in their business.

OFFERING PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE



THE CLC'S ROLE IS TO INCREASE CONSUMER CHOICE, RAISE STANDARDS AND PROMOTE INNOVATION AND GROWTH.

WE work closely with all our licence holders and we listen to what they say, helping them to achieve the right outcomes for consumers. We know our business extremely well, and we know the market too.

As a regulatory body all our licence holders are required to demonstrate that they:

- Provide a high quality service for consumers
- Act with independence and integrity
- Maintain high standards of work
- Act in the best interest of clients
- Comply with duties to the court [once in force]
- Deal with regulators and ombudsmen in an open and cooperative way
- Promote ease of access and service.

INNOVATIVE and forward thinking, the CLC has always looked to be a proactive regulator in anticipating and monitoring the issues that affect the licensed conveyancing community.

INTRODUCED competition and real consumer choice into the conveyancing market, which has driven down prices without sacrificing quality.

THE way that the CLC engages with licence holders is an ongoing process and we are always open to dialogue with the profession when it comes to delivering effective regulation.

WE are also efficient and responsive, our approach is proportionate and risk based, and we support conveyancers in achieving good practice and developing flourishing businesses in an outcomes-focused framework.

OUR MISSION is to deliver effective regulation of specialist property lawyers that protects consumers and fosters competition and innovation in the provision of legal services.

FOR further information about the CLC and the regulatory opportunities available please visit our website: www.clc-uk.org



OUR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

ESTABLISHED under the Administration of Justice Act 1985, the CLC is bound by a number of statutory regulatory objectives under the Legal Services Act 2007. These objectives describe what we must aspire to achieve for the public, consumers and the regulated community and include:

- Supporting the constitutional principles of the rule of law
- Maintaining a register of all licensed conveyancers and regulated bodies
- Improving access to justice
- Protecting and promoting the interests of consumers
- Promoting competition in the provision of services
- Encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession
- Promoting and maintaining adherence to professional principles.

THE work of the CLC is overseen by the Legal Services Board.