Architects Regulation and the Architects Registration Board Call for Evidence

Government publishes call for evidence in consideration of Architect Regulation and the Architects Registration Board.

The Government is currently carrying out its periodic review of the functions and form of the Architects Registration Board and the Architects Act 1997 (as amended) as required by Cabinet Office guidelines.

The Government’s call for evidence looks at 3 key areas:

1. The Case for Architects Regulation
   The Government wishes to establish “whether statutory i.e. Government legislation establishing regulation of architects should continue.”
   Currently, it is a criminal offence to identify oneself as an Architect in business unless one is registered with the Architects Registration Board.

2. Different Models of Architects Regulation
   The context paper to the call for evidence discusses the two common ways of regulating professional roles.
   - Protection of title – as is currently the case, this makes it a criminal offence to carry out services as an architect in the course of business unless registered.
   - Protection of function – this would place restrictions on carrying out the functions of an architect. This is used, for example, in the medical profession to protect the carrying out of functions of a doctor.

   The context paper also considers three alternative models of regulation:
   I. Statutory Regulation by a Professional Body
   II. Statutory Regulation by an Independent Body

3. Evaluation of the existing regulatory functions and the Architects Registration Board

   Consultation ends 30 May 2014
III. Self Regulations (Non-Statutory)

3. Evaluation of the existing regulatory functions and the Architects Regulation Board

The Government is seeking opinions in relation to two particular questions here:

- “whether the duties, powers and structure set out in legislation provide the right framework for statutory regulation”
- “how people view the performance and value for money of the services delivered by the Architects Registration Board.”

The Consultation ends on 30 May 2014. The Department for Communities and Local Government has created an online survey to gather opinions. If you would like to provide your thoughts and comments, please click here.

If you would like to read more about the context to this call for evidence, please find the Department for Communities and Local Government’s Context Document here.

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