



Solicitors Act 1974

1974 CHAPTER 47

PART I

RIGHT TO PRACTISE AS SOLICITOR

Qualifications and training

1 Qualifications for practising as solicitor.

No person shall be qualified to act as a solicitor unless—

- (a) he has been admitted as a solicitor, and
- (b) his name is on the roll, and
- (c) he has in force a certificate issued by the Society in accordance with the provisions of this Part authorising him to practise as a solicitor (in this Act referred to as a “practising certificate”).

[^{F1}1A Practising certificates: employed solicitors.

A person who has been admitted as a solicitor and whose name is on the roll shall, if he would not otherwise be taken to be acting as a solicitor, be taken for the purposes of this Act to be so acting if he is employed in connection with the provision of any legal services—

- (a) by any person who is qualified to act as a solicitor;
- (b) by any partnership at least one member of which is so qualified; ^{F2} . . .
- (c) by a body recognised ^{F3} . . . under section 9 of the Administration of Justice Act 1985 (incorporated practices). [^{F4} or
- (d) by any other person who, for the purposes of the Legal Services Act 2007, is an authorised person in relation to an activity which is a reserved legal activity (within the meaning of that Act).]

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1A inserted by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), s. 85
- F2** Word in s. 1A(b) repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 2(a), Sch. 23 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, art. 2(i)(ii)(aa) (with art. 9)
- F3** Word in s. 1A(c) repealed (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 2(b), Sch. 23 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, art. 2(j)(i)
- F4** S. 1A(d) and preceding word inserted (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 2(c) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, art. 2(f)(ii) (with art. 9)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 1A(d) modified (temp.) (prosp.) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 209, 211, Sch. 22 para. 12 (with ss. 29, 192, 193)

^{F6}^{F5} 1B] Restriction on practice as sole solicitor

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Textual Amendments

- F5** S. 1B inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 3 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, art. 2(a)(i)
- F6** S. 1B omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), Sch. 1 para. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 1B extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1)Table (as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), art. 3(7)(a))

2 Training regulations.

- (1) The Society ^{F7}. . . may make regulations (in this Act referred to as “training regulations”) about education and training for persons seeking to be admitted or to practise as solicitors.

^{F8}(2)

- (3) Training regulations—

(a) may prescribe—

- (i) the education and training ^{F9}. . . to be undergone by persons seeking admission as solicitors;
- (ii) any education or training to be undergone by persons who have been admitted as solicitors;
- (iii) the examinations or other tests to be undergone by persons seeking admission as solicitors or who have been admitted;
- (iv) the qualifications and reciprocal duties and responsibilities of persons undertaking to give education or training for the purposes of the regulations or undergoing such education or training; and

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- (v) the circumstances in which ^{F10} . . . education or training under the regulations may be [^{F11}started or] terminated;
 - (b) may require persons who have been admitted as solicitors to hold practising certificates while they are undergoing education or training under the regulations;
 - (c) may include provision for the charging of fees by the Society and the application of fees which the Society receives;
 - (d) may make different provision for different classes of persons and different circumstances.
- (4) ^{F12}
- (5) ^{F13}

Textual Amendments

- F7** Words in s. 2(1) repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(a), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)(i)**
- F8** S. 2(2) repealed (1.4.1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), s. 125(7), **Sch. 20**; S.I. 1991/608, **art. 2, Sch.**
- F9** Words in s. 2(3)(a)(i) repealed (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(b)(i), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)(n)(i)**
- F10** Words in s. 2(3)(a)(v) repealed (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(b)(ii), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)(n)(i)**
- F11** Words in s. 2(3)(a)(v) inserted (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 4(b)(iii)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)**
- F12** S. 2(4) repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(c), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)(i)**
- F13** S. 2(5) repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(c), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)(i)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 2 extended (22.5.2000) by S.I. 2000/1119, regs. 1, 37(3), **Sch. 4 para. 1(1)**

Admission

3 Admission as solicitor.

- (1) ^{F14}... No person shall be admitted as a solicitor unless he has obtained a certificate from the Society that the Society—
- (a) is satisfied that he has complied with training regulations, and
 - (b) is satisfied as to his character and his suitability to be a solicitor.
- (2) Any person who has obtained a certificate that the Society is satisfied as mentioned in subsection (1) may apply to the [^{F15}Society] to be admitted as a solicitor; and if any such person so applies, the [^{F15}Society] , ^{F16} . . . , shall, unless cause to the contrary is shown to [^{F17}its] satisfaction, in writing, and in such manner and form as the [^{F15}Society] may from time to time think fit, admit that person to be a solicitor.

^{F18}(3)

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

Textual Amendments

- F14 Words in s. 3(1) omitted (6.4.2020) by virtue of Courts and Tribunals (Judiciary and Functions of Staff) Act 2018 (c. 33), s. 4(3), **Sch. para. 2**; S.I. 2020/24, reg. 3(b)
- F15 Words in s. 3(2) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 5(a)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)**
- F16 Words repealed by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), s. 125(7), **Sch. 20**
- F17 Word in s. 3(2) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 5(b)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)**
- F18 S. 3(3) repealed by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), s. 125(7), **Sch. 20**

F19 4

Textual Amendments

- F19 S. 4 repealed (with temp. saving) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37, 76:1), s. 125(2) (6)(7), **Sch. 17 para. 9**, **Sch. 19 para. 11(1)(2)(3)**, **Sch. 20**

F20 5

Textual Amendments

- F20 S. 5 repealed by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), s. 125(7), **Sch. 20**

The roll

6 Keeping of the roll.

- (1) The Society shall continue to keep a list of all solicitors of the [F21Senior Courts], called “the roll”.
- (2) F22
- (3) F23
- (4) F24

Textual Amendments

- F21 Words in s. 6(1) substituted (1.10.2009) by Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4), ss. 59, 148, **Sch. 11 para. 21(2)**; S.I. 2009/1604, **art. 2(b)(d)**
- F22 S. 6(2) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 6**, **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)(c)(i)**
- F23 S. 6(3) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 6**, **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)(c)(i)**
- F24 S. 6(4) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 6**, **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)(c)(i)**

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

7 Entry of name and restoration of name struck off.

On production—

- [^{F25}(a) of written evidence of admission of any person as a solicitor by the Society,]
- (b) of an order for the restoration to the roll of the name of a person whose name has been struck off it, [^{F26}or
- (c) of an order under section 47(2)(h) for the restoration of a person's name to the roll,]

and on payment to the Society of such fee ^{F27}. . . as the [^{F28}Society] may from time to time determine, the Society shall enter the name of that person on the roll.

Textual Amendments

- F25** S. 7(a) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 7(a)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)**
- F26** S. 7(c) added by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 7**
- F27** Words repealed by Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61, SIF 34), ss. 8, 67(2), Sch. 1 para. 2, **Sch. 8 Pt. III**
- F28** Word in s. 7 substituted (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 7(b)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)**

8 Removal or restoration of name at solicitor's request.

- (1) The Society, on the application of a solicitor, may remove his name from the roll.
- (2) The Society, on the application of a former solicitor whose name is not on the roll because it has been removed from it, may enter his name on the roll, on payment to the Society of such fee ^{F29}. . . as the [^{F30}Society] may from time to time determine.

[^{F31}(2A) Subsection (2) does not apply to a former solicitor with respect to whom a direction has been given under section 47(2)(g).]

- (3) The power to enter a name on the roll conferred on the Society by subsection (2) includes power to enter the name of a person whose name was removed from the roll before the coming into force of section 5 of the ^{M1}Solicitors (Amendment) Act 1974.

[^{F32}(4) An appeal from any decision of the Society under subsection (2) shall lie to the [^{F33}High Court].

[In relation to an appeal under subsection (4) the High Court may make such order as ^{F34}(4A) it thinks fit as to payment of costs.

(4B) The decision of the High Court on an appeal under subsection (4) shall be final.]

(5) ^{F35}]

Textual Amendments

- F29** Words repealed by Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61, SIF 34), ss. 8, 67(2), Sch. 1 para. 3, **Sch. 8 Pt. III**
- F30** Word in s. 8(2) substituted (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 8(2)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)**
- F31** S. 8(2A) inserted by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 8**

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

- F32** S. 8(4)(5) added by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), **s. 95**
- F33** Words in s. 8(4) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 8(3)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iii)** (with art. 4)
- F34** S. 8(4A)(4B) inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 8(4)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iii)** (with art. 4)
- F35** S. 8(5) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 8(5), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iii)** (with art. 4)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1974 c. 26.

Practising certificates

[^{F36}9 Applications for practising certificates.

- (1) A person whose name is on the roll may apply to the Society to be issued with a practising certificate.

^{F37}(2)

- (3) An application under this section must be—
- (a) made in accordance with regulations under section 28, and
 - (b) accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- (4) “The appropriate fee”, in relation to an application, means—
- (a) any fee payable under subsection (1) of section 11 in respect of the practising certificate applied for, and
 - (b) any additional fee payable under subsection (4) of that section in respect of the application.]

Textual Amendments

- F36** S. 9 substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 9** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2000/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)**
- F37** S. 9(2) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 3**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C4** S. 9 extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1) Table (as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), **art. 3(7)(a)**)

[^{F38}10 Issue of practising certificates.

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, where an application is made in accordance with section 9, the Society must issue a practising certificate to the applicant if it is satisfied that the applicant—
- (a) is not suspended from practice, and
 - (b) is complying with any prescribed requirements imposed on the applicant.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) A practising certificate issued to an applicant of a prescribed description must be issued subject to any conditions prescribed in relation to applicants of that description.
- (3) In such circumstances as may be prescribed, the Society must, if it considers it is in the public interest to do so—
- (a) refuse to issue a practising certificate under this section, or
 - (b) where it decides to issue a practising certificate, issue it subject to one or more conditions.
- (4) The conditions which may be imposed include—
- (a) conditions requiring the person to whom the certificate is issued to take specified steps that will, in the opinion of the Society, be conducive to the carrying on by that person of an efficient practice as a solicitor^{F39} ...;
 - (b) conditions which prohibit that person from taking any specified steps, except with the approval of the Society.
- (5) In this section —
- “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations under section 28;
 - “specified”, in relation to a condition imposed on a practising certificate, means specified in the condition.]

Textual Amendments

F38 S. 10 substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 9** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); [S.I. 2009/1365](#), **art. 2(a)(i)**

F39 Words in s. 10(4)(a) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(The Law Society\) \(Modification of Functions\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/401\)](#), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 4**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C5 S. 10 extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2009/1119](#), **Sch. 4 para. 7(1)Table** (as substituted by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), **art. 3(7)(a)**)

[^{F40}10A Register of holders of practising certificates

- (1) The Society must keep a register of all solicitors who hold practising certificates.
- (2) The register must contain—
- (a) the full name of each solicitor who holds a practising certificate,
 - ^{F41}(b)
 - (c) such other information as may be specified in regulations under section 28(1)
 - (d).]

Textual Amendments

F40 S. 10A inserted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 10** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); [S.I. 2009/1365](#), **art. 2(a)(i)**

F41 S. 10A(2)(b) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(The Law Society\) \(Modification of Functions\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/401\)](#), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5**

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C6** S. 10A extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1)Table (as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), **art. 3(7)(a)**)

[^{F42}11 Fees payable on issue of practising certificates.

- (1) Before a practising certificate is issued, there must be paid to the Society in respect of the certificate a fee of such amount as the Society may from time to time determine.
- (2) Different fees may be specified for different categories of applicant and in respect of different circumstances.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies where a solicitor makes an application for a practising certificate if—
 - (a) the solicitor has failed to deliver an accountant's report required by rules under section 34(1) by such time or in such circumstances as may be prescribed by those rules, and
 - (b) a practising certificate has not been issued by the Society to the solicitor since the Society became aware of the failure.
- (4) Where this subsection applies, the solicitor's application must be accompanied by an additional fee of such amount as the Society from time to time determines.]

Textual Amendments

- F42** S. 11 substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 11** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(ii)** (subject to art. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C7** S. 11 extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1)Table (as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), **art. 3(7)(a)**)
- C8** S. 11(2)-(4) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1589), **art. 3(2)(a)**, Sch.
- C9** S. 11(2)-(4) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1589), **art. 3(2)(a)**, Sch.
- C10** S. 11(2)-(4) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1589), **art. 3(2)(a)**, Sch.

12 Discretion of Society with respect to issue of practising certificates in special cases.

^{F43}

Textual Amendments

- F43** S. 12 repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 12, **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)(c)(i)**

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

[^{F44}**12A Additional fee payable by certain solicitors on applying for practising certificates.**

^{F45}]

Textual Amendments

F44 S. 12A inserted by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), s. 88

F45 S. 12A repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 13, Sch. 23 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, art. 2(a)(i)(c)(i) (with art. 4)

[^{F46}**13 Appeals etc in connection with the issue of practising certificates.**

- (1) A person who makes an application under section 9 may appeal to the High Court against—
 - (a) a decision to refuse the application for a practising certificate,
 - ^{F47}(b) or
 - (c) a decision to impose a condition on a practising certificate issued in consequence of the application.
- (2) A person who holds a practising certificate subject to a condition within section 10(4)(b) may appeal to the High Court against any decision by the Society to refuse to approve the taking of any step for the purposes of that condition.
- (3) The Society may make rules which provide, as respects any application under section 9 that is neither granted nor refused by the Society within such period as may be specified in the rules, for enabling an appeal to be brought under this section in relation to the application as if it had been refused by the Society.
- (4) On an appeal under subsection (1), the High Court may—
 - (a) affirm the decision of the Society,
 - ^{F48}(b) or
 - (c) direct the Society to issue a certificate to the applicant free from conditions or subject to such conditions as the High Court may think fit,
 - (d) direct the Society not to issue a certificate,
 - (e) if a certificate has been issued, by order suspend it,
 - ^{F49}(f) or
 - (g) make such other order as the High Court thinks fit.
- (5) On an appeal under subsection (2), the High Court may—
 - (a) affirm the decision of the Society,
 - (b) direct the Society to approve the taking of one or more steps for the purposes of a condition within section 10(4)(b), or
 - (c) make such other order as the High Court thinks fit.
- (6) In relation to an appeal under this section the High Court may make such order as it thinks fit as to payment of costs.
- (7) The decision of the High Court on an appeal under subsection (1) or (2) shall be final.]

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

Textual Amendments

- F46** S. 13 substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 14** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); [S.I. 2009/1365](#), **art. 2(a)(iii)** (subject to art. 4)
- F47** S. 13(1)(b) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(The Law Society\) \(Modification of Functions\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/401\)](#), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 6(a)**
- F48** S. 13(4)(b) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(The Law Society\) \(Modification of Functions\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/401\)](#), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 6(b)(i)**
- F49** S. 13(4)(f) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(The Law Society\) \(Modification of Functions\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/401\)](#), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 6(b)(ii)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C11** S. 13 excluded (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), Sch. 4 para. 7(1A) (as inserted by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), **art. 3(7)(b)**)
- C12** S. 13 extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), Sch. 4 para. 7(1)Table (as substituted by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), **art. 3(7)(a)**)
- C13** S. 13(2) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\)](#), **art. 3(2)(b)**, Sch.
- C14** S. 13(3) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\)](#), **art. 3(2)(b)**, Sch.
- C15** S. 13(5) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\)](#), **art. 3(2)(b)**, Sch.
- C16** S. 13(6) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\)](#), **art. 3(2)(b)**, Sch.
- C17** S. 13(7) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\)](#), **art. 3(2)(b)**, Sch.

^{F51}^{F50}**13ZA Application to practise as sole practitioner while practising certificate in force**

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Textual Amendments

- F50** Ss. 13ZA, 13ZB inserted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 16** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); [S.I. 2009/1365](#), **art. 2(a)(iii)** (subject to art. 4)
- F51** S. 13ZA omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(The Law Society\) \(Modification of Functions\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/401\)](#), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 7**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C18** S. 13ZA extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), Sch. 4 para. 7(1)Table (as substituted by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), **art. 3(7)(a)**)

^{F51}**13ZB Fee payable on making of sole solicitor endorsement**

.....

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F50** Ss. 13ZA, 13ZB inserted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, [Sch. 16 para. 16](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); [S.I. 2009/1365](#), [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (subject to art. 4)
- F51** S. 13ZA omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(The Law Society\) \(Modification of Functions\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/401\)](#), art. 1(3), [Sch. 1 para. 7](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C19** S. 13ZB extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), [Sch. 4 para. 7\(1\)Table](#) (as substituted by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), [art. 3\(7\)\(a\)](#))

[^{F52}13A Imposition of conditions while practising certificates are in force.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Society may in the case of any solicitor direct that his practising certificate for the time being in force (his “current certificate”) shall have effect subject to such conditions as the Society may think fit.
- [^{F53}(2) The power conferred by subsection (1) is exercisable in relation to a solicitor at any time during the period for which the solicitor's current certificate is in force if—
- ^{F54}(a)
(b) it appears to the Society that the case is of a prescribed description.
- (3) “Prescribed” means prescribed by regulations under section 28.]
- (6) A solicitor in whose case a direction is given under this section may appeal to the [^{F55}High Court against the decision of the Society.]
- (7) On an appeal under subsection (6), the [^{F56}High Court] may—
(a) affirm the decision of the Society; or
(b) direct that the appellant's current certificate shall have effect subject to such conditions as the [^{F56}High Court] thinks fit; or
by order revoke the direction; or
(d) make such other order as [^{F57}it] thinks fit.
- [^{F58}(7A) The decision of the High Court on an appeal under subsection (6) shall be final.]
- [^{F59}(8) Subsections (4) and (5) of section 10 apply for the purposes of subsection (1) of this section as they apply for the purposes of that section.]
- [^{F60}(9) A solicitor who holds a practising certificate subject to a condition imposed under subsection (1) which prohibits that solicitor from taking any steps specified in the condition, except with the approval of the Society, may appeal to the High Court against any decision by the Society to refuse to approve the taking of any step for the purposes of that condition.
- (10) On an appeal under subsection (9), the High Court may—
(a) affirm the decision of the Society,
(b) direct the Society to approve the taking of one or more steps for the purposes of the condition, or
(c) make such other order as the High Court thinks fit.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

- (11) The decision of the High Court on an appeal under subsection (9) shall be final.
- (12) In relation to an appeal under this section the High Court may make such order as it thinks fit as to payment of costs.]]

Textual Amendments

- F52** S. 13A added by [Administration of Justice Act 1985 \(c. 61, SIF 34\), s. 5](#)
- F53** S. 13A(2)(3) substituted (1.7.2009) for s. 13A(2)-(5) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 16\(2\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (subject to art. 4)
- F54** S. 13A(2)(a) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(The Law Society\) \(Modification of Functions\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/401\), art. 1\(3\), Sch. 1 para. 8](#)
- F55** Words in s. 13A(6) substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 16\(3\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (subject to art. 4)
- F56** Words in s. 13A(7) substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 16\(4\)\(a\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (subject to art. 4)
- F57** Word in s. 13A(7) substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 16\(4\)\(b\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (subject to art. 4)
- F58** S. 13A(7A) inserted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 16\(5\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (subject to art. 4)
- F59** S. 13A(8) substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 16\(6\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (subject to art. 4)
- F60** S. 13A(9)-(12) inserted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 16\(7\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (subject to art. 4)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C20** S. 13A extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2009/1119 Sch. 4 para. 7\(1\) Table \(as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\), art. 3\(7\)\(a\)\)](#)
- C21** S. 13A(9) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\), art. 3\(2\)\(c\), Sch.](#)
- C22** S. 13A(10) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\), art. 3\(2\)\(c\), Sch.](#)
- C23** S. 13A(11) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\), art. 3\(2\)\(c\), Sch.](#)
- C24** S. 13A(12) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\), art. 3\(2\)\(c\), Sch.](#)

[^{F61}13B Suspension of practising certificates where solicitors convicted of fraud or serious crime.

- (1) Where—
- (a) a solicitor has been convicted of—
 - (i) an offence involving dishonesty or deception; or
 - [^{F62}(ii) an indictable offence; and]
 - (b) the Society has made an application to the Tribunal under section 47 with respect to him,
- the Society may direct that any practising certificate ^{F63}... of his which is for the time being in force be suspended.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) Any such suspension shall be for such period, not exceeding six months, as the Society shall specify in the direction.
- (3) If, before the specified period expires—
- (a) the Tribunal determines the Society’s application;
 - (b) the conviction is quashed or set aside; or
 - (c) the Society withdraws its application to the Tribunal,
- the suspension shall cease to have effect.
- (4) Where the specified period comes to an end without any of the events mentioned in subsection (3) having occurred, the Society may direct that the suspension be continued for such period, not exceeding six months, as it shall specify in the direction.
- (5) A suspension under this section may only be extended once under subsection (4).
- (6) Nothing in this section is to be taken as in any way affecting the Tribunal’s power to suspend a solicitor from practice ^{F64}...
- (7) A solicitor in whose case a direction is given under subsection (1) or (4) may appeal to the [^{F65}High Court] against the direction within one month of being notified of it.
- (8) In an appeal under subsection (7), the [^{F66}High Court] may—
- (a) affirm the suspension;
 - (b) direct that the appellant’s certificate [^{F67}shall not be suspended but] shall have effect subject to such conditions as the [^{F66}High Court] thinks fit;
 - (c) by order revoke the direction; or
 - (d) make such other order as [^{F68}it] thinks fit.]
- [^{F69}(9) In relation to an appeal under subsection (7) the High Court may make such order as it thinks fit as to payment of costs.
- (10) The decision of the High Court on an appeal under subsection (7) shall be final.]

Textual Amendments

- F61** S. 13B inserted by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), s. 94(3)
- F62** S. 13B(1)(a)(ii) substituted (1.1.2006) by Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (c. 15), ss. 111, 178, Sch. 7 para. 42(3); S.I. 2005/3495, art. 2(1) (subject to art. 2(2))
- F63** Words in s. 13B(1) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), Sch. 1 para. 9(a)
- F64** Words in s. 13B(6) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), Sch. 1 para. 9(b)
- F65** Words in s. 13B(7) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 17(c) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, {art. 2(a)(iii)} (subject to art. 4)
- F66** Words in s. 13B(8) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 17(d)(i) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, {art. 2(a)(iii)} (subject to art. 4)
- F67** Words in s. 13B(8)(b) substituted (1.11.2015) by The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), Sch. 1 para. 9(c)
- F68** Word in s. 13B(8)(d) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 17(d)(iii) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, {art. 2(a)(iii)} (subject to art. 4)
- F69** S. 13B(9)(10) inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 17(e) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, art. 2(a)(iii) (subject to art. 4)

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C25** S. 13B extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\)](#), [art. 3\(2\)\(d\)](#), Sch.
- C26** S. 13B extended (22.5.2000) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), regs. 1, 37(3), Sch. 4 para. 7(1) (as substituted (1.7.2009) by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), [art. 3\(7\)\(a\)](#))
- C27** S. 13B(7) excluded (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), Sch. 4 para. 7(1A) (as inserted by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), [art. 3\(7\)\(b\)](#))

14 Commencement, expiry and replacement of practising certificates.

F70

Textual Amendments

- F70** S. 14 repealed (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 18, [Sch. 23](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); [S.I. 2009/1365](#), [art. 2\(a\)\(i\)\(c\)\(i\)](#)

15 Suspension of practising certificates.

- (1) The making by the Tribunal or by the court of an order suspending a solicitor from practice shall operate, and an adjudication in bankruptcy of a solicitor^[F71] or the making of a debt relief order (under Part 7A of the Insolvency Act 1986) in respect of a solicitor shall operate immediately, to suspend any practising certificate of that solicitor for the time being in force.
- ^[F72](1A) Where the power conferred by paragraph 6(1) ^[F73], 6A(1) or 9(1) of Schedule 1 has been exercised in relation to a solicitor by virtue of paragraph 1(1)(a)(i), ^[F74](aa), (c) (so far as it applies to rules made by virtue of section ^[F75]31 or 32) or (e) of that Schedule, the exercise of that power shall operate immediately to suspend any practising certificate of that solicitor for the time being in force.
- (1B) Subsection (1A) does not apply if, at the time when the power referred to there is exercised, the Society directs that subsection (1A) is not to apply in relation to the solicitor concerned.
- (1C) If, at the time when the power referred to in subsection (1A) is exercised, the Society gives a direction to that effect, the solicitor concerned may continue to act in relation to any matter specified in the direction as if his practising certificate had not been suspended by virtue of subsection (1A), but subject to such conditions (if any) as the Society sees fit to impose.]
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, a practising certificate shall be deemed not to be in force at any time while it is suspended.

Textual Amendments

- F71** Words in s. 15(1) inserted (1.10.2012) by [The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 \(Consequential Amendments\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2404\)](#), art. 1, [Sch. 2 para. 8\(2\)](#) (with art. 5)
- F72** S. 15(1A)–(1C) inserted by [Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 \(c. 41, SIF 76:1\)](#), [s. 91\(2\)](#)
- F73** Words in s. 15(1A) inserted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, [Sch. 16 para. 19\(a\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); [S.I. 2009/1365](#), [art. 2\(a\)\(i\)](#)

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

F74 Words in s. 15(1A) inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 19(b)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)**

F75 Words in s. 15(1A) inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 19(c)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C28 S. 15 extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1) Table (as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), **art. 3(7)(a)**)

16 Duration of suspension of practising certificates.

[^{F76}(1) Where a practising certificate is suspended, it expires on such date as may be prescribed by regulations under section 28.]

[^{F77}(1) Where, on the replacement date for a practising certificate, the certificate is suspended it shall expire on that date.]

(2) The suspension of a practising certificate by virtue of section 15(1) by reason of an adjudication in bankruptcy shall terminate if the adjudication is annulled and an office copy of the order annulling the adjudication is served on the Society.

[^{F78}(2A) The suspension of a practising certificate by virtue of section 15(1) by reason of the making of a debt relief order shall terminate—

(a) if the debt relief order is revoked on the ground mentioned in section 251L(2) (c) or (d) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and a copy of the notice provided to the debtor under [^{F79}Rule 9.18 of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016] is served on the Society or the debt relief order is revoked by the court under section 251M(6)(e) of that Act and a copy of the court order is served on the Society;

(b) if the debt relief order is revoked and a period of one year has elapsed beginning with the effective date of that order.]

(3) Where a solicitor's practising certificate is suspended—

(a) by an order under section 13(4); or

(b) by virtue of section 15(1) by reason of his adjudication in bankruptcy[^{F80}or the making of a debt relief order (under Part 7A of the Insolvency Act 1986) in respect of him]; or

(c) by virtue of section 15(1) by reason of his suspension from practice and the period of his suspension from practice expires before [^{F81}the date on which his certificate will expire],

[^{F82}(d) by virtue of section 15(1A)]

the solicitor may at any time before the certificate expires (and, in the case of adjudication in bankruptcy, while the adjudication remains unannulled) apply to the Society to terminate the suspension.

(4) On an application under subsection (3), the Society may in its discretion—

(a) by order terminate the suspension either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as the Society may think fit; or

(b) refuse the application.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) If on an application by a solicitor under subsection (3) the Society refuses the application or terminates the suspension subject to conditions, the solicitor may appeal against the decision of the Society to the [^{F83}High Court, which] may—
- (a) affirm the decision; or
 - (b) terminate the suspension either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as [^{F84}it] may think fit.
- [^{F85}(6) In relation to an appeal under subsection (5) the High Court may make such order as it thinks fit as to payment of costs.
- (7) The decision of the High Court on an appeal under subsection (5) shall be final.]

Textual Amendments

- F76** S. 16(1) substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 20(2)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, {art. 2(a)(iii)} (subject to art. 4)
- F77** S. 16(1) substituted (1.7.1991) by [Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 \(c. 41, SIF 37\)](#), s. 125(3), **Sch. 18 para. 10(2)**; S.I. 1991/1364, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F78** S. 16(2A) inserted (1.10.2012) by [The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 \(Consequential Amendments\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2404\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 8(3)(a)** (with art. 5)
- F79** Words in s. 16(2A)(a) substituted (6.4.2017) by [The Insolvency \(England and Wales\) Rules 2016 \(Consequential Amendments and Savings\) Rules 2017 \(S.I. 2017/369\)](#), rule 1, **Sch. 1 para. 1**
- F80** Words in s. 16(3)(b) inserted (1.10.2012) by [The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 \(Consequential Amendments\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2404\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 8(3)(b)** (with art. 5)
- F81** Words in s. 16(3)(c) substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 20(3)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iii)** (subject to art. 4)
- F82** S. 16(3)(d) inserted by [Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 \(c. 41, SIF 76:1\)](#), s. 91(3)
- F83** Words in s. 16(5) substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 20(4)(a)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, {art. 2(a)(iii)} (subject to art. 4)
- F84** Word in s. 16(5)(b) substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 20(4)(b)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); art. 2(a)(iii) (subject to art. 4)
- F85** S. 16(6)(7) inserted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 20(5)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, {art. 2(a)(iii)} (subject to art. 4)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C29** S. 16 extended (22.5.2000) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), regs.1, 37(3), **Sch. 4 para. 7(1)** (as substituted (1.7.2009) by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), **art. 3(7)(a)**)
- C30** S. 16(3) extended in part (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\)](#), **art. 3(2)(e)**, **Sch.**

17 Publicity in relation to suspension of practising certificates.

- (1) Where a solicitor's practising certificate is suspended by an order under section 13(4), or by virtue of section 15(1) by reason of his adjudication in bankruptcy, the Society shall forthwith cause notice of that suspension to be published ^{F86}. . . and a note of it to be entered against the name of the solicitor on the roll.
- (2) Where any such suspension of a practising certificate as is mentioned in subsection (1) is terminated under section 16(2), (4) or (5), the Society shall forthwith cause a note of that termination to be entered against the name of the solicitor on the roll and, if so requested in writing by the solicitor, a notice of it to be published ^{F87}. . . .

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

Textual Amendments

- F86** Words in s. 17(1) repealed (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 21, Sch. 23 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, art. 2(j)(i)(n)(i)
- F87** Words in s. 17(2) repealed (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 21, Sch. 23 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, art. 2(j)(i)(n)(i)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C31** S. 17 extended (22.5.2000) by S.I. 2000/1119, regs. 1, 37(3), Sch. 4 para. 7(1)

^{F89}^{F88} [17A Suspension of sole solicitor endorsement

Textual Amendments

- F88** Ss. 17A, 17B inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 22 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, art. 2(a)(i)
- F89** S. 17B omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), Sch. 1 para. 10

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C32** S. 17A extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1) Table (as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), art. 3(7)(a))

^{F89} [17B] Duration and publicity of suspension of sole solicitor endorsement

Textual Amendments

- F88** Ss. 17A, 17B inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 22 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, art. 2(a)(i)
- F89** S. 17B omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), Sch. 1 para. 10

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C33** S. 17B extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1) Table (as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), art. 3(7)(a))

^{F90} [18 Extracts from the roll or register etc as evidence.

- (1) An extract from the roll, or an extract from the register kept under section 10A, which is certified as correct by the Society is evidence of the matters mentioned in it.
- (2) A certificate from the Society stating that—
 - (a) a person's name is or was on the roll, or

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(b) a person is or was registered in the register kept under section 10A, is evidence of the matters stated.]

Textual Amendments

F90 S. 18 substituted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C34 S. 18 extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1)Table (as substituted by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), **art. 3(7)(a)**)

Rights and privileges of solicitors

19 Rights of practising and rights of audience.

F91

Textual Amendments

F91 S. 19 repealed (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 210, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 24**, **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)(i)(ii)(cc)** (with art. 9)

Unqualified persons acting as solicitors

[^{F92}20 Unqualified person not to act as solicitor.

- (1) No unqualified person is to act as a solicitor.
- (2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for not more than 2 years or to a fine, or to both.]

Textual Amendments

F92 S. 20 substituted (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 25** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)** (with art. 9)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C35 S. 20 modified (22.5.2000) by S.I. 2000/1119, regs. 1, 37(1), **Sch. 3 Pt. 2** (which amendment was omitted (1.1.2010) by virtue of [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), **art. 2(6)(a)**)

C36 S. 20 excluded by [Administration of Justice Act 1985 \(c. 61\)](#), s. 9(3) (as substituted (31.3.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 81(6)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193)); S.I. 2009/503, **art. 2(b)(ii)** (subject to art. 5)

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

21 Unqualified person not to pretend to be a solicitor.

Any unqualified person who wilfully pretends to be, or takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he is, qualified or recognised by law as qualified to act as a solicitor shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to [^{F93}a fine not exceeding the fourth level on the standard scale]

Textual Amendments

F93 Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [ss. 38, 46](#) and [Administration of Justice Act 1985 \(c. 61, SIF 34\)](#), [ss. 8, 69\(5\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 6](#), [Sch. 9 para. 17](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C37 [S. 21](#) amended by [Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 \(c. 48, SIF 67A\)](#), [s. 278\(2\)\(3\)](#)

22 Unqualified person not to prepare certain instruments.

F94

Textual Amendments

F94 [S. 22](#) repealed (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), [ss. 177, 210, 211](#), [Sch. 16 para. 26\(a\)](#), [Sch. 23](#) (with [ss. 29, 192, 193](#))

22A Powers of entry etc. of local weights and measures authorities.

F95

Textual Amendments

F95 [S. 22A](#) repealed (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), [ss. 177, 210, 211](#), [Sch. para. 16\(26\)\(a\)](#), [Sch. 23](#) (with [ss. 29, 192, 193](#)); [S.I. 2009/3250](#), [art. 2\(i\)\(ii\)\(dd\)](#) (with [art. 9](#))

23 Unqualified person not to prepare papers for probate etc.

F96

Textual Amendments

F96 [S. 23](#) repealed (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), [ss. 177, 210, 211](#), [Sch. 16 para. 26\(b\)](#), [Sch. 23](#) (with [ss. 29, 192, 193](#)); [S.I. 2009/3250](#), [art. 2\(i\)\(ii\)\(dd\)](#) (with [art. 9](#))

24 Application of penal provisions to body corporate.

- (1) If any act is done by a body corporate, or by any director, officer or servant of a body corporate, and is of such a nature or is done in such a manner as to be calculated to imply that the body corporate is qualified or recognised by law as qualified to act as a solicitor—

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) the body corporate shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to [^{F97}a fine not exceeding the fourth level on the standard scale, and]
 - (b) in the case of an act done by a director, officer or servant of the body corporate, he also shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to [^{F98}a fine not exceeding the fourth level on the standard scale.]
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that in [^{F99}section 20 the reference to an unqualified person and the reference to a person both include a reference to a body corporate.]

Textual Amendments

- F97** S. 24(1)(a): words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), **ss. 38, 46** and Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61, SIF 34), ss. 8, 69(5), **Sch. 1 para. 7(a)**, Sch. 9 para. 17
- F98** S. 24(1)(b): words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), **ss. 38, 46** and Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61, SIF 34), ss. 8, 69(5), **Sch. 1 para. 7(b)**, Sch. 9 para. 17
- F99** Words in s. 24(2) substituted (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 27** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)** (with art. 9 and subject to art. 5)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C38** S. 24(1) excluded (1.1.1992) by Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61, SIF 34), s. 9(3); S.I. 1991/2683, **art. 2** (which excluding provision was substituted (31.3.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 81(6)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/503, **art. 2(b)(ii)** (subject to art. 4))
- C39** S. 24(2) excluded by Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61, SIF 34), **s. 32(4)**
- C40** S. 24(2) excluded by (1.1.1992) by Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61, SIF 34), s. 9(3); S.I. 1991/2683, **art. 2** (which excluding provision was substituted (31.3.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 81(6)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/503, **art. 2(b)(ii)** (subject to art. 4))

25 Costs where unqualified person acts as solicitor.

- (1) No costs in respect of anything done by any unqualified person acting as a solicitor shall be recoverable by him, or by any other person, in any action, suit or matter.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) shall prevent the recovery of money paid or to be paid by a solicitor on behalf of a client in respect of anything done by the solicitor while acting for the client without holding a practising certificate in force if that money would have been recoverable if he had held such a certificate when so acting.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C41** S. 25 excluded by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), **ss. 27(10), 28(6), 59(1)**
- C42** S. 25(1) modified (22.5.2000) by S.I. 2000/1119, reg. 37(2), Sch. 3 Pt. 3 (which amendment was omitted (1.1.2010) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), **art. 2(6)(b)**)
- C43** S. 25(1) excluded by S.I. 1978/1910, art. 18(2), **Sch. Pt. III** (as amended by The European Communities (Services of Lawyers) (Amendment) Order 2004 (S.I. 2004/1117), {art. 5(3)})

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

26 Time limit for commencement of certain proceedings.

Notwithstanding anything in the [^{F100M2}Magistrates' Courts Act 1980], proceedings in respect of any offence under section 21 ^{F101} . . . may be brought at any time before the expiration of two years from the commission of the offence or six months from its first discovery by the prosecutor, whichever period expires first.

Textual Amendments

F100 Words substituted by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), s. 154, Sch. 7 para. 132

F101 Words in s. 26 repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 28, Sch. 23 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, art. 2(f)(ii)(i)(ii)(ee) (with art. 9 and subject to art. 5)

Marginal Citations

M2 1980 c. 43.

27 Saving for persons authorised to conduct legal proceedings.

^{F102}

Textual Amendments

F102 S. 27 repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 29, Sch. 23 (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, art. 2(f)(ii)(i)(ii)(ff) (with art. 9)

Supplementary

28 Regulations.

- (1) The [^{F103}Society] may make regulations ^{F104} . . . about the following matters, namely—
- (a) admission as a solicitor;
 - (b) the keeping of the roll;
 - (c) practising certificates ^{F105} . . . ;
 - ^{F106} [^{F107}(ca)]
 - (d) the keeping of the register under [^{F108}section 10A] .
- (2) ^{F109}
- (3) ^{F109}

- [^{F110}(3A) Regulations about the keeping of the roll [^{F111}may (among other things)—
- (za) make provision about the form in which the roll is to be kept and the manner in which entries are to be made, altered and removed;]
 - (a) provide for the Society, at such intervals as may be specified in the regulations, to enquire of solicitors of any class so specified whether they wish to have their names retained on the roll;
 - (b) require solicitors of any such class, at such intervals as aforesaid, to pay to the Society a fee in respect of the retention of their names on the roll of such amount as may be prescribed by the regulations;^{F112} . . .

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

- (c) authorise the Society to remove from the roll the name of any solicitor who—
 - (i) fails to reply to any enquiry made in pursuance of paragraph (a) or to pay any fee payable by virtue of paragraph (b), or
 - (ii) replies to any such enquiry by indicating that he does not wish to have his name retained on the roll;
 - (d) authorise the Society to remove from the roll the name of any solicitor who has died.]
 - [^{F113}(e) require the information on the roll to be made available to the public;
 - (f) specify the manner in which information is to be made so available and require it to be made so available during office hours and without charge.]
- [^{F114}(3B) Regulations about practising certificates ^{F115}... may (among other things)—
- (a) prescribe the form and manner in which applications for, or relating to, practising certificates ^{F115}... are to be made;
 - (b) prescribe information which must be included in or accompany such applications;
 - (c) make provision about time limits for dealing with such applications, and confer on a person power to extend or bring forward such a time limit in prescribed circumstances;
 - (d) prescribe the requirements which applicants for practising certificates must satisfy before they may be issued with a practising certificate;
 - (e) prescribe descriptions of applicants, and conditions in relation to them, for the purposes of section 10(2) (circumstances in which practising certificates must be issued subject to prescribed conditions);
 - [^{F116}(f)]
 - (g) prescribe circumstances for the purposes of section 10(3) (circumstances in which application may be refused etc in the public interest);
 - (h) make provision about when conditions imposed on practising certificates take effect (including provision conferring power on the Society to direct that a condition is not to have effect until the conclusion of any appeal in relation to it);
 - (i) make provision for the commencement, duration, replacement, withdrawal and expiry of practising certificates ^{F115}...;
 - (j) prescribe circumstances for the purposes of section 13A(2) (circumstances in which conditions can be imposed during period of practising certificate);
 - (k) require solicitors who hold practising certificates to notify the Society of such matters as may be prescribed, at such times, or in such circumstances as may be prescribed.
- (3C) Regulations about the keeping of the register under section 10A may (among other things)—
- (a) make provision about the form in which the register is to be kept and the manner in which entries are to be made, altered and removed;
 - (b) require information of a specified kind to be included in entries in the register;
 - (c) require information (or information of a specified description) on the register to be made available to the public;
 - (d) specify the manner in which it is to be made so available and require it to be made so available during office hours and without charge.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)

- (3D) Regulations under this section may make provision for appeals to the High Court against decisions made by the Society under the regulations.
- (3E) In relation to an appeal under regulations made by virtue of subsection (3D), the High Court may make such order as it thinks fit as to payment of costs.
- (3F) The decision of the High Court on such an appeal shall be final.
- (3G) Regulations under this section may—
- (a) provide for a person to exercise a discretion in dealing with any matter;
 - (b) include incidental, supplementary and consequential provision;
 - (c) make transitory or transitional provision and savings;
 - (d) make provision generally or only in relation to specified cases or subject to specified exceptions;
 - (e) make different provision for different cases.]
- (4) ^{F117}
- (5) ^{F117}

Textual Amendments

- F103** Words in s. 28(1) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 30(2)(a)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F104** Words in s. 28(1) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 30(2)(b), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F105** Words in s. 28(1)(c) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 30(2)(b), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F106** S. 28(1)(ca) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 11(a)**
- F107** S. 28(1)(ca) inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 30(2)(d)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F108** Words in s. 28(1)(d) substituted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 30(2)(e)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F109** S. 28(2)(3) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 30(3), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)(c)(i)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F110** S. 28(3A) inserted by Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61, SIF 34), s. 8, **Sch. 1 para. 8(2)**
- F111** Words in s. 28(3A) substituted (1.7.2009) by virtue of Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 30(4)(a)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F112** Word in s. 28(3A)(b) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 30(4)(b), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)(c)(i)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F113** S. 28(3A)(e)(f) inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 30(4)(c)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F114** S. 28(3B)-(3G) inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 30(5)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)
- F115** Words in s. 28(3B) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 11(b)(i)**
- F116** S. 28(3B)(f) omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 11(b)(ii)**
- F117** S. 28(4)(5) repealed (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 30(6), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(iv)(c)(i)** (subject to arts. 3, 4)

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I. (See end of Document for details)*

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C44** S. 28 extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [The Registered Foreign Lawyers Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1589\)](#), [art. 4](#)
- C45** S. 28(1)(c)-(d) extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), Sch. 4 para. 1(2), 7(1A) Table (as amended by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), [art. 3\(2\)](#))
- C46** S. 28(3B)-(3G) modified (1.7.2009) by [S.I. 2000/1119](#), Sch. 4 para. 1(2A), 7(1A), Table (as inserted by [The Legal Services Act 2007 \(Registered European Lawyers\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1587\)](#), [art. 3\(3\)](#))

29 Non-British subjects as solicitors. 12 & 13 Will. 3. c. 2.

Nothing in section 3 of the Act of Settlement (which provides among other things that aliens are incapable of enjoying certain offices or places of trust) shall be taken to disqualify a person from becoming or practising as a solicitor [^{F118}of the Senior Courts or of the Court of Judicature].

Textual Amendments

- F118** Words in s. 29 substituted (1.10.2009) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 59, 148, [Sch. 11 para. 21\(4\)](#); [S.I. 2009/1604](#), [art. 2\(b\)\(d\)](#)

30 Evidence as to solicitors in Scotland.

For the purposes of this Part, a letter purporting to be signed by or on behalf of the registrar of solicitors in Scotland—

- (a) stating that a person specified in the letter is or is not a solicitor in Scotland shall be evidence that that person is or, as the case may be, is not a solicitor in Scotland;
- (b) stating that a person specified in the letter did not at any time during a period so specified have in force a practising certificate as a solicitor in Scotland shall be evidence that that person was not during any part of that period a duly certificated solicitor in Scotland.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Part I.