

SQE Independent Reviewer

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Role of Independent Reviewer

- To provide external assurance to SRA and Kaplan that the SQE is fair, defensible and will command public confidence
- Work involves interviews, direct observation, review of management reports
- Have completed my five-year term and now handing over to Ricardo Le

Sept 2022 – Sept 2023

- Overall, the operation was good and improved year on year
- SQE is complex and operates in high stakes context
- Outcomes appear fair and reliable
- Operational issues smaller in scale
- Many improvements implemented
- Some more still needed

What went well

- Processes have generally shown improvement during delivery
- Volumes of entries and sessions run per year increased
- Some processes are already excellent
- Standards setting continues to be robust, fair and defensible
- Lessons learned were prioritised and delivered

Challenges and responses

- There were some operational issues, but fewer candidates were affected; some were new issues
- Any significant issue is one too many
- Responses to issues were again thorough, timely and the candidate experience was paramount
- Further opportunities for improvement

Summary

- Year-on-year improvements were delivered
- There is no room for complacency, nor is there any sense of it
- The SQE outcomes continue to appear fair, defensible and reliable