



Police station representative accreditation scheme

Updated 29 March 2023

About the scheme

The Police Station Representative Accreditation Scheme (PSRAS) is a compulsory qualification for solicitors and non-solicitors who provide legal advice at the police station on a legally aided basis.

Practising solicitors need to complete PSRAS or the [Police Station Qualification](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/career-advice/individual-accreditations/criminal-litigation-accreditation/how-to-apply/) [https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/career-advice/individual-accreditations/criminal-litigation-accreditation/how-to-apply/], to claim payment for police station advice.

We authorise assessment organisations to administer the PSRAS assessment on our behalf for solicitors and non-solicitors. They also offer training to prepare for the assessments (although it is not a compulsory part of the process).

We have authorised two providers as assessment organisations:

- [Cardiff Centre for Professional Legal Studies](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/law-politics/) [http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/law-politics/]
- [Datalaw](http://www.datalawonline.co.uk/) [http://www.datalawonline.co.uk/]

We monitor delivery of the assessments through an [Independent External Examiner](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/police-station-representatives-accreditation-scheme-external-examiner-annual-report/) [https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/police-station-representatives-accreditation-scheme-external-examiner-annual-report/].

The Police Station Representatives register is regulated by the Legal Aid Agency. The aim of the scheme is to accredit non-solicitors to advise and assist suspects being held at a police station and to claim payment from the [Legal Aid Agency](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/) [http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/] (LAA) for having provided such assistance.

Becoming a police station representative

To gain the PSRAS qualification, you must pass an assessment. There are three parts:

- a. submission of a portfolio
- b. a practical role-play called the Critical Incidents Test (CIT)
- c. a written examination

You can find more information about the content and structure of the assessment in our [PSRAS assessment guidelines](https://higher-) [https://higher-]



rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/assessment-guidelines/].

The following information is also helpful:

- [Standards of competence](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/standards/) [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/standards/>] for the accreditation of solicitors and solicitors' representatives advising at the police station.
- [Legal Aid Agency guide \(LAA website\)](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal/police_stations.asp) [http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal/police_stations.asp]
- [Portfolio assessment guidance \(Law Society website\)](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/accreditation/documents/criminal-litigation-scheme-guidance/) [<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/accreditation/documents/criminal-litigation-scheme-guidance/>]
- [Police Station Register Arrangements \(LAA website\)](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal/stat_material/directions.asp) [http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal/stat_material/directions.asp], under which the LAA operates and maintains the register of representatives.

You can then register with one of the [authorised assessment organisations](#) [[#authorised-assessment-organisations](#)].

Your assessment organisation will tell you next steps, provide you with an assessments timetable and outline the prerequisites of registration as a probationary representative.

Useful links

[Legal Aid Agency](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/) [<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/>]

Legal Aid Agency (LAA) is responsible for the development and administration in England and Wales of the [Community Legal Service](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil.asp) [<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil.asp>] and the [Criminal Defence Service](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal.asp) [<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal.asp>].

Police Station Representative Service
Defence Solicitor Call Centre

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