

Statement of the governance principles to be followed by the BSB

Decision-making

- Decisions should be delegated to the lowest appropriate level, whilst also ensuring an appropriate quality of decision-making and management of risk;
- The Board must provide appropriate oversight and expects the executive to manage operations effectively and will hold the executive to account for its performance;
- Responsibility and accountability for decisions as well as operational implementation should be clearly recorded for everyone to see;
- Decisions must be made consistently (and to high standards based on relevant, up to date information) and must be transparent and justified by objective assessment of relevant facts, risks and criteria, and appropriately recorded.

Structures and input

- Committees exist either to provide independence in regulatory case work decision-making or to provide oversight of the BSB's work;
- All committee structures should be of the minimum size possible to maintain quality;
- We will seek expert input from a wide range of stakeholders into our work and particularly from consumers;
- We will consult widely whenever it is needed using business-appropriate, professional mechanisms.

Independence and openness

- All structures and processes must protect our regulatory independence, and comply with the Legal Services Board's Internal Governance Rules;
- Lay majority in decision-making underlines the BSB's independence. Where decisions are made at Board or Committee level, they should have both lay and barrister input;
- We shall operate in a transparent manner and with integrity;
- Our governance structure shall be established and then operate in such a way that we maintain integrity and legitimacy with the public and the profession.

Effectiveness

- Consideration of regulatory risk and the regulatory principles (that activity should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted) must be reflected throughout our governance arrangements;
- Our governance structures should assist us to focus on the results we really want and ensure that we are proportionate in what we do;
- We seek to provide value for money to all those who pay for our activities;
- We seek to be as efficient and responsive as we can be, and to be adaptable to future change.

Equality and Diversity

- We observe our Equality Act 2010 obligations and we are committed to anti-discriminatory approaches in all that we do.