



# 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>] 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>]
- Datalaw [<http://www.datalawonline.co.uk/>]

We monitor delivery of the assessments through an Independent External Examiner [<https://www.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/>] (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://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/cpd/accreditation/police-station-representative-accreditation-scheme/assessment-guidelines/>] .

The following information is also helpful:

- Standards of competence [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/cpd/accreditation/police-station-representative-accreditation-scheme/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/>]
- 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/>]

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>] and the Criminal Defence Service [<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal.asp>] .

Police Station Representative Service

Defence Solicitor Call Centre

Email [enquiries@dutysolicitors.org](mailto:enquiries@dutysolicitors.org) [<mailto:enquiries@dutysolicitors.org>]

Tel 0345 543 8910