

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://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/police-station-representatives-accreditation-scheme-external-examiner-annual-report/) [https://upgrade.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](#)



[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/assessment-guidelines/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/assessment-guidelines/).

The following information is also helpful:

- [Standards of competence](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/standards/)
[https://upgrade.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
Email enquiries@dutysolicitors.org [mailto:enquiries@dutysolicitors.org]
Tel 0345 543 8910