

Highlights from Independent Reviewer report

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Reviewer

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
- Involved since 2019, party to design decisions and pilot activity prior to live operation

A review so far

- Overall the operation has been good
- SQE is complex and operates in high stakes context
- Outcomes appear fair and reliable
- Some operational issues
- Inevitably some improvements being implemented
- Future scrutiny

SQE has started well

- The SQE is a sophisticated and complex exam
- The processes in place were well conceived, well piloted and have delivered
- Some aspects of delivery are already excellent
- Standards setting is robust
- Approach to lessons learned is thorough

Challenges and responses

- Operational issues and some candidates were affected
- Response was thorough, quick and candidate experience was at the heart of decision making
- Appetite within SRA and Kaplan to learn lessons and implement improvements
- Predict the system will come under increasing scrutiny and challenge

Summary

- A good start has been made
- There is no room for complacency
- The initial SQE outcomes appear fair, defensible and reliable