

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

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

The following information is also helpful:

- [Standards of competence](https://consultations.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/standards/) [\[https://consultations.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/standards/\]](https://consultations.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) [\[http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal/police\\_stations.asp\]](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/) [\[http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/accreditation/documents/criminal-litigation-scheme-guidance/\]](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) [\[http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal/stat\\_material/directions.asp\]](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/) [\[http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/\]](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) [\[http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil.asp\]](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil.asp) and the [Criminal Defence Service](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal.asp) [\[http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal.asp\]](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal.asp).

Police Station Representative Service  
Defence Solicitor Call Centre  
Email [enquiries@dutysolicitors.org](mailto:enquiries@dutysolicitors.org) [\[mailto:enquiries@dutysolicitors.org\]](mailto:enquiries@dutysolicitors.org)  
Tel 0345 543 8910