

Quality Mark for the Bar – FAQs

1. Although the LSC have not been doing any QMB audits recently, does it have any plans to outsource this quality mark as has been done with QM and SQM?

It is very unlikely that we will outsource the QMB. We outsourced other standards where we were unable to continue to audit a standard and there was no other reasonable alternative available. In this case the BarMark, which is a very similar standard to the QMB, is available to chambers. Indeed, we have up to now passported BarMark holders into the QMB. It is more likely that in due course we will withdraw the standard from operation.

2. I am not a BarMark holder and would like to obtain the QMB. Is this still possible?

The LSC are currently focussing resources on contracted providers but it is up to individual regions to decide whether new QMB applications are taken on. If a regional office has the resource and can see value in undertaking an audit, they can do so. However, we would encourage applicants to apply for BarMark instead.

3. What about Quality Assurance for Advocates (QAA)?

QAA is a quality assurance tool for advocates while the QMB is a management standard for chambers. Therefore they cover different important aspects of quality.

4. My stationery has the QMB logo. Will I have to remove it if you withdraw the QMB?

This would be the case. A grace period would be given to allow chambers to run their stationery supplies down.