

**QUESTIONS FOR CONSULTATION BY THE  
ELECTRONIC EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP**

- 1) eSignature platforms should self-certify against a set of principles formulated, maintained and publicised by an industry or governmental body (such as Information Commissioner's Office, LawTechUK or the National Cyber Security Centre). ***Do you agree? What (sort of) body is best placed to do this?***
- 2) Such certification should be based on an evaluation of the way in which the relevant software performs and functions. The underlying code is not a relevant subject for external evaluation. ***Do you agree?***
- 3) Self-certification should cover both:
  - the functionality of the service(s) offered by the platform (in establishing whether those services meet the requirements for an advanced or qualified electronic signature) and
  - the security of the platform.***Do you agree? Are there other areas against which e-signing platforms could usefully self-certify?***
- 4) Self-certification against these benchmark principles should be a process performed on an annual basis. ***Do you agree?***
- 5) Self-certification should not be mandatory but should instead be a choice made by platforms on the basis of market considerations. ***Do you agree?***
- 6) A failure to adhere to self-certified standards should be addressed through a complaints and investigation procedure, resulting, where appropriate, in enforcement orders, publicity orders and/or fines. ***Do you agree?***

### **How to Respond**

If you wish to submit a response to this consultation, please send it (in Word or PDF form) by 09 September 2022 to [IWGsecretariat@justice.gov.uk](mailto:IWGsecretariat@justice.gov.uk) Please state "IWG consultation" in the subject line of your email.

### **Deadline for responses**

The deadline for responses is 09 September 2022.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please contact the secretariat via the above email address.