

The right information in the right places

We are proposing a requirement on regulators to ensure they provide information about how individuals can enter and remain in their profession. This will support transparency and help individuals navigate the regulatory landscape. We will also provide a power enabling the UK Government and the devolved administrations to lay secondary legislation to require regulators to publish further information regarding their professions in the future. For example, if it emerges that certain important information, such as diversity and inclusion data, is insufficiently available, the UK Government or the devolved administrations will be able to require that the information is made publicly available.

A framework for all the UK's nations

In line with the devolution settlements, some professions are regulated in different ways in different parts of the UK. This is an important part of national and regulator autonomy, supporting all UK nations to meet their priorities. We want to ensure that this continues to work well and does not introduce barriers for professionals working in the UK.

The UK Internal Market Act 2020 established a system for UK residents for the recognition of certain professional qualifications and experience received in one part of the UK in another part of the UK.^{8 9} Certain professionals can use compliance with the requirements in one part of the UK to comply with the requirements in another part of the UK. This means that UK residents with certain qualifications received in one part of the UK do not face unnecessary barriers to work in other parts of the UK.

To support effective regulation across the UK, we are proposing to make sure that regulators in the UK have access to necessary information to recognise professional qualifications. Some regulators in different parts of the UK currently share information on a voluntary basis which supports effective action, for example, if there is evidence of malpractice. We plan to give this voluntary activity a legislative underpinning. For example, a regulator in one part of the UK could ask an equivalent regulator in another part of the UK for information relating to an individual's fitness to practise, and, where applicable, any instances of professional sanctions. This would always be within UK data protection laws and any confidentiality obligations by which the regulator is bound. This will ensure that regulators in all parts of the UK have access to vital information that will help them fulfil their obligations.

⁸ Legislation.gov.uk. '[UK Internal Market Act](#)': Part 3 UK Market Access: professional qualifications and regulation (viewed on 28 April 2021)

⁹ The Legal Services professions and professions of school teaching are not included in the scope of the UK Internal Market Act's provisions on the recognition of qualifications or experience.

