

This reflects my personal view, but by way of background I am a solicitor with 40 odd years of experience [X].

The area I want to suggest is that of advice on immigration matters. Less than half of the advisers are solicitors (the fact that legal aid is unavailable and the fact that most clients cannot pay much if anything is a factor here). Others are authorised by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. Others are not authorised at all.

I am told by people who really would know (such as a former President of The Law Society) that a significant number of advisers are of poor quality and giving sub-standard advice or performing poorly as advocates. The Law Society would I am sure accept that some of this poor advice and advocacy is by solicitors. The nature of the problem is illustrated in a recent Legal Services Board review.

I think it would be a good area for study by you as there is clearly significant market failure, there is existing and recent analysis, and it is an area where legal professionals compete against non-professionals. So it illustrates a number of the things that the CMA is looking at.