

Section 391N of the Insolvency Act 1986

(Revocations of recognition at the request of a body)

Notice in accordance with section 391N(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986

The Law Society

On 22nd January 2016 the Law Society asked the Secretary of State to consider a request made by Solicitors Regulatory Authority under section 391N of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the Law Society should cease to be a recognised professional body (“RPB”) for the purposes of section 391 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority is an independent operating division of the Law Society with responsibility for regulatory functions. The request under section 391N is made following a public consultation by the Solicitors Regulation Authority which took place between 18 November 2014 and 16 January 2015. The Law Society has confirmed that the Solicitors Regulatory Authority has completed its internal procedures to sanction and implement its decision to cease acting as an RPB with effect from 1st November 2015.

The Minister for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise has considered this request and is satisfied that it is appropriate in all the circumstances of this case to revoke this recognition in accordance with the procedure in section 391N of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Accordingly the Secretary of State is making the Insolvency Practitioners (Recognised Professional Bodies) (Revocation of Recognition) Order 2016. This Order takes effect from 15th April 2016.

The reasons for making the order in relation to the Law Society are—

- A reduction in the number of RPBs regulating in this area is consistent with recent reviews of the insolvency market. It will promote consistency and efficiency and could reduce the overall cost of regulation which would ultimately benefit creditors.
- The Law Society has put in place arrangements for insolvency practitioners to be regulated by other RPBs and that regulation is likely to be more effective.
- The Law Society has put in place arrangements for dealing with any professional conduct issues that may arise with these insolvency practitioners.
- Revocation is consistent with the objective of ensuring regulatory activities are transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted.

The Legal Services Board has been informed of this request for revocation.

A print version of the notice is available from The Insolvency Service, 4 Abbey Orchard Street, London, SW1P 2HT.

Anna Soubry Minister for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Date 15 March 2016