

When was the current edition published, and what is the timetable for the next edition?

The current (2020) edition was published in October 2019. The deadline for editorial submissions and referee spreadsheets for the 2021 edition is 21 February for regional sets and 20 March for London chambers. The follow-up research will take place between 4 May and 5 June 2020; we do not publish a more detailed research timetable.

When do you publish the details of the researchers for the next edition?

We publish details of which researcher is covering which area, along with contact details, shortly after the submission deadline has passed. They will be posted on the Legal 500 website (at legal500.com/assets/pages/about-us/get-involved.html).

Our chambers is not currently recommended in the editorial of Legal 500, but we believe we warrant a recommendation. What should we do next?

The editorial research is based on chambers' written editorial submissions, and follow-up research with clerks, barristers and their referees. The first step is therefore to provide us with a written editorial submission for your chambers. If the submission deadline has passed, see question below relating to late submissions.

Please refer to the editorial submission guidelines for details of the information we ask for. You should provide a separate submission for each practice area for which you believe your chambers warrants a recommendation, which covers the work of individual leading counsel and junior barristers within that practice area.

Do you accept submissions from individual barristers?

Our preference is for a practice-wide submission to be made by a chambers, set, or stable, including details of the work of individual barristers. Where a set does not make a submission, we are happy to accept submissions by practice area from individuals in relation to the individual rankings.

What is the difference between editorial and sales?

The task of the editorial team is to objectively research the legal market, practice area by practice area; to assign rankings to chambers' practices, and those of the leading silks, and leading junior barristers; and to write accompanying editorial. There is no cost associated with making an editorial submission.

The sales side of Legal 500 relates to the paid-for chambers profiles. The profiles are written by the chambers, not by The Legal 500.

The editorial and sales sides operate independently. Some chambers pay for profiles but are not recommended in the editorial. Others are recommended but choose not to take profiles.

If you have any queries regarding sales, you should contact Alexander Owen: alexander.owen@legal500.com

Does a chambers have to be a certain size before it is eligible to be editorially recommended?

No, although the size of the team, and its strength in depth, particularly the position of silks and juniors in the individual rankings, are among the factors which the editorial researcher will take into account when assessing a set against its competitors. Others include the quality/significance of work handled, the calibre of instructing solicitors, referee feedback, and the reputation of individual practitioners, particularly leading counsel.

If we send a chambers profile, do we also need to send an editorial submission?

Yes. Editorial researchers do not see the profiles provided by chambers. The editorial research is independent of the sales process.

Do you have a pro forma/model editorial submission?

Submissions should contain the information requested in the editorial submission template.

How much detail about cases do you need?

Cases should not be set out in exhaustive legal detail; an indication of their nature and a short explanation as to their relevance/significance is sufficient. Please see our template for further guidance.

Why are you asking us for written feedback? Can't this be discussed between the senior clerk and the researcher?

Feedback is a very important part of the research process. Setting it out in writing does not preclude a confidential discussion, but is the starting place for it, in terms of rankings of sets and individuals. All feedback will be treated as confidential and non-attributable.

In asking for feedback, we are looking to see if you agree with the rankings assigned to your set and the accompanying editorial commentary in the current edition. We also welcome any views on whether, and to what extent, you feel the market has moved in the last 12 months. We also welcome your assessment as to who your closest competitors are in each practice area, and how you differentiate your set from theirs, as well as an indication of which barrister moves have caught your attention over the last year, and why.

We are currently recommended in The Legal 500 UK. Do we need to continue to provide editorial submissions in order to retain our ranking?

Yes. We do take into account a set's track record in a particular area, but the editorial research is conducted afresh each year. The same is true of leading counsel and the junior Bar.

We are not going to be able to meet the editorial submission deadline. Do you accept late submissions?

The Legal 500 series receives thousands of submissions every year, and researchers are under tight deadlines to research practice areas. The follow-up research will be starting shortly after the deadline, on 4 May, so it is in chambers' own interests for their submissions (including feedback on the current rankings) to have been fully reviewed by the researchers as part of their preparation for their follow-up research. Our overriding aim is to produce editorial which is as accurate as possible, but chambers should be aware that submissions delivered late may not be given as full consideration as submissions received on time.

Do the researchers interview all chambers who provide a submission for a particular practice area? Do we need to do anything to ensure a follow-up interview?

We do our best to present a fair and accurate picture of the market, but we do not undertake to speak to all chambers and barristers across all practice areas for which they have provided a submission. In most cases the researcher will have sufficient information from the written submission and references, but if chambers would like to request specific interviews, we ask that they email the relevant researchers (contact details are available to view online from 4 May). We may seek to speak to a representative sample of barristers; or just the senior clerk and head of the practice area.

What form does your referee research take?

In the first instance we send a standard email to referees. This identifies the relevant barrister and practice area, and requests feedback on the referee's experience of that barrister in that area. The client is also invited to give feedback on other barristers they have instructed. All feedback is given on a confidential, non-attributable basis.

Do you accept updates to submissions?

The researchers are primarily looking to update the editorial based on an annual review. However, so that the editorial is as accurate as possible, sets are encouraged to update major developments occurring after the submission deadline.

What is your policy on new silks?

We list all new silks on appointment, by practice area. Our editorial policy is that new silks should not be considered for entry into the rankings of leading silks for 24 months following their appointment, other than in exceptional circumstances. This is in order to allow for individuals' practices as leading counsel to be assessed, during the run-off of their junior practices, while they establish themselves as leaders. Exceptional circumstances may include: where counsel has previously qualified as leading counsel in another jurisdiction; where counsel receives outstanding feedback from referees and peers; or where counsel consistently led other junior barristers, in the absence of a silk, prior to their appointment as QC. Previous status as a leading junior is useful but not conclusive in determining rankings for the silk tables.

There is a factual error in UK Legal 500. Can you amend the error in the online version?

We will amend any factual errors online. If you are aware of a factual error, please contact us through our FAQ page at legal500.com/assets/pages/faqs.

We have an active practice in an area that is not currently a Legal 500 category. Should we provide a submission for it anyway?

No. The list of sections has been finalised for the 2021 edition, and no additional sections will be added without notifying all sets potentially affected. Sets are advised to look at the published list of categories, and include the information as part of a submission for the category which closest fits the practice concerned.

We think you should introduce a new editorial category. Do you accept suggestions, and if so who should we contact?

We aim to structure the editorial in a way that reflects the market, and do keep the editorial categories under review. The list of sections has been finalised for the 2021 edition, but if you have suggestions for editions thereafter you should contact editorial@legal500.com; the list of sections for the 2022 edition will be finalised by November 2020.

Who should I contact for more information?

Please email editorial@legal500.com