



## Architects Registration Board

Established by Statute

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Dear Colleague,

### Retention Fee for 1999

As you know, ARB came into being on 1st April 1997, replacing ARCUK as the statutory body for regulating architects. Since that date, it has derived its income from the annual retention fee of £50, which was set by ARCUK on 1st January 1992.

You might not be aware that in addition to the statutory functions that ARB is undertaking in place of ARCUK, ARB's remit is considerably wider. This is partly due to the 1997 Architects Act, but also partly due to the Board recognising that the new body needs to improve its level of service both to the public and to the profession. To this end, ARB is in the process of introducing a number of strategic measures to help it achieve its goal of effective regulation.

These measures include :

- the adoption of a much firmer stance against those persons holding themselves out as architects who are not in fact registered with ARB
- a wide ranging review of ARB's complaints handling processes and procedures
- developing close working relationships with each school of architecture
- introducing processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the organisation
- the development of a new streamlined IT system to reflect ARB's increased responsibilities.

With its widened remit, ARB would be unable to meet its statutory responsibilities on the income generated by the present level of the retention fee, which has been unchanged since 1992. At its meeting in May, the Board therefore agreed that the fee for 1999 should be set at £50. The Board further agreed to a regular review of the fee on an annual basis.

I believe that the strategies adopted by ARB will prove to be cost effective, and I look forward to your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Kelly  
Chairwoman