



Professional Paralegal Register

Raising Standards; Enhancing Consumer Protection

FAQs
CILEX ACQUISITION OF
PPR/IOP

What is the rationale behind the acquisition?

The IoP chief executive Rita Leat was looking for a partner who could build on its members' potential. CILEX's mission and operating model is closely aligned with the IoP's proposition and values, making it a natural fit.

CILEX already has 12,000 paralegals in its membership. In making this acquisition, CILEX identified many synergies between its work and a shared vision for recognising the important role paralegals play in the delivery of legal services and the value of having a career pathway for paralegals. This deal reaffirms that CILEX is the natural home for specialist legal professionals.

What will change for IoP members?

IoP members will retain their existing IoP status and membership benefits package but will gain the additional benefits of CILEX membership including access to networks, CPD, career tools and the CILEX Paralegal status.

Will my IoP membership grade be the same at CILEX?

No. CILEX has Student, Paralegal, Advanced Paralegal, Chartered Legal Executive Fellow and CILEX Lawyer membership grades.

Therefore, in addition to your IoP status and associated digital credential you will join the relevant CILEX grade based on a mapping of your qualification or experience level against the CILEX standards.

For example:

If you currently have an IOP Fellow Status, this will remain and you will also receive CILEX Paralegal or Advanced Paralegal membership status with includes use of the post-nominal MCILEX.

Renewals

CILEX operates an annual renewal cycle. This means that from 1 April 2023 IoP members will, on their renewal date be transitioned into CILEX members on a pro-rata fee basis. From 1 January 2024 all IoP members will renew in line with the CILEX cycle of 1 January.

Will membership cost more?

This depends on the grade of membership and whether a transitioning member is a member of both the IoP and the PPR or just one. The maximum difference in fee is £60. 2023 fees will be pro-rated with all members having transitioned to CILEX rates by January 2024. Details of CILEX fee rates can be found [here](#). Payment plans and direct debit are available for those whose fees are not paid by their employers.

I'm happy as a paralegal and don't want to qualify as a lawyer, which is why I didn't join CILEX in the first place. Will I have to undertake further study?

No. CILEX already has many career paralegals in its membership and its grades and membership benefits recognise that some people want to concentrate on a paralegal career with the backing of a professional body that will provide them with the training and support they need.

Plans and ambitions change, of course, and as a member of CILEX, paralegals have a clear path to further their careers and, if they want, become CILEX Lawyers, with rights equivalent to solicitors but there is no requirement to do so.

How can I be confident that CILEX will represent me as a paralegal?

CILEX sees itself as the home of specialist legal professionals – and more than half of its existing members are paralegals. Paralegals will benefit hugely from having one of the three main legal representative bodies promoting their role in the delivery of legal services.

As a member of CILEX, will I automatically be regulated?

Yes, regulation is a key element of CILEX membership and is a vital element of the CILEX Paralegal status that commands public trust and confidence. Through the Professional Paralegal Register, IoP members already benefit from standards of conduct and competence that must be adhered to so there will be no additional burden.

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What is happening to the IoP staff?

Chief executive Rita Leat is joining CILEX as a special adviser to ensure a smooth transfer, and will remain in touch with IoP members and employers. The two IoP employees will be retained joining the CILEX membership team.

Will the National Paralegal Awards continue?

Yes. CILEX wants to continue celebrating the achievements of paralegals and those firms who invest in and support them.

What will happen to the IoP name?

The IoP name and trademark have been transferred to CILEX.

What is happening with the PPR?

It will continue to operate as it is, managed by CILEX.

What about non-IoP members who are on the PPR?

They will remain on the register, and will also benefit from CILEX membership.

Will my status on the PPR Register Change?

No.

Will there be any change to my Paralegal Practising Certificate?

No. Your Paralegal Practising Certificate will remain as issued.

Can I still choose to be Registered or Regulated?

All members will continue to be required to be Registered but Paralegal Practising Certificates are optional for those who qualify.

Will the experiential route remain?

All members will continue to be required to be Registered but Paralegal Practising Certificates are optional for those who qualify.

ENDS

The Professional Paralegal Register

Registered Address:

Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill,
EC4M 7JN,
London



 020 3039 3170

 info@ppr.org.uk

 www.ppr.org.uk

