



Electronic execution of documents
Consultation from the Law Commission
Response by the Council for Licensed Conveyancers

November 2018

1. The Council for Licensed Conveyancers (CLC) is supportive of encouraging the use of electronic execution of documents in the conveyancing and probate sectors.
2. Technology is continuing to develop, especially with the aim of improving the conveyancing process. Improved technology and the use of electronic signatures may benefit legal transactions by improving efficiency and reducing costs.
3. These new and innovative processes and evolving consumer expectations require the law to be flexible enough to adapt to technological change whilst providing some certainty about the application and status of electronic signatures for the legal profession.
4. The CLC believes that significant consideration should be given to the impact of electronic signatures on consumers and vulnerable individuals, especially if used in haste, error or under duress. People using electronic signatures should fully understand the implications of their actions and additional protection should be provided to these people.
5. The CLC is supportive of the idea of an industry working group to consider practical and technical issues.
6. The CLC acknowledges that this consultation does not extend to the electronic execution of registered dispositions under the Land Registration Act 2002, nor is it extended to wills. We will engage with the relevant HM Land Registry and Law Commission projects accordingly.

About the Council for Licensed Conveyancers

7. The CLC was established by the Administration of Justice Act 1985 and is an Approved Regulator under the Legal Services Act 2007, subject to the oversight regulation of the Legal Services Board.
8. It licenses and regulates licensed conveyancers and practices in England and Wales in the provision of reserved legal activities, currently conveyancing and probate services, and other non-reserved legal activities, including will writing. It is also a Licensing Authority authorised to license and regulate Alternative Business Structures (ABS). It has no representative function having always been an independent regulator.
9. The CLC's role is to safeguard the public interest and consumers by regulating providers to deliver high quality and accessible legal services.
10. The CLC welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.