
Statement from CTSI Council

At its meeting on 23/24 September 2026, CTSI Council agreed, in principle, to commission an independent, externally led review of the knowledge, skills and competencies required of the trading standards and consumer protection professional of the future, and of how CTSI can ensure the future needs of the profession are met.

CTSI Regulations require that the Qualification Framework is reviewed every five years, with the next review due in 2027, so this is an appropriate time to consider the best way for any such review to be carried out, particularly in the light of potential changes in the local authority landscape in England.

The review will examine how the profession has evolved, assess the impact of changing regulatory, workforce and apprenticeship landscapes, and ensure that CTSI's qualifications, training and professional development pathways remain relevant, sustainable and fit for purpose across all trading standards sectors and the four nations.

The objective of the review is to provide an independent, evidence-based assessment of the future needs of the profession, and to help create a coherent pathway from entry into the profession to achieving Chartered status, supporting all professionals working in local authorities, business, regulatory bodies and other sectors.

There have been many legislative changes since the Qualification Framework was last looked at in detail, and CTSI wants to take this opportunity to establish, independently, what the profession will need in future, including how its qualifications, training and apprenticeship routes fit together.

The review will provide an independent view of what a competent professional needs to know and be able to do, and any recommendations arising would then be considered by Council. Council will have oversight of all stages of the work and emphasises that the review will have no effect on current students.

Council also approved the development of a detailed scoping paper covering governance, stakeholder engagement, costs, timelines and delivery arrangements, for consideration at the Spring 2027 Council meeting.