

# The JLEGAL PQE

Personality Questionnaire Experience



**FEATURING**  
**KIRSTIE NICHOLSON**  
**COMPETITION COUNSEL**  
**AT BHP**

Throughout the year, JLegal examines the PQE of a senior in-house counsel. On this occasion, we speak with Kirstie Nicholson who is excited to head out to a restaurant after our 2.5 month lockdown in Singapore. The Arctic Circle will have to wait!

▪ **What is your current state of mind?**

Following the recent "Circuit Breaker" period in Singapore, during which I was very fed up with my own company and my own cooking, I am now ecstatically happy that we can again meet up with friends and go out to a restaurant.

▪ **What's something you're glad you'll never have to do again?**

A practical ballet exam – suffice to say that I have never had any natural talent or skill as a ballet dancer, and so I pursued a career in law.

▪ **What's one thing you always procrastinate on?**

Emails on a difficult or boring subject. I was taught as a trainee to keep difficult emails in my draft folder for 24 hours to allow for reflection before sending, but they frequently end up sitting there for much longer in the often vain hope that the issue will disappear by itself (it usually doesn't).

▪ **Is there anything you consider absolutely unforgivable?**

There are very few things I consider absolutely unforgivable but one is lying (big stuff, not little fibs) – and liars always get found out eventually!

▪ **If you woke up tomorrow with no fear, what would you do first?**

Delete my email accounts and lose my phone in order to live a technology free life – and then immediately regret it when I realised I no longer had any way of contacting my family and friends!

▪ **What is one behaviour that you never tolerate?**

Nastiness. As the saying goes "Just Be Kind!".

▪ **Who would you hate to be stuck in a lift with?**

Someone (other than me) having a panic attack about being stuck in a lift.

▪ **What is something you have always dreamt of doing but have never done?**

I would love to go on a long trip to the Arctic Circle. Unfortunately, the environment is changing worryingly fast.

▪ **Your house, containing everything you own, catches fire. After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash to save any one item. What would it be? Why?**

I suspect that in reality I would be too risk-averse and cowardly to run into a burning building. But if I unexpectedly did pluck up sufficient courage, I would bring as many of my pictures as I could carry. They all represent happy memories and I would miss having them.

▪ **What is your happiest memory?**

I find it impossible to identify just one overall happiest memory (hence the many pictures referred to above).

▪ **What is your greatest fear?**

It was being alone, but I got quite used to that during the Circuit Breaker measures in Singapore. This just goes to show that, despite my usual excuses to the contrary, we are capable of overcoming our fears.

▪ **Which words or phrases do you most overuse?**

It has to be said that I probably overuse the phrase "it has to be said". I also swear too much.

▪ **How do you want to be remembered?**

I would like to be remembered with a smile by those who knew me.



## SINGAPORE

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