

Press release archive for 2023

December

[Profession's diversity continues to improve but more to do, 14 December 2023](#)

[Diversity within law firms is continuing to slowly improve year-on-year, with smaller firms more diverse than larger ones.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/2023-firm-diversity-data-pay-gaps/>]

November

[Axiom Ince intervention - SRA Compensation Fund update, 29 November 2023](#)

[We will not be imposing an overall cap on claims against the compensation fund arising from Axiom Ince. And those claims will be prioritised to make sure that the most pressing – such as for domestic conveyancing – will be dealt with first in order to maintain the financial solvency of the fund.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/axiom-comp-fund-decision/>] [Report looks at pros and cons of AI in law firms, 20 November 2023](#)

[The opportunities – and risks – presented by artificial intelligence \(AI\) are outlined in a new report.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/risk-outlook-ai/>] [SRA issues first fixed penalties, 16 November 2023](#)

[We have published details of the first fixed penalties we have issued since introducing the new fixed financial penalty regime.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/first-fixed-fines/>] [Axiom Ince intervention and impacts, 14 November 2023](#)

[There has been widespread attention following our decision to intervene into Axiom Ince and the potential impacts for the public and the profession.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/axiom-ince-intervention-and-impacts/>]

October



[Transparency rules bringing benefits to firms and consumers, 24 October 2023](#)

[New rules requiring law firms to proactively publish key price and service information are having a positive effect, a new report has found.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/3-year-transparency-review/\] Firms have more to do to identify and manage money laundering risks, 19 October 2023](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/3-year-transparency-review/)

[Solicitor firms have been warned that they need to do more to properly assess any money laundering risks posed by clients and the services they are seeking.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/client-matter-thematic/\] Axiom Ince intervention statement, 03 October 2023](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/client-matter-thematic/)

[We have intervened into Axiom Ince at various addresses. This to protect the interests of clients and former clients of the firm.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/axiom-ince-intervention-statement/\] SRA now managing the Solicitors Indemnity Fund, 02 October 2023](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/axiom-ince-intervention-statement/)

[The Solicitors Regulation Authority has now taken over management of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund \(SIF\).](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/sra-managing-sif/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/sra-managing-sif/)

September

[Solicitors warned over immigration services, 27 September 2023](#)

[We have issued a warning notice to solicitors and law firms reminding them of the rules and requirements they must adhere to when providing immigration services to clients.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/immigration-warning-notice/\] Research into what drives PII premiums published, 14 September 2023](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/immigration-warning-notice/)

[We and the Legal Services Board \(LSB\) have published joint research looking into the professional indemnity insurance \(PII\) for law firms, and what factors drive differences in premium levels.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/pii-premiums-research/\] Polo appointed to manage SIF claims, 11 September 2023](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/pii-premiums-research/)

[Our Board has named its expert delivery partner for managing the Solicitors Indemnity Fund \(SIF\).](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/partner-six-year-run-off-cover/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/partner-six-year-run-off-cover/)

August

[SRA consults on regulating CILEX members, 31 August 2023](#)

[We are consulting on potential changes to its regulatory arrangements to include authorised members of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives \(CILEX\). This follows a CILEX consultation launched earlier this month on proposals to re-delegate the regulation of its members to us.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/sra-consults-regulating-cilex/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/sra-consults-regulating-cilex/) [Report into how law firms prepare NDAs published, 14 August 2023](#)

[News release: A report into how non-disclosure agreements \(NDAs\) are prepared between employers and their staff, and the role of law firms in drafting and agreeing these has been published.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/nda-thematic-review/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/nda-thematic-review/)

July

[Statement: SRA closes down three immigration firms, 31 July 2023](#)

[We have closed down three solicitor firms that were named in a Daily Mail undercover operation involving immigration services.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/three-immigration-firms/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/three-immigration-firms/) [SRA publishes latest suite of annual reports, 20 July 2023](#)

[We have published our latest annual corporate reports for 2021/22 covering education and training, enforcement, approval of new firms and solicitors, and the compensation fund.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/annual-reports-2021-22/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/annual-reports-2021-22/)

June



[Literature review into overrepresentation in complaints about potential misconduct made to SRA published, 23 June 2023](#)

[The first part of ongoing research into why those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in reports to, and resulting investigations by, the SRA.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/over-representation-in-complaints/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/over-representation-in-complaints/) [Consumers and law firms find reviews helpful but more to do to enable easier comparisons, 19 June 2023](#)

[Public finds customer reviews and comparison websites helpful but barriers remain to making factual information on legal services and performance more readily available.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/law-firm-reviews-comparisons/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/law-firm-reviews-comparisons/) [Unbundling could improve access to legal services, 15 June 2023](#)

[SRA research shows that unbundled legal services could make legal help more affordable for those on low incomes and law firms could increase their client base.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/unbundling-legal-services/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/unbundling-legal-services/) [More information on protection levels would help small business consumers when buying unreserved services, 13 June 2023](#)

[Better access to information on the different levels of protection offered by different providers would help consumers when choosing between regulated and unregulated organisations.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/information-protection-small-business-unreserved/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/information-protection-small-business-unreserved/) [Literature review looks at factors influencing the outcomes for Black, Asian and minority ethnic candidates in professional assessments, 02 June 2023](#)

[News release: We have commissioned the University of Exeter's Schools of Law and Business to look at what causes different levels of attainment for ethnic groups in professional assessments.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/review-influencing-outcomes-assessments/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/review-influencing-outcomes-assessments/)

May

[New strategy focused on enhancing confidence in legal services, 10 May 2023](#)

[We have launched a consultation on our proposed Corporate Strategy for 2023-2026.](#)

[\https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/enhancing-confidence-



[legal-services/1 Law firms issued guidance on new wellbeing at work rules, 02 May 2023](#)

[We have issued updated guidance to help law firms and those who work for them understand what new rules on health and wellbeing in the workplace mean for them.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/guidance-wellbeing/>]

March

[Views wanted on rules to restrict excessive fee charging in financial mis-selling claims, 31 March 2023](#)

[We are consulting on new rules that will restrict excessive fee-charging when firms make compensation claims on behalf of their clients for mis-sold financial products.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/fee-restrictions-consultation/>] [One year review of SQE shows good progress, 16 March 2023](#)

[A suite of reports reviewing the first year of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination \(SQE\) has shown that overall implementation of the new assessment has gone well.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/sqe-annual-reports-2023/>] [In-house solicitors' independence valued, but minority struggle, 14 March 2023](#)

[Most solicitors working in-house feel their independence is valued although a minority struggle to balance their duties with their organisation's priorities, a new SRA report has found.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/in-house-thematic-review/>] [More case studies added on banking facilities rule, 02 March 2023](#)

[We have added further case studies to those published online to help firms remain compliant with the rule prohibiting use of the client account as a banking facility.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/banking-facilities-ban-case-studies/>]

February

[SRA named one of Britain's top 25 LGBT-inclusive employers, 16 February 2023](#)

[We have been recognised for our commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ staff and customers after being named in top 25 on Stonewall's Top 100 Employers list for 2023.](#)



[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/stonewall-top-100-2023/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/stonewall-top-100-2023/) [SRA confirms updated approach to fines and publishing decisions, 15 February 2023](#)

[Following public consultation, we have confirmed the detail of changes for how we levy financial penalties to law firms and solicitors.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/financial-penalties-publication-policy/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/financial-penalties-publication-policy/) [SRA Board finalises rules for post six-year client protection, 15 February 2023](#)

[Our Board has agreed the final rules which will bring the Solicitors Indemnity Fund \(SIF\) under our control to ensure future consumer protection for post six-year negligence claims.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/six-year-negligence-claims-rules/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/six-year-negligence-claims-rules/) [Review shows law firms need to do more on SLAPPs, 14 February 2023](#)

[A review shows that some law firms need to do more to guard against the risk of strategic lawsuits against public participation \(SLAPPs\) and other types of abusive litigation.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/conduct-dispute-thematic-review/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/conduct-dispute-thematic-review/) [Apprentices perform well on new solicitors' exam, 09 February 2023](#)

[As part of National Apprenticeship Week, we have announced that apprentices are outperforming other candidates seeking to qualify as solicitors.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/apprenticeships-week-2023/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/apprenticeships-week-2023/) [Risks and opportunities of crypto technologies, 02 February 2023](#)

[The risks and opportunities for the legal services sector from developing crypto technologies -outlined in a new SRA report.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/risk-outlook-digital-ledger/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/risk-outlook-digital-ledger/)

January

[LSB continuing competence statement response, 31 January 2023](#)

[Staying up to date and competent throughout a solicitor's career is an important part of providing high quality legal services to those who need them - and we will take action to ensure solicitors comply with their responsibilities.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/lb-continuing-competence-response/>] [Closure of Metamorph Group law firms, 12 January 2023](#)

[We have closed down a number of law firms that were part of the Metamorph Group to protect the interests of current and former clients.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/metamorph-information-jan-2023/>] [SRA appoints Aileen Armstrong as Executive Director, 09 January 2023](#)

[We have appointed Aileen Armstrong as Executive Director Strategy and Innovation who takes up the post in mid-June.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2023-press-releases/aileen-armstrong-appointment/>]