

Press release archive for 2024

December

[SRA annual reports record progress toward promoting public interest, 20 December 2024](#)

[We have summarised the work we have done protecting and promoting the public interest during 2022/23 in our latest annual reports.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/annual-reports-2022-23/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/annual-reports-2022-23/)
[SRA issues warning notice on unsolicited approaches and cold calling, 19 December 2024](#)

[We have issued a warning to law firms, especially those engaged in high volume claims work, about prohibited marketing practices, such as cold calling, door knocking and directly targeted online messaging.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/warning-notice-unsolicited-approaches/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/warning-notice-unsolicited-approaches/)
[Thematic reviews of professional obligations and probate, 13 December 2024](#)

[We have published two new thematic reviews into professional obligations, and probate and estate administration.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/thematic-reviews-professional-obligations-probate/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/thematic-reviews-professional-obligations-probate/)

November

[Dedicated guidance issued to support in-house solicitors, 18 November 2024](#)

[Following stakeholder feedback on drafts published earlier this year, we have issued a range of new guidance materials designed to directly support the 34,500 plus solicitors working in-house across England and Wales.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/support-in-house-solicitors/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/support-in-house-solicitors/)
[Consultation on potential changes to how client money is handled in the legal sector, 14 November 2024](#)

[As part of our ongoing review of consumer protection arrangements in the legal sector, we are consulting on potential changes to how and when law firms handle client money, and how this money is protected.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/client-money-consultation-october-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/client-money-consultation-october-2024/)



October

[Report shows more AML action driving improvements, 31 October 2024](#)

[Our latest annual report shows that we have increased regulatory action against firms in a bid to drive compliance and make sure the profession is tackling the risk of money laundering.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/aml-action-improvements/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/aml-action-improvements/) [Independent report finds complex picture behind overrepresentation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic solicitors in our enforcement processes, 31 October 2024](#)

[An independent report into the overrepresentation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic solicitors in the early stages of our enforcement process has found a complex issue with no single or simple solution.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/independent-report-overrepresentation/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/independent-report-overrepresentation/) [Response to Legal Services Board's \(LSB\) review of events leading up to our intervention into Axiom Ince, 29 October 2024](#)

[The Legal Services Board \(LSB\) has published its report into the events leading up to the intervention into Axiom Ince. At the heart of this issue was a suspected complex and well-hidden fraud carried out by a solicitor, with an ongoing criminal investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. We have published our response to the LSB's report.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/axiom-ince-update-october-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/axiom-ince-update-october-2024/) [Research shows trust in legal services high, 23 October 2024](#)

[Research has shown that most people have trust and confidence in legal services, with high professional standards and high-quality training the most important drivers of that trust.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/strategy-benchmarking-survey-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/strategy-benchmarking-survey-2024/) [Revised 2024/25 Business Plan published, 02 October 2024](#)

[Following approval by our Board, we have published our 2024/25 Business Plan, outlining our key priorities and areas of work for the year ahead.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/revised-business-plan-published/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/revised-business-plan-published/)

September

[Updated resources to help firms comply with transparency rules, 30 September 2024](#)

[We have issued a suite of new and updated resources to help law firms further improve the information they provide to the public, to in turn help](#)



[them make more informed decisions when they need legal support.](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/updated-resources-comply-transparency-rules/)
[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/updated-resources-comply-transparency-rules/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/updated-resources-comply-transparency-rules/)

July

[Asylum seeker review highlights general good practice and areas for improvement, 30 July 2024](#)

[We have published a review of legal firms providing asylum services, as part of ongoing monitoring of immigration legal services in England and Wales.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/asylum-seeker-thematic-review-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/asylum-seeker-thematic-review-2024/) [Compensation fund increases confirmed, while practising fees to remain unchanged, 23 July 2024](#)

[News release: Following consultation, we have confirmed that law firm and individual contributions toward the SRA Compensation Fund will need to increase for the first time in five years.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/compensation-fund-pc-fees-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/compensation-fund-pc-fees-2024/) [We have been named one of Britain's top 20 LGBT-inclusive employers, 15 July 2024](#)

[We have been recognised for our commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ staff and customers after reaching number 11 on Stonewall's Top 100 Employers list for 2024.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/stonewall-top-100-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/stonewall-top-100-2024/) [Board gives go-ahead for CILEX change, 01 July 2024](#)

[The Board of the Solicitors Regulation Authority \(SRA\) has agreed it would regulate Chartered Institute of Legal Executives \(CILEX\) members, if CILEX decides to redelegate this to the SRA.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/board-cilex-change/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/board-cilex-change/)

June

[We are consulting on updates to financial penalty regime, 28 June 2024](#)

[We are consulting on proposals to update our approach to issuing financial penalties to law firms and solicitors.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/financial-penalties-consultation-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/financial-penalties-consultation-2024/) [Firms must immediately replace client account shortages, SRA warns, 21 June 2024](#)

[Law firms have been reminded of their duty to replace any shortages on client accounts immediately upon discovery in a new warning notice.](#)



[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/client-account-shortage/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/client-account-shortage/) Update on our investigation into the Post Office Horizon IT scandal, 20 June 2024

In light of the recent significant interest in the Post Office Horizon Scandal and the resumption of hearings at the ongoing statutory public inquiry, we are providing an update on our investigation, building on our January 2024 statement.

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/post-office-update-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/post-office-update-2024/) Firms should make sure clients' interests are central in mergers and acquisitions, 17 June 2024

Solicitors have been reminded in a new warning notice that their clients' interests must remain paramount during mergers and acquisitions.

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/mergers-acquisitions-warning-notice/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/mergers-acquisitions-warning-notice/) Tackling ethnicity gaps in outcomes of professional legal assessments, 03 June 2024

We are calling on the legal, education and training sectors to work with us to tackle issues leading to differential outcomes in professional legal assessments by ethnicity.

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/tackling-ethnicity-gaps-outcomes-assessments/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/tackling-ethnicity-gaps-outcomes-assessments/)

May

SRA updates SLAPPs warning, 31 May 2024

We have updated our warning to solicitors about getting involved in abusive litigation aimed at silencing legitimate critics, known as strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/updated-slapps-warning-notice-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/updated-slapps-warning-notice-2024/) SRA consults on 2024-25 business plan, budget and fee levels, 28 May 2024

We have launched a public consultation on our 2024-25 Business Plan and budget (insert link), which includes details of proposed practising certificate fees. It also sets out compensation fund contributions for the coming year.

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/business-plan-fees-consultation-2024/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/business-plan-fees-consultation-2024/) Warning to law firms working on financial compensation claims, 03 May 2024



[Law firms working on financial product mis-selling compensation claims have been warned about their potential approaches and the need to uphold their professional obligations.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/mass-claims/>]

April

[SRA finds firms are aware of SLAPP issues, but need to be clearer when instructing third parties, 19 April 2024](#)

[We have published a thematic review looking at law firm understanding of best practice to avoid getting involved in strategic lawsuits against public participation \(SLAPPs\).](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/slapps-thematic-review-2024/>] [SRA starts search for new Board Chair, 11 April 2024](#)

[We have begun the search for a new Chair for our Board, who will be responsible for overseeing our work driving confidence and trust in legal services.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/new-chair-recruitment/>] [Year two review of SQE shows continued improvements, 10 April 2024](#)

[The latest reports reviewing the Solicitors Qualifying Examination \(SQE\) have shown it continues to perform well and there can be confidence in this rigorous assessment.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/sqe-year-two-reports/>]

March

[We are consulting on the potential regulation of CILEX students and paralegals, 20 March 2024](#)

[We have launched a consultation on rule changes needed to allow the potential regulation of non-authorised Chartered Institute of Legal Executives \(CILEX\) members.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/cilex-consultation-2/>] [SRA wants views on suite of support for in-house solicitors, 08 March 2024](#)

[We have developed a raft of new resources to support the 34,500 plus solicitors working in-house in England and Wales. And views are now being sought on the guidance and advice before they are formally adopted.](#)

[<https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/views-in-house-solicitors/>]

February

[SRA launches review of consumer protection, 05 February 2024](#)

[We have launched a review of our overall approach to protecting consumers in response to shifting risks in the sector.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/consumer-protection-review-launched/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/consumer-protection-review-launched/)

January

[Firms offered advice on complying with sanctions, 29 January 2024](#)

[We have written to more than 1,000 firms with guidance and support on complying with the UK's financial sanctions regime. We gathered data from a number of firms and based on their responses identified a large number of firms that had indicated they had poor controls in place.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/financial-sanctions-advice/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/financial-sanctions-advice/)
[SRA issues more fixed penalties, 09 January 2024](#)

[We have published more fixed penalties issued as part of our new financial penalty regime.](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/more-fixed-penalties/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2024-press-releases/more-fixed-penalties/)