

What we do

Setting standards for solicitors

Our aim is to give the public full confidence in the solicitors' profession.

- We set the standards for qualifying as a solicitor.
- We monitor the performance of organisations that provide legal training.
- We draft the rules of professional conduct, particularly to make sure they protect the interests of clients.
- We provide authoritative guidance and rules to solicitors on ethical issues, laws and regulations that affect solicitors' work.
- We administer the roll (register) of solicitors.
- We provide information to the public about solicitors, their work and the standards the public is entitled to expect.
- We set requirements for solicitors' continuing professional development.

Regulating in the public interest

Our aim is to serve the public interest and protect consumers of legal services.

- We monitor solicitors and their firms to make sure they are complying with the rules.
- We exchange information with other regulators and law enforcement agencies in order to protect the public.
- We investigate concerns about solicitors' standards of practice and compliance with the rules, where necessary taking regulatory action such as reprimanding the solicitor.
- When necessary, we close down solicitors' firms so as to protect clients and the wider public, and returning papers and monies to their owners.
- We refer solicitors to the independent [Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal](http://www.solicitorstribunal.org.uk/) and deal with the prosecutions.
- We run a compensation fund to help people who have lost money as a result of a solicitor's dishonesty or failure to account for money they have received.

Quality and consultation

To ensure we achieve our aims, we work with those who monitor our performance, such as the [Legal Services Board](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/).

In all of our work, we consult widely with the public, consumer groups, solicitors and other legal professionals, and government.