

SRA Update

Issue 109 - November 2022

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Welcome to the latest issue of SRA Update. It's November, which marks the start of our new business year. With it comes our latest Business Plan, which sets out our work for the next year, which you can find out about in this issue. As well as making sure that the solicitor profession maintains the high standards we and the public expect, we will continue to explore the opportunities that lawtech and innovation offer, and increasing our work on anti-money laundering. Also this month, we still welcome your views on a number of proposals including running our own indemnity scheme for claims made after six years of a firm closing, our new financial penalties regime and updates to the police representatives accreditation scheme.

Business Plan outlines our work for the year [\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-business-plan/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-business-plan/)

We've published our latest Business Plan, which covers the third and final year of our current Corporate Strategy. The plan sets out our planned work between now and October 2023. We consulted with almost 15,000 people from the profession and beyond on our proposals over the summer.

[Read more about: Business Plan outlines our work for the year](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-business-plan/)
[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-business-plan/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-business-plan/)

SRA-run indemnity scheme for post six-year negligence [\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sif-replacement-consultation/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sif-replacement-consultation/)

We are consulting on the arrangements and rules for an indemnity scheme. Run by the SRA, this would provide future consumer protection for post six-year negligence, and come into effect from September 2023. Have your say on the proposals.

[Read more about: SRA-run indemnity scheme for post six-year negligence](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sif-replacement-consultation/)
[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sif-replacement-consultation/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sif-replacement-consultation/)



Keeping of the Roll returns next year

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/annual-exercise-solicitors-practising-certificates/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/annual-exercise-solicitors-practising-certificates/)

Following changes in the law regarding how personal data is used, we are reintroducing a requirement for those without practising certificates to tell us you wish to remain on the roll of solicitors. Ahead of this it is important that all solicitors without a practising certificate check that their contact details within mySRA are up to date.

[Read more about: Keeping of the Roll returns next year](#)

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/annual-exercise-solicitors-practising-certificates/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/annual-exercise-solicitors-practising-certificates/)

Proposed changes to police station representatives scheme

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/police-station-representation-rules-consultation/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/police-station-representation-rules-consultation/)

Following a review of our Police Station Representatives Accreditation Scheme, we are making some minor changes. These will guarantee the process is robust and the appropriate standards are delivered consistently across the two organisations carrying out the assessments. Have your say on our proposals.

[Read more about: Proposed changes to police station representatives scheme](#)

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/police-station-representation-rules-consultation/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/police-station-representation-rules-consultation/)

Have your say on detail of new approach to fines

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/fining-regime-details-consultation-2022/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/fining-regime-details-consultation-2022/)

Have your say on the detail of planned reforms to our approach to issuing financial penalties. Among the areas we are consulting on are proposals to link all fine levels to income/turnover, a new fixed penalty regime for lower-level misconduct and trialling victim impact statements.

[Read more about: Have your say on detail of new approach to fines](#)

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/fining-regime-details-consultation-2022/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/fining-regime-details-consultation-2022/)

Join us at LegalEx 2022 [\[https://www.legalex.co.uk/\]](https://www.legalex.co.uk/)

Join us, and hundreds of other speakers and exhibitors from across the legal sector at LegalEx 2022. The event runs from 22 to 23 November at



ExCeL London. Topics to be discussed at the SRA keynote theatre will include AML & financial sanctions, technology and innovation, cybercrime, the SQE, immigration and more besides.

[Read more about: Join us at LegalEx 2022 \[https://www.legalex.co.uk/\]](https://www.legalex.co.uk/)

Familiarise yourselves with new ombudsman rules

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-leo-rules/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-leo-rules/)

The Legal Ombudsman (LeO) has consulted on a number of changes to its scheme rules, which come into effect on 1 April, 2023. LeO is keen for you to look at what's being proposed so that you know what it means for you and how it might affect you.

[Read more about: Familiarise yourselves with new ombudsman rules \[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-leo-rules/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-leo-rules/)

Your health, your career

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources-archived/your-health-your-career/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources-archived/your-health-your-career/)

Are you worried about your health affecting your work? Life as a solicitor can be challenging and the demands and pressures can easily build up. We can signpost you to sources of help and make adjustments for you if you are in difficulty.

[Read more about: Your health, your career \[https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources-archived/your-health-your-career/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources-archived/your-health-your-career/)

Welcome to the Compliance News section of the latest issue of SRA Update. Our annual Compliance Officer Conference was a great success and it was fantastic that so many of you chose to join us for informative talks and networking opportunities. For those that could not make it, then next week we'll be holding our virtual version of key discussions, so sign up now. Also this month, you should be aware of the general licence issued by the Office for Financial Sanctions Implementation for those working with Russian and Belarusian clients, and we continue to check for compliance with our transparency rules.

Sign up for our virtual Compliance Officers Conference [\[https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/622/home\]](https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/622/home)

For those that could not make it to this year's Compliance Officers Conference which took place this week in Birmingham then there's still



time to sign up for next week's virtual version. We will be holding a series of webinars to discuss a wide range of issues directly relevant to day-to-day compliance within your firm.

[Read more about: Sign up for our virtual Compliance Officers Conference \[https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/622/home\]](https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/622/home)

OFSI declares legal fees general licence

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-general-ofsi-licence/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-general-ofsi-licence/)

The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) has issued a general licence for those firms working with sanctioned persons under the Russian and Belarus regulations. This will allow firms to receive payment for work carried out before sanctions were put in place, or payment for permitted work carried out since.

[Read more about: OFSI declares legal fees general licence \[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-general-ofsi-licence/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-109-general-ofsi-licence/)

Transparency rules - more checks on website information

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-107-transparency-rules-checks/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-107-transparency-rules-checks/)

We will soon be starting a rolling programme of checks on all law firm websites to make sure you are complying with our transparency rules. Ahead of this, please take a moment to double check you are compliant with all of our transparency requirements.

[Read more about: Transparency rules - more checks on website information \[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-107-transparency-rules-checks/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-107-transparency-rules-checks/)

Overseas register

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-106-overseas-register/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-106-overseas-register/)

The Register of Overseas Entities (ROE) was launched on 1 August as part of the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022. It brings obligations around the verification of overseas entities.

[Read more about: Overseas register \[https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-106-overseas-register/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-106-overseas-register/)



Firm undertakings - legal and regulatory obligations

[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/undertakings-behalf-incorporated-practices/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/undertakings-behalf-incorporated-practices/)

A new Supreme Court ruling has implications for those firms that have given undertakings. Our guidance makes it clear that while you might not have an obligation to the court under following this ruling, there are still professional obligations to take care of.

[Read more about: Firm undertakings - legal and regulatory obligations](https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/undertakings-behalf-incorporated-practices/)
[\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/undertakings-behalf-incorporated-practices/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/undertakings-behalf-incorporated-practices/)

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