

Press release archive for 2022

December

Russia sanctions regime now bans trust services, 16 December 2022

The government's financial sanctions regime now includes a ban on providing trust services to those connected with Russia.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/russian-sanctions-bans-trusts/>] SRA proposes minor amends to its Standards and Regulations in response to feedback, 14 December 2022

We are consulting on a series of minor amendments to our Standards and Regulations following feedback from stakeholders since the rules were introduced in 2019.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/standards-regulations-amends-consultation/>] SRA Board welcomes two new lay Board members, 12 December 2022

We have announced the recruitment of two new lay members to join our Board.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/new-board-members-dec-2022/>] Latest gender and ethnicity pay gap reports published, 09 December 2022

We have published our latest gender pay gap and ethnicity pay gap reports, and are continuing to encourage others in the legal sector to do the same.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/pay-gap-reports-published/>] SRA secures grant to develop dispute resolution approaches, 01 December 2022

We have been awarded a grant of £119,691 from the latest round of the Regulators Pioneer Fund (RPF).

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/dispute-resolution-approaches/>]

November

Sanctions regime guidance helps firms stay compliant, 28 November 2022

We have published guidance on the financial sanctions regime to help the profession adhere to the fast-changing rules.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sanctions-regime-stay-compliant/>] Solicitors warned about involvement in SLAPPs, 28 November 2022

Solicitors have been told to guard against getting involved in abusive litigation aimed at silencing legitimate critics, known as strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/solicitors-warned-slapps/>] Review looks at the competence of immigration services providers, 28 November 2022

New guidance on providing immigration services should help those solicitor firms in England and Wales undertaking immigration work.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/immigration-thematic-supervision-guidance/>]

October

Consultation opens on arrangements and rules for SRA-run consumer protection scheme for post six-year negligence, 06 October 2022

The SRA is consulting on the arrangements and rules of an indemnity scheme that we run to provide future consumer protection for post six-year negligence.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sif-replacement-consultation/>]

September

SRA consults on improvements to police station representation rules, 23 September 2022

We are consulting on proposals to improve our regulation of the Police Station Representatives Accreditation Scheme (PSRAS).

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/police-station-representation-rules-consultation/>] SRA recruiting for two new lay Board members, 20 September 2022

We are recruiting for two new lay members to join our Board from the start of 2023.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sra-recruiting-for-two-new-lay-board-members/>] SRA to establish an SRA-run indemnity scheme for future consumer protection for post six-year negligence, 14 September 2022

We have decided that existing Solicitors Indemnity Fund arrangements, as operated by the Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited (SIFL), will be replaced with our own indemnity arrangements from September 2023.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/board-replacement-sif/>] New guidance spells out SRA approach to sexual misconduct cases, 01 September 2022

SRA new guidance on sexual misconduct within law firms sets out what is expected from firms and individuals and what's unacceptable and could lead to regulatory action.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sexual-misconduct-guidance/>]

August

Fee levels and compensation fund contributions, 26 August 2022

Individual practising fee levels for 2022/23 have been approved by the Legal Services Board (LSB).

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/fee-contributions-2022/>] SRA publishes results of first ever SQE2 assessment, 25 August 2022

The results for the first SQE2 assessment - taken in April by 726 candidates in 24 countries - have been released, with 77 per cent of candidates passing.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sqe2-results-august-2022/>] SRA asks for views on detail of new fining regime, 22 August 2022

We have launched a consultation on the detail of planned reforms to our approach to issuing financial penalties for law firms and solicitors. The principles behind these changes were consulted on earlier this year.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/fining-regime-details-consultation-2022/>] Discussion paper on post six-year options, 03 August 2022

As part of our ongoing work to consider next steps on the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF) and consumer protection for negligence claims brought more than six years after a firm has closed, we have published a discussion paper on the options.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/discussion-paper-post-six-year-options/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/discussion-paper-post-six-year-options/) Annual exercise for solicitors without practising certificates from April 2023, 03 August 2022

We have confirmed that, from April 2023, we will reintroduce a requirement for solicitors without practising certificates to apply to remain on the Roll of Solicitors of England and Wales.

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

July

New research into the unregulated legal market and wider provision of unreserved legal services, 28 July 2022

We have commissioned independent research to take an in-depth look into the unreserved legal services market across England and Wales.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/research-unregulated-legal-market-provision-unreserved-legal-services/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/research-unregulated-legal-market-provision-unreserved-legal-services/) CILEx Statement, 19 July 2022

We have been approached by CILEx with an invitation to enter into formal discussions on a proposal to transfer the regulation of their members to us while retaining their distinct identity as CILEx practitioners and their route to qualification.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/cilex-statement/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/cilex-statement/) Profession reminded of duties during criminal bar action, 18 July 2022

We have reminded the profession of its duties in light of increasing action by the Criminal Bar Association (CBA).

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/cba-action-solicitor-duties/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/cba-action-solicitor-duties/) SRA Statement: Increase to our fining powers, 15 July 2022

Following a change to legislation, our fining powers will increase on 20 July 2022. From that date, the maximum fine we can impose for solicitors, traditional firms (recognised bodies or recognised sole practices) and the individuals who work in them will be £25,000.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/statement-fining-powers/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/statement-fining-powers/) Post six-year run-off cover and the Solicitors Indemnity Fund: next steps, 04 July 2022

As the regulator of the solicitor profession and solicitor firms, working in the public interest, we are responsible for the professional insurance and indemnity arrangements that protect the users of legal services and address consumer detriment.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sif-extension-july-2022/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sif-extension-july-2022/)

June

SRA publishes latest suite of annual reports, 23 June 2022

We have published our latest annual reports on our operational work during 2020/21. The reports cover areas including education and training,

enforcement, approval of new firms and solicitors, and the activity of the Compensation Fund. A full annual report on preventing money laundering is published separately in October.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/annual-reporting-2022/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/annual-reporting-2022/) Researchers appointed to examine overrepresentation in solicitor reports and enforcement, 23 June 2022

We have appointed a research team to help it better understand why there is overrepresentation of those from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds in reports made to it and subsequently its enforcement processes.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/research-disproportionate-outcomes-2022/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/research-disproportionate-outcomes-2022/) Potential scam emails claiming to be from SRA, 23 June 2022

A large number of firms have reported receiving emails claiming to be from us. Examples we have seen describe complaints about negligence claims in conveyancing.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sra-scam-emails-june-2022/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/sra-scam-emails-june-2022/) Find out more about the SQE in Swansea, 08 June 2022

The introduction of the SQE and qualifying work experience (QWE) last year marked a step change in how people train and become a solicitor. This new way of qualifying has opened up opportunities for law firms and in-house teams in how they train future solicitors.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/find-out-more-about-the-sqe-in-swansea/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/find-out-more-about-the-sqe-in-swansea/) Ombudsman report looks at personal injury issues, 08 June 2022

The Legal Ombudsman has looked at the areas of personal injury work that generate the most complaints.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/ombudsman-report-looks-at-personal-injury-issues/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/ombudsman-report-looks-at-personal-injury-issues/) Update your diversity data, 08 June 2022

It is important that we hold accurate diversity information for all solicitors, which is why we are asking everyone who has a mySRA account to log in and check that their data is up-to-date.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/update-your-diversity-data/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/update-your-diversity-data/) Tell us about changing cybercrime and tech risks, 08 June 2022

We want your views on what you think are the key cybercrime risks that could affect law firms over the next year or so.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/tell-us-about-changing-cybercrime-and-tech-risks/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/tell-us-about-changing-cybercrime-and-tech-risks/) Reports on cybercrime and innovation set out the risks, 01 June 2022

Press release: A new report shows that email remains a significant vulnerability for law firms, involved in more than four out of five of all reported cybercrime incidents.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/risk-outlook-innovation-and-cybercrime/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/risk-outlook-innovation-and-cybercrime/)

May

Updated plans on financial penalties following consultation feedback, 23 May 2022

We have announced how we intend to move forward with plans to update our approach on issuing financial penalties to law firms and solicitors who fall short of the expected professional standards.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/financial-penalties-consultation-feedback/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/financial-penalties-consultation-feedback/) SRA reviews information published about regulatory decisions, 10 May 2022

We are reviewing the way we publish decisions about disciplinary and regulatory action and want views on the principles that will guide how information is made available to the public and profession.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/publication-policy-principles-consultation/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/publication-policy-principles-consultation/) SRA consults on 2022-23 business plan, budget and fee levels, 06 May 2022

We have launched a public consultation on its 2022-23 Business Plan and budget, including details of the work we plan to focus on in the coming year, continuing our commitment to accountability and transparency.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/business-plan-consultation-2022/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/business-plan-consultation-2022/) Views wanted on pre-paid funeral plans work, 04 May 2022

Solicitors involved in pre-paid funeral plan work – and the wider public - are being asked for their views to help shape our approach in dealing with new rules in this area.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/funeral-plans-discussion-paper/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/funeral-plans-discussion-paper/)

April

SRA publishes first ethnicity pay gap report, 28 April 2022

We have for the first time published our ethnicity pay gap and are encouraging others in the legal sector to do the same.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/first-ethnicity-pay-gap-report/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/first-ethnicity-pay-gap-report/) New Director of Education and Training appointed, 14 April 2022

News release: We have appointed Julie Swan as Director of Education and Training, a role which will include leading the ongoing delivery of the SQE (Solicitors Qualifying Examination).

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/new-education-director/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/new-education-director/) Solicitors Indemnity Fund extended to allow for further consideration, 12 April 2022

Following consultation on the future of post six-year run-off cover, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has announced that it will seek a further 12-month extension to the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF) .

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/solicitors-indemnity-fund-extended/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/solicitors-indemnity-fund-extended/)

March

SRA to consult on annual 'keeping of the roll' exercise, 22 March 2022

We are consulting on plans to reintroduce the requirement for non-practising solicitors to complete an annual application confirming that they wish to remain on the roll.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/keeping-roll-2022/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/keeping-roll-2022/) Financial sanctions and Russia – update, 07 March 2022

We have updated our guidance for firms on making sure they are adhering to the Government's sanctions on Russian nationals and organisations in light of the conflict in Ukraine.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/financial-sanctions-update-march-2022/>] New rules on health and wellbeing would help protect clients and the public, 04 March 2022

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) is consulting on proposed changes to its rules that would reinforce its powers to deal with risks to clients and the public when these stem from a poor work culture in law firms.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/wellbeing-consultation/>]

February

Law firms reminded of importance of sanctions compliance, 23 February 2022

In the wake of the UK Government imposing sanctions on Russia, we are reminding law firms of the importance of their role in ensuring all measures and restrictions are complied with.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/financial-sanctions-russia/>] Stonewall names SRA one of Britain's top 30 LGBT-inclusive employers, 23 February 2022

We have been named as one of the most inclusive employers in Britain by lesbian, gay, bi and trans equality charity Stonewall in its Top Employers list for 2022. We are placed 28th on this year's list, up from 93 in 2020.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/stonewall-top-employers-2022/>] New resources issued providing law firms with support on workplace culture, 08 February 2022

New resources providing law firms with support and guidance on creating healthy working environments have been issued, coinciding with the publication of a review into what solicitors say about the culture in their existing workplaces.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/workplace-culture-review/>] SRA launches research to look at gaps in access to justice, 03 February 2022

We have commissioned new research which will take a wide-ranging look into what gaps in legal provision may exist across England and Wales, and what impact this might have on different groups of consumers.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/segmentation-research-bayes/>] Diversity in the profession continues to improve, but more to do, 01 February 2022

Diversity within law firms is continuing to slowly improve year-on-year, with smaller firms increasingly more diverse than larger ones.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/diversity-data-2021-published/>]

January

Positive results from first ever SQE1 assessment, 21 January 2022

The results for the first ever Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) assessment are now available for candidates to access, with 53 per cent passing.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/results-sqe1-assessment/>] SRA Board welcomes new members, 14 January 2022

Our Board will welcome two new solicitor members – Lisa Mayhew and Nicola Williams - who take up their roles during 2022.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/new-board-members-2022/>]