

## Alerts

### **Warning: WhatsApp messages misusing the name of Latham & Watkins (London) LLP**

11 July 2023

WhatsApp and text messages have been sent falsely claiming to be from Latham & Watkins (London) LLP in relation to a supposed employment offer.

#### **What is the scam?**

WhatsApp and text messages have been sent falsely claiming to be from 'Latham & Watkins LLP' in relation to a supposed employment offer. The messages state that the individual would like to share details about a job opportunity that is available.

The SRA has seen messages sent from 'Amy' using numbers of '+44 7828 086565' and '+44 7465 737944', from 'Grace' using a number of '+44 7472 165315', and from 'Zayla' using a number of '+44 7588 189358'.

The SRA understands there are several other similar messages circulating using different names and numbers.

The messages misuse the name of a genuine firm of solicitors (see below).

#### **Is there a genuine firm or person?**

The SRA authorises and regulates a genuine firm of solicitors called Latham & Watkins (London) LLP. The genuine telephone number for the firm is 020 7710 1000.

The genuine firm of Latham & Watkins (London) LLP has confirmed that they do not have any connection to the WhatsApp or text messages referred to in the above alert.

#### **What should I do?**

When a firm's or individual's identity has been copied exactly (or cloned), due diligence is necessary. If you receive correspondence claiming to be from the above firm(s) or individual(s), or information of a similar nature to that described, you should conduct your own due diligence by checking the authenticity of the correspondence by contacting the law

firm directly by reliable and established means. You can contact the SRA to find out if individuals or firms are regulated and authorised by the SRA and verify an individual's or firm's practising details. Other verification methods, such as checking public records (e.g. telephone directories and company records) may be required in other circumstances.