

**David Owen**  
**Recognised sole practitioner**  
**136256**

[Sanction Date: 16 January 2024](#)

**Decision - Sanction**

Outcome: Rebuke

Outcome date: 16 January 2024

Published date: 1 February 2024

**Firm details**

**Firm or organisation at date of publication and at time of matters giving rise to outcome**

Name: Layton-Law.com

Address(es): 3-5 Westcliffe Drive, Blackpool, FY3 7BJ

Firm ID: 71914

**Outcome details**

This outcome was reached by SRA decision.

**Decision details**

Written Rebuke and SRA Costs of £600

**Reasons/basis**

**Who does this disciplinary decision relate to?**

Mr David Owen (SRA ID: 136256) is a solicitor and owner of Layton-Law.com, a recognised sole practice based in Blackpool.

**Summary of decision**

We have issued Mr Owen with a rebuke for breaching Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011 (You must behave in a way that maintains the trust the public places in you and in the provision of legal services).

**Facts of the misconduct**



It was found that between September 2016 and April 2018, Mr David Owen used his Facebook account to publicly communicate content that was offensive, inappropriate and/or discriminatory. The content was contained in four social media posts on his Facebook account.

It was found that Mr Owen had failed to act in a way that maintains the trust that the public places in him as a solicitor, and in the provision of legal services by authorised persons in breach of Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011.

Mr Owen has admitted the conduct. He has removed the posts and expressed remorse.

### **Decision on sanction**

It was decided that a rebuke was an appropriate and proportionate sanction.

Mr Owen was issued with a written rebuke and ordered to pay costs of £600.

This was because Mr Owen's conduct was serious by reference to the following factors in the SRA Enforcement Strategy:

- i. Mr Owen had direct responsibility for his conduct and full control over his behaviour.
- ii. There were several posts made by Mr Owen which indicates a pattern of behaviour. Although the posts have now been removed, they persisted for a significant period of time.
- iii. A public sanction is required to maintain standards and to acknowledge there has been a breach of regulatory requirements given the finding that he breached Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011.
- iv. A rebuke will deter him, and others, from similar behaviour in the future.

### **SRA Principles 2011**

Principle 6 You must behave in a way that maintains the trust the public places in you and in the provision of legal services

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