

Alerts

Warning: Emails misusing the name of The Howe Practice Limited

28 June 2019

Emails have been sent misusing the name of The Howe Practice Limited providing false bank account details.

What is the scam?

Emails have been sent misusing the name of The Howe Practice Limited providing false bank account details and misusing the name and details of an employee of a genuine firm of solicitors (see below).

The SRA has been informed that a client of the genuine firm of solicitors (see below) has been sent a series of emails claiming to be from 'Sue Tonkin'. The emails seen by the SRA falsely claim to provide alternative banking details for the transfer of the remaining funds on a property transaction.

The emails seen by the SRA misuse the genuine email address of an employee of the genuine firm (see below). It also provides the address, SRA number, telephone number and fax number of the genuine firm (see below).

Is there a genuine firm or person?

The SRA authorises and regulates a genuine firm of solicitors called The Howe Practice Limited (SRA ID: 493431) whose office is at 2 Waterloo Court, Waterloo Road, Stockport, SK1 3DU. The genuine telephone number for the genuine firm is 0161 480 2629 and its genuine fax number is 0161 480 0015.

The firm employs a paralegal called Susan Tonkin whose genuine email address is sue.tonkin@thehowepractice.co.uk.

The Howe Practice Limited and its genuine employee Susan Tonkin have confirmed they have no intended genuine connection to the emails referred to above.

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.