

SRA Update

Issue 101 - March 2022

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Welcome to the latest issue of SRA Update. This issue arrives at a worrying time with the situation in Ukraine. It has also brought into sharp focus the vital role the legal profession plays in upholding the Rule of Law. In the wake of UK sanctions on Russia, we have provided a reminder of your obligations, including the need to make sure you comply with all restrictions. This is a fast-moving situation. Firms need to be proactive and alert. We take compliance with the money laundering regulations, sanctions regime and duties in litigation very seriously. We set out in this edition what we are doing in these areas. Where we get evidence of misconduct, we will investigate, and will be carrying out spot checks on firms to assess compliance. We will also provide updated guidance where it is needed, including guidance to firms on balancing duties in litigation. Also in this issue is our consultation on proposed new rules to make sure we all create proper workplace environments, and information on a range of webinars taking place over the coming weeks.

Paul Philip

Chief Executive

*The importance of complying with
Russian financial sanctions*
[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/russian-conflict-and-sanctions/>]

We are reminding you and your firms about the importance of complying with measures and restrictions in the wake of the UK Government imposing sanctions on Russia. Find out more about what you need to be doing, including checks, when to make reports, and continuing to act for clients.

Read more about: The importance of complying with Russian financial sanctions [<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/russian-conflict-and-sanctions/>]

*Guidance on balancing duties in
litigation*
[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/conduct-disputes/>]



Firms and solicitors don't only have duties to their clients, but also to the court and third parties. They must uphold the rule of law. Our new guidance on balancing these duties in litigation should help you understand your obligations and how to comply.

Read more about: Guidance on balancing duties in litigation

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/conduct-disputes/>]

Have your say on our proposed new rules on wellbeing in the workplace

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

Find out more and have your say on our proposed rule changes on wellbeing. They would reinforce our powers to deal with risks to the public which stem from a poor work culture in law firms. The proposals also seek to clarify our approach to situations where a solicitor's health issues affect their ability to practise, or to participate in our enforcement processes.

Read more about: Have your say on our proposed new rules on wellbeing in the workplace [<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/wellbeing-consultation/>]

Read our review and guidance on workplace culture

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/workplace-culture-review/>]

Alongside our consultation we recently published a review into workplace culture in law firms alongside guidance on creating healthy working environments. While the majority of those we spoke to in the review enjoyed their office environment, one in four did report concerns.

Read more about: Read our review and guidance on workplace culture

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/workplace-culture-review/>]

Check your details are up to date

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-101-diversity-information/>]

If you have a mySRA account, please can you log in and check your details, in particular your email address and diversity information, are up to date. Reviewing your data is straight forward and should take no more than five minutes.

Read more about: Check your details are up to date

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-101-diversity-information/>]



Latest diversity data shows improvements, but more to do

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

Diversity within law firms is continuing to slowly improve year-on-year, with smaller firms increasingly more diverse than larger ones. Find out more about what has changed and how your firm compares with other similar practices in our latest data publication.

Read more about: Latest diversity data shows improvements, but more to do [<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/diversity-data-2021-published/>]

In-house solicitors – have your say

[<https://form.sra.org.uk/s3/In-House-Solicitors-survey>]

We are running a survey as part of a thematic review on in-house solicitors who provide legal services to their employer. We want to hear about the work you do and the challenges you may face. The survey should take no more than ten minutes to complete, and should be submitted by 18 March.

Read more about: In-house solicitors – have your say [<https://form.sra.org.uk/s3/In-House-Solicitors-survey>]

SRA named among Britain's top 30 LGBT-inclusive employers

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/stonewall-top-employers-2022/>]

The SRA has joined a record number of law firms named among the most inclusive employers in Britain by lesbian, gay, bi and trans equality charity Stonewall. While we ranked 28th in Stonewall's 'most inclusive employer' list for 2022, a total of 14 law firms were also named in the top 100 – making the legal sector the second most represented profession on the list.

Read more about: SRA named among Britain's top 30 LGBT-inclusive employers [<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2022-press-releases/stonewall-top-employers-2022/>]

Navigating the SQE training market - webinar

[<https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/581/home>]



Learn more about the many different ways aspiring solicitors can learn and train for the new SQE assessments by joining our free webinar on Tuesday March 8. Exploring how the education and training market has developed since the SQE's introduction last year, speakers will also offer impartial advice for what to consider when choosing a training provider.

Read more about: Navigating the SQE training market - webinar

[<https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/581/home>]

Qualified lawyers, becoming a solicitor - webinar

[<https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/582/home>]

Are you an overseas or UK qualified lawyer? Our free webinar will give you the facts on what becoming a solicitor through the SQE means, what we mean by a qualified lawyer and who it includes, and what you need to do. Join us on 29 March.

Read more about: Qualified lawyers, becoming a solicitor - webinar

[<https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/582/home>]

Qualifying work experience explained - webinar

[<https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/583/home>]

What is qualifying work experience (QWE)? Join our free webinar on 6 April to find out and get the facts. Covering issues such as who can do it? What should it involve? What counts as QWE? - through to questions such as how is QWE recorded? Or what are the expectation on employers?

Read more about: Qualifying work experience explained - webinar

[<https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/583/home>]

Your health, your career

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/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://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/your-health-your-career/>]

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vital role the legal profession plays in upholding the Rule of Law. In the wake of UK sanctions on Russia, we have provided a reminder of your obligations, including the need to make sure you comply with all restrictions. This is a fast-moving situation. Firms need to be proactive and alert. We take compliance with the money laundering regulations, sanctions regime and duties in litigation very seriously. We set out in this edition what we are doing in these areas. Where we get evidence of misconduct, we will investigate, and will be carrying out spot checks on firms to assess compliance. We will also provide updated guidance where it is needed, including guidance to firms on balancing duties in litigation. Also in this issue is a range of new guidance, including on advising on ground rent in leaseholds, and how to make reports to us about money-laundering concerns.

Paul Philip

Chief Executive

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Read more about: The importance of complying with Russian financial sanctions [<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/russian-conflict-and-sanctions/>]

Guidance on leaseholds and ground rent [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/leasehold-provisions-including-ground-rent-clauses/>]

If you deal with property sales that involves leaseholds, read our latest guidance to make sure you are aware of the risks for your clients.

Read more about: Guidance on leaseholds and ground rent [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/leasehold-provisions-including-ground-rent-clauses/>]

Making a report about money laundering [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/money->



laundrying/guidance-support/reporting-breaches/]

You should make reports to us about potential serious breaches of the money-laundering regulations. We have produced short guidance on the best way to do this and keep the proceeds of crime out of the legal profession.

Read more about: Making a report about money laundering

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/money-laundering/guidance-support/reporting-breaches/>]

Guidance on administering oaths or statutory declarations

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/administering-oaths-statutory-declarations-outside-normal-practice/>]

We have produced new guidance for those solicitors administering oaths outside of their normal practice. This can often be a useful service provided by many of you and your colleagues and we have been asked for more information about how this work relates to our Standards and Regulations.

Read more about: Guidance on administering oaths or statutory

declarations [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/administering-oaths-statutory-declarations-outside-normal-practice/>]

New guidance for those working in coroners' courts

[<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/resources/guidelines-coroners-courts.html>]

Working in partnership with the Bar Standards Board and CILEx Regulation, we have published guidance to make sure those working in coroners' courts uphold the high professional standards expected of them. The guidance has in part been driven by concerns about adversarial approaches being taken in some cases.

Read more about: New guidance for those working in coroners' courts

[<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/resources/guidelines-coroners-courts.html>]

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