

Alerts

Warning: Emails being sent from email addresses ending with "ashtonlegals.co.uk"

11 November 2020

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What is the scam?

The SRA has been informed that emails have been sent from email addresses ending with the domain "@ashtonlegals.co.uk", claiming to be from the Bury St Edmonds office of a genuine firm (see below).

The SRA has been advised that the emails referred to residential conveyancing matters and asked the recipients of the emails to make payments into a bank account in the name of "Ashton Client Care".

The SRA does not authorise or regulate a firm of solicitors called Ashton Legals.

Any business or transactions through emails sent from addresses ending with the domain name "@ashtonlegals" are not undertaken by a solicitor's practice authorised and regulated by the SRA or by an individual authorised and regulated by the SRA.

Is there a genuine firm or person?

The SRA does authorise and regulate a firm of solicitors called Ashtons Legal whose head office is The Long Barn, Fornham Business Court, Fornham St Martin, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 1SL.

The genuine email address for the firm end in the domain name "@ashtonslegal.co.uk".

The genuine firm has confirmed that it has no connection to the emails 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.