

Alerts

Warning: WhatsApp messages and phone calls misusing the name of Andrew Carter and Stevens & Bolton LLP

26 January 2024

WhatsApp messages and phone calls misusing the name of Andrew Carter and Stevens & Bolton LLP in relation to a supposed crypto assets transaction.

What is the scam?

The SRA has been advised that WhatsApp messages regarding a supposed crypto assets transaction have been sent from an individual misusing the name 'Andrew Paul Carter', and falsely claiming to be from 'Stevens & Bolton LLP'. We understand that telephone calls have also been made and that the recipient of the calls and messages was told that the 'crypto assets' they held could be transferred for a multiple of the expected value, for an upfront fee.

The WhatsApp messages were sent using a number of '+44 7466 252093'.

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

Any communication or transaction through the number '+44 7466 252093' is not undertaken by a firm or individual authorised and regulated by the SRA.

Is there a genuine firm or person?

The SRA authorises a genuine solicitor called Andrew Paul Carter, who is a Managing Associate at the genuine firm of solicitors called Stevens & Bolton LLP. Mr Carter's genuine contact work telephone number is +44 (0)1483 734245.

The genuine firm Stevens & Bolton LLP and the genuine Andrew Paul Carter have confirmed that they do not have any connection to the WhatsApp messages or calls referred to in the above alert.

The SRA also authorises and/or regulates several other solicitors, Registered Foreign Lawyers or other non-solicitor lawyers called Andrew Carter, none of whom are believed to be connected to the messages or calls 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.