

Axiom Ince intervention information

What has happened to Axiom Ince Ltd?

Updated 29 November 2023

We closed Axiom Ince Ltd ('Axiom Ince') [<https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/solicitor-check/628201/>] on 3 October 2023. This is called an intervention.

Axiom Ince was comprised of various law firms and offices, and more detail is set out below.

We have appointed other law firms (intervention agents), to deal with the closure.

Contact details, and information about which part of the intervention they are dealing with, are listed below.

- **Former Axiom DWFM offices**

(Edgware, London, Birmingham, Bristol, Swindon, Walthamstow, Wanstead)

Please contact Gordons LLP on 0113 227 0394 or axiom@gordonsllp.com [<mailto:axiom@gordonsllp.com>]

- **Former Ince & Co offices**

(Bristol, Cardiff, London)

Please contact Shakespeare Martineau on 0300 247 2470 or axiomince@shma.co.uk [<mailto:axiomince@shma.co.uk>]

- **Former Plexus Legal LLP offices**

(Chelmsford, Evesham, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester)

Please contact Stephenson on 0333 344 4883 or PlexusIntervention@stephensons.co.uk [<mailto:PlexusIntervention@stephensons.co.uk>]

Information for former clients

Open all [#]

What does the intervention mean?

If you were a client of Axiom Ince, they can no longer act for you. You will need to find another lawyer to act. The intervention agents are not acting for you.

How do I find new legal representation?

You can find a lawyer on the Law Society's Find a Solicitor [<http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk>] site, or by calling the Law Society on 020 7320 5650 Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 17:00.

If you need a legal aid lawyer, you can find one on the Legal Aid Agency's [<https://find-legal-advice.justice.gov.uk/>] site. If you have a live legal aid certificate, we can only send your file to another legal aid lawyer.

What's happened to my file?

We have collected all clients' files for ongoing transactions which were in the firms' offices at the time of the intervention.

If one of the firms have been acting for you on something which is ongoing and your file has been recovered, the intervention agents or we will write to tell you and ask where you want your file to be sent. That could be back to you, or to new legal representatives.

How do I get my matter resolved quickly?

You or your new lawyer should let our intervention agents know quickly where you want your file to be sent as there might be important time limits. You or your new lawyer can let the intervention agents know by email.

You might be able to help your new solicitors to make progress for you without your file by sending them any correspondence/documents you received before the intervention. They may also be able to get information directly from any other solicitors/organisations involved in the case.

How do I get my file if it was electronic?

If your file was an electronic file, the intervention agents are working to enable these files to be sent by secure email/downloaded from a document portal. If you have any urgent queries about an electronic file held for you, please contact the relevant intervention agent. They will do all they can to help.

What if my former Axiom Ince solicitor has moved to a new firm and I gave my consent for

them to take my file with them?

Please speak to your solicitor at their new firm first of all. If they have not got all the relevant files/documents they should let the intervention agents know, who can send any other files recovered relating to the matter to them.

What do I need to do if I want my files sending to a new lawyer?

The intervention agents need your consent to do this. You can email consent to them. Please include contact details of your new lawyer.

If there are two or more of you named as clients, you all/both need to agree and tell the intervention agent.

What do I need to do if I want my files sending to me?

The intervention agents need your consent to do this. You can email consent to them. Please include the full address to which the file should be sent, and send a copy of your identification (eg copy of your passport/driving licence).

If there are two or more of you named as clients, you all/both need to agree and tell the intervention agents.

It won't cost you anything to have your documents sent to you or your new lawyer.

What has happened to old/archived files, wills and deeds?

All old/archived files, wills and deeds held in storage by the firms are being collected and indexed by us. This is likely to take several months. If you want to get of old/archived files please complete a file request form [<https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/claim-papers/#intervention-archive>] . You will also need to provide a form of identification.

Axiom Ince should have been holding money for me. What should I do?

When we close a law firm, we take possession of any money the firm held.

If you believe that the firm was holding your money, you might be able to apply to the SRA Compensation Fund. This is a discretionary fund, applications are considered using certain criteria.

We are not imposing a cap on compensation fund payments for this matter, and instead we are prioritising claims. Information on how we will prioritise applications is available here: [Guidance for SRA Compensation Fund applications on Axiom Ince](https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/compensation-fund/resources/axiom-ince-applications/) [https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/compensation-fund/resources/axiom-ince-applications/]

Our equality impact assessment on how that guidance might affect people is available here: [Equality impact assessment for the prioritisation of applications to the SRA Compensation Fund](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/equality-impact-assessment-sra-compensation-fund/) [https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/equality-impact-assessment-sra-compensation-fund/]

We have also produced supporting notes for those making applications. Those supporting notes are available here: [Compensation Fund Applications - Axiom Ince Limited Q&A \(PDF 4 pages, 171KB\)](https://www.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/sra/news/compensation-fund-applications---axiom-ince-limited.pdf?version=4ae4cf) [https://www.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/sra/news/compensation-fund-applications---axiom-ince-limited.pdf?version=4ae4cf]

How do I complain about the service I've received from Axiom Ince?

If you want to complain - or already have a complaint in progress - about the quality of service you have received from Axiom Ince you should contact the Legal Ombudsman [\[https://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/how-we-work/\]](https://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/how-we-work/).

Email the Ombudsman via enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk, or call them on 0300 555 0333.

Examples of complaints the Legal Ombudsman can look at include:

- Delay: no clear reason for the work taking longer than expected.
- Unclear billing and costs information: the costs were unclear or different from the original estimate.
- Poor communication: the process wasn't well explained, there wasn't enough information for you to make an informed choice, or you weren't kept updated about the progress of your case.

We and the intervention agents are not representatives of Axiom Ince so will not be handling or responding to such complaints.

Information for employees

Open all [#]

I was an employee of Axiom Ince. What can I do?

We understand this is a difficult time for you.

The intervention agents' role is however solely focused on the protection of clients and assisting them in whatever way we can. The intervention agents are not representatives of or successor practices to Axiom Ince. They are therefore unable to deal with issues relating to your employment. You may wish to seek independent legal advice. The links below may also help:

Acas [<https://www.acas.org.uk/>]

Citizens Advice [<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>]

LawCare [<https://www.lawcare.org.uk/>]

If you were a trainee at the firm, the Law Society has useful information for you.

What to do if your training is terminated | The Law Society

[<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/career-advice/becoming-a-solicitor/qualifying-with-a-degree/what-to-do-if-your-training-is-terminated>]

I was an employee of Axiom Ince and am continuing to act for my former clients at a new firm, do I need to do anything?

If you are continuing to act for your former clients at a new firm and took files with clients' consent before the intervention, please email details of the firm you used to work for and details of the files (client name/matter description) to the relevant intervention agent. This will help the intervention agents to effectively direct any enquiries they receive about those files.

If you need your clients' files from the intervention agents, please email your clients' written consent to transfer their files to you to the relevant intervention agent.

Information for creditors

Has an administrator been appointed?

Separately from the intervention, Neil Bennett, Alex Cadwallader & Andrew Poxon were appointed as Joint Administrators of Axiom Ince on 26 October 2023.

Details of the Administration and how this differs from the intervention can be found here: Leonard Curtis appointed Joint Administrators of Axiom Ince Limited [<https://www.leonardcurtis.co.uk/news/leonard-curtis-appointed-joint-administrators-of-axiom-ince-limited>] .

Creditors should contact axiomince@leonardcurtis.co.uk
[mailto:axiomince@leonardcurtis.co.uk] .

Further information

How can I get more information?

You can:

- speak to the relevant intervention agent (see contact details above).
- email the relevant intervention agent (see contact details above)
- find out more about interventions

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention/>] .