



ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY

SRA-regulated firm

Head office address

Aberdeen + 2 other offices [View contact details](#) [#headingOffices]

Website

acandco.com

Type of firm

Recognised body since 06/05/2016, authorised for all legal services

Regulator

Solicitors Regulation Authority

SRA number

628245

Regulatory record

[Show regulatory record](#) [#headingRegulatoryRecord]

We set the rules for this firm. There are benefits and protections for customers of SRA-regulated firms.

Important information

- The firm can provide all types of law, including reserved legal activities
- Everyone working in this firm must follow our rules
- If things go wrong, the firm must have insurance cover
- If things go wrong and your money is lost, our compensation fund may be able to reimburse you
- If things go wrong we may be able to get your documents and money back

Firm names (1)

Trading names lists the names this firm uses now. Previous names lists names this firm has used in the past.

Previous names

ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY

Offices (3)

ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY | Aberdeen | Head office

Blenheim House, Fountainhall Road, Aberdeen, AB15 4DT, Scotland

03330044333

acandco.com [<http://acandco.com>]

ask@acandco.com [<mailto:ask@acandco.com>]

ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY | Edinburgh

Elder House, 24 Elder Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3DX, Scotland

01312212424

acandco.com [<http://acandco.com>]

ask@acandco.com [<mailto:ask@acandco.com>]

ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY | Newcastle upon Tyne

West One, Suite B, 8th Floor, Forth Banks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3PA, England

01916078450

acandco.com [<http://acandco.com>]

ask@acandco.com [<mailto:ask@acandco.com>]

SRA-regulated people and roles (11)

These are the SRA-regulated people in this organisation.

- [Person](#)

Cassey Kinghorn

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY](#)

[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Cassey&lastName=&sraNumber=7003991\]](/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Cassey&lastName=&sraNumber=7003991)

- [Person](#)

Christopher James Richardson

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at Aberdeen Considine LLP + 1 Others](#)



[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Christopher&lastName=James&sraNumber=339415\]](#)

- [Person](#)

Danyal Hussain

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at](#) [ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY](#)

[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Danyal&lastName=&sraNumber=831129\]](#)

- [Person](#)

Diane Margaret Gundersen

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at](#) [ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY](#)

[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Diane&lastName=Margaret&sraNumber=1375\]](#)

- [Person](#)

IDREES NAEEM

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at](#) [ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY](#)

[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=IDREES&lastName=&sraNumber=647513\]](#)

- [Person](#)

LAURA MARGARET BROWNE

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at](#) [Aberdein Considine LLP + 1 Others](#)

[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=LAURA&lastName=MARGARET&sraNumber=537793\]](#)

- [Person](#)

Michael Fraser Currie

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at](#) [Aberdein Considine LLP + 1 Others](#)



[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Michael&lastName=Fraser&sraNumber=315007\]](/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Michael&lastName=Fraser&sraNumber=315007)

- [Person](#)

Neil Alan Patterson

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at](#) [Aberdein Considine LLP + 1 Others](#)

[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Neil&lastName=Alan&sraNumber=471081\]](/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Neil&lastName=Alan&sraNumber=471081)

- [Person](#)

Paul McIntosh

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at](#) [Aberdein Considine LLP + 1 Others](#)

[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Paul&lastName=&sraNumber=497364\]](/consumers/register/person/?firstName=Paul&lastName=&sraNumber=497364)

- [Person](#)

TRACIE MIDDLETON

[SRA-regulated solicitor](#)

[Works at](#) [ABERDEIN CONSIDINE & COMPANY](#)

[\[/consumers/register/person/?firstName=TRACIE&lastName=&sraNumber=658717\]](/consumers/register/person/?firstName=TRACIE&lastName=&sraNumber=658717)

Show 1 more person [\[/consumers/register/organisation/GetPeople?sraNumber=628245&numberOfResults=20\]](/consumers/register/organisation/GetPeople?sraNumber=628245&numberOfResults=20) (1 to view)

Legal services at this firm (9)

Areas of law shows the sort of work this firm does. Reserved activities lists the special legal jobs this firm can do because we regulate it as a law practice.

Areas of law

- Commercial / Corporate Work for Listed Companies
- Litigation - Other
- Property - Residential
- Property - Commercial

Reserved activities



Exercise of a right of audience, Conduct of litigation, Reserved instrument activities, Probate activities, Administration of oaths

This firm's regulatory record

DECISION HISTORY

This section gives the disciplinary and regulatory decisions published under our decision publication policy.

Person [Sanction Date: 9 January 2023](#)

Decision - Sanction

Outcome: Rebuke

Outcome date: 9 January 2023

Published date: 11 January 2023

Firm details

Firm or organisation at date of publication

Name: Aberdeen Considine & Company

Address(es): 30 Cloth Market, Newcastle upon Tyne

Firm ID: 628245

Outcome details

This outcome was reached by SRA decision.

Decision details

1. Agreed outcome

1.1 Aberdeen Considine & Company ("the Firm"), a recognised body, agrees to the following outcome to the investigation of its conduct by the Solicitors Regulation Authority ("SRA"):

- a. it is rebuked
- b. to the publication of this agreement
- c. it will pay the costs of the investigation of £1,350.

2. Summary of Facts

2.1 The Firm is dual authorised by both the SRA and by the Law Society of Scotland. It was initially authorised in Scotland and has been authorised in England and Wales since 6 May 2016, following its acquisition of a firm in Newcastle. The Firm's head office is based in Aberdeen. The Firm operated separate client accounts to hold money on behalf of clients instructing the Firm to provide legal services in either Scotland or England & Wales. The client bank account for the Newcastle branch office was held with an Aberdeen branch of a bank whose head office is in Edinburgh.

2.2 The SRA Account Rules state that a client account must only be held at a head office or branch of a bank or building society in England and Wales.

2.3 In March 2021, the SRA received an Accountant's Report in relation to the Firm's practice in England & Wales for the period ending 31 October 2019. This report identified various breaches of the SRA Accounts Rules 2011, including that the Firm had failed to carry out client account reconciliations in accordance with the rules. It also identified weaknesses in the Firms' systems and controls, including relating to its investigation of residual balances and dormant client ledgers.

2.4 During our investigation, we identified a shortfall of £265,422.40 in the Firm's England & Wales client account as at 31 May 2021.

2.5 The cause of the shortfall was made up of a combination of posting errors between the firms two client accounts, due to money which was to be held on behalf of clients in the England & Wales being accidentally paid into the Firm's Scottish client account. This arose in April 2018. Due to the Firm's failure to carry out three-way client account reconciliations in accordance with the SRA Account Rules, this shortage was not identified until our investigation. The shortfall was rectified in full by 11 June 2021. No loss to any client or third parties was identified.

2.6 During our investigation we identified that many of the historic residual balances were in fact dormant ledgers where the firm held a zero balance on account for the client. These were dealt with by a bulk closure exercise.

3. Admissions

3.1 Aberdeen Considine & Company make the following admissions which the SRA accepts:

- a. that by failing to carry out three-way client account reconciliations and identify and correct errors and differences in the books of account between March 2018 and July 2021, it allowed a cash shortage to occur, breaching Rules 29.1, 29.12 and 29.13 of the SRA Accounts Rules 2011 (for the period to 25 September 2019) and



Rule 8.3 of the SRA Accounts Rules 2019 (for the period from 25 September 2019).

- b. that by failing to return monies promptly to clients and allowing a number of residual client account balances to occur, it breached Rule 14.3 and 14.4 of the SRA Accounts Rules 2011 (for the period to 25 September 2019) and Rule 2.5 of the SRA Accounts Rules 2019 (for the period from 25 September 2019).
- c. that by failing to maintain a client bank account in England and Wales it breached Rule 13.4 of the SRA Accounts Rules 2011 (for the period to 25 September 2019) and Rule 3.1 of the SRA Accounts Rules 2019 (for the period from 25 September 2019).

4. Why a written rebuke is an appropriate outcome

4.1 The SRA's Enforcement Strategy sets out its approach to the use of its enforcement powers where there has been a failure to meet its standards or requirements.

4.2 When considering the appropriate sanctions and controls in this matter, the SRA has taken into account the admissions made by the Firm and the following mitigation which it has put forward:

- a. the Firm had applied practices applicable to the Scottish Account's Rules when dealing with client money held in its England & Wales client account.
- b. the breaches of the Accounts Rules were legacy issues following an acquisition by the firm in England, the firm having previously only operated in Scotland.
- c. the firm had put faith in completed annual audits received in 2018 and 2019 which disclosed no reportable breaches. A change of auditor resulted in reportable breaches of the SRA Accounts Rules and the firm took immediate steps to address the breaches.

4.3 The SRA considers that a written rebuke is the appropriate outcome because:

- a. the amount of money involved was significant however there was no loss or lasting harm to clients
- b. the Firm have co-operated with our investigation.
- c. the risk of repetition is low, given the steps taken by the firm to resolve the issues and the procedures being put into place to avoid this happening again
- d. some sanction is required to uphold public confidence in the delivery of legal services.

5. Publication

5.1 The SRA considers it appropriate that this agreement is published in the interests of transparency in the regulatory and disciplinary process.



Aberdein Considine & Company agrees to the publication of this agreement.

6. Acting in a way which is inconsistent with this agreement

7. Aberdein Considine & Company agrees that it will not deny the admissions made in this agreement or act in any way which is inconsistent with it.

7.1 If Aberdein Considine & Company denies the admissions or acts in a way which is inconsistent with this agreement, the conduct which is subject to this agreement may be considered further by the SRA. That may result in a disciplinary outcome or a referral to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal on the original facts and allegations.

7.2 Acting in a way which is inconsistent with this agreement may also constitute a separate breach of Principles 2 and 5 of the Principles and paragraph 3.2 of the Code of Conduct for Firms.

8. Costs

8.1 Aberdein Considine & Company agrees to pay the costs of the SRA's investigation in the sum of £1,350. Such costs are due within 28 days of a statement of costs due being issued by the SRA.

This firm's service complaints record

The Legal Ombudsman, a separate organisation from the Solicitors Regulation Authority, investigates complaints about the service consumers have received from their legal services provider and works to resolve the situation. Examples of poor service include being slow to act and costs not being clear or changing.

The Legal Ombudsman publishes its decisions about service complaints. You can [search for this firm in the Legal Ombudsman Data Centre](https://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/information-centre/data-centre/ombudsman-decision-data/#lblSearchSummary) [https://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/information-centre/data-centre/ombudsman-decision-data/#lblSearchSummary].

Glossary terms

Decision Publication Policy

We publish the regulatory and disciplinary decisions we make about the individuals and firms we regulate. We began publishing decisions in 2008.

However for policy reasons and practical reasons we cannot publish them all. [Read more about our publication policy](#) [/consumers/solicitor-check/policy/].



If you have questions about the record of a person or firm in this register, you can [contact us \[/home/contact-us/\]](#).

SRA-regulated firm

We regulate this law firm and it must follow our rules. It is allowed to provide all legal services.

Reserved legal activities

These are legal services that only regulated lawyers are allowed to do. This is because they involve handling your money or representing you in court. The law firms we regulate can do these reserved legal activities:

- buying/selling property
- administering wills, through probate
- representing you in court
- running your court case
- administering oaths

You can [read more about reserved legal activities \[https://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/enquiries/frequently-asked-questions/reserved-legal-activities\]](https://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/enquiries/frequently-asked-questions/reserved-legal-activities) on the website of the Legal Services Board.

Areas of law

These are the areas of law that the law firm has told us they delivered, in an annual report.