Solicitors Regulation Authority

SRA Update

Issue 142 - August 2025

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Welcome to the latest SRA Update. Last week, the Supreme Court ruling on motor finance commission payments hit the headlines. It impacts millions of consumers and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has announced it will consult on a compensation scheme. If you are a firm working in this area, you need to understand what this ruling means and make sure you are meeting your professional obligations. You can read below about the information we and the FCA have published setting out our expectations. We are also moving towards the opening of practising renewals in October. We provide an update on some changes we are introducing to how we will verify mySRA account users. Finally, you will also find the usual mix of updates, resources and on-demand content. There is practical content on using AI and technology, the SQE, and insights from the Legal Ombudsman on complaints issues.

Paul Philip

Chief Executive

Motor finance commission claims – the Supreme Court judgment and what we expect from law firms [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/motor-finance-commission-claims/]

The Supreme Court has ruled that, in certain specific circumstances, motor finance companies may have entered unfair relationships with consumers. Since then, the FCA announced it will consult on a consumer compensation scheme. If you are a firm working in this area, you need to understand what this ruling means, and make sure you meet your professional obligations. We have set out our expectations.

Read more about: Motor finance commission claims – the Supreme Court judgment and what we expect from law firms [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/motor-finance-commission-claims/]

Renew your practising certificate in October [https://update.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/practising-certificate-registration-renewals/]

Practising certificates renewals will run once again from 1 to 31 October. As well as enabling you to renew your authorisation for the year ahead, we also ask you to provide information about yourself/your firm and to confirm

certain obligations are being met. To help you prepare to complete your application, we have published information on what questions we ask both individuals and firms.

Read more about: Renew your practising certificate in October [https://update.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/practising-certificate-registration-renewals/]

Continuing competence declaration reminder [https://update.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/individual-renewal/#heading_a48a]

As part of your annual renewal, we require confirmation that all solicitors or registered lawyers are taking the required steps to remain competent and keep their knowledge and skills up to date. We have helpful guidance on what we expect, and what you will need to do to confirm this in October, when renewing your practising certificate or registration.

Read more about: Continuing competence declaration reminder [https://update.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/individual-renewal/#heading_a48a]

Change coming to verifying your identify in mySRA [https://update.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/verifying-mysra-account/]

To keep your mySRA account secure, we ask you to verify your identity each time you log in. Currently, we send a code to your phone by text message or voice call. However, this is changing. Instead, after 18 August you will need to use an authenticator app to get the code.

Read more about: Change coming to verifying your identify in mySRA [https://update.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/verifying-mysra-account/]

Continuing competence annual assessment [https://update.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/annual-assessment-continuing-competence-2025/]

Our latest annual review summarises what we are doing to make sure you are keeping up to date with your continuing competence requirements. As well as highlighting our current work and what we have seen among the profession, the report also shares on-going concerns, highlights best practice, and outlines our future plans in this area.

Read more about: Continuing competence annual assessment [https://update.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/annual-assessment-continuing-competence-2025/]

Ethnicity pay gap reporting: exploring good practice in firms [https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/756/home]

Join us for our webinar focused on ethnicity pay gap reporting, and how it can be used to encourage better representation for Black, Asian and minority ethnic solicitors in your firm at all levels. Though reporting is currently voluntary, the government recently consulted on making it mandatory for larger firms. This webinar will help you get ahead of this.

Read more about: Ethnicity pay gap reporting: exploring good practice in firms [https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/756/home]

Disadvantaged candidates awarded £360,000 to take SQE [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/sqe-awards-groups-2025/]

We have distributed £360,000 to 11 organisations to support people from disadvantaged backgrounds with the cost of sitting the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE). The organisations aim to make the legal industry more accessible to people from under-represented groups to providing, through volunteering, legal advice to veterans and their families.

Read more about: Disadvantaged candidates awarded £360,000 to take SQE [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/sqe-awards-groups-2025/]

India office changes [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/law-firms-solicitors-work-india/]

The Bar Council of India (BCI) recently changed its rules and now allows solicitors and law firms to provide services by establishing an office in India. Find out what you need from us if your firm is interested in this.

Read more about: India office changes [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/law-firms-solicitors-work-india/]

Youth Justice Charter launched [https://update.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/what-children-expect/]

The Ministry of Justice recently launched a new Youth Justice Charter for children and young people. Developed alongside us and others, this explains what a child can expect at each stage of the youth justice system. Find out more about this and our other resources for solicitors working with children.

Read more about: Youth Justice Charter launched [https://update.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/what-children-expect/]

Advice on how to successfully adopt tech [https://publications.sra.org.uk/lawtech-insight-june-2025/]

In the latest issue of Lawtech Insight, reporter Jane Wakefield talks to the Technology in Professional Services accelerator programme on how it has supported firms to quicken their adoption of technology. Also, the latest lawtech news: just how many people would be happy to have a robot lawyer?

Read more about: Advice on how to successfully adopt tech [https://publications.sra.org.uk/lawtech-insight-june-2025/]

Catch-up with our latest AI and innovation events [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/events/on-demand-events/innovation-2025/]

Want to know how to choose the right technology for your firm, and what are the latest developments involving AI and legal services? And how can consumers remain protected? Get practical tips from legal innovators by watching our on-demand tech and innovation conference, which took place recently in Leeds and Birmingham.

Read more about: Catch-up with our latest AI and innovation events [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/events/on-demand-events/innovation-2025/]

Insights on tech adoption among sole practitioners and small firms [https://publications.sra.org.uk/sole-practitioners-and-small-firms-use-of-technology/]

Our latest research highlights key themes on how sole practitioners and small law firms use and think about technology and innovation. Top factors for adoption were the desire to increase efficiencies (61%) and meeting increased consumer expectations (59%).

Read more about: Insights on tech adoption among sole practitioners and small firms [https://publications.sra.org.uk/sole-practitioners-and-small-firms-use-of-technology/]

Read all about our SQE Conference highlights [https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/practical-solutions-improve-candidates-experience-sqe-williams-507ze/]

If you couldn't join us for our conference, you can now read a blog from Policy Manager, Richard Williams showcasing the recent improvements to the Solicitors Qualifying Examination.

Read more about: Read all about our SQE Conference highlights [https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/practical-solutions-improve-candidates-experience-sqe-williams-507ze/]

Introducing our new case study series [https://update.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/sqe-case-

studies/]

Over the next few months, join us as we dive into the personal experiences of aspiring and qualified solicitors. Hear about the study methods that helped them prepare and pass the examination, and how they balanced work and study.

Read more about: Introducing our new case study series
[https://update.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/sqe-case-studies/]

Have you thought about working for us? [https://sra.tal.net/vx/appcentre-SolicitorsRegulationAuthority/candidate/jobboard/vacancy/2/adv/]

We are currently recruiting for a wide range of roles, including qualified roles as a Legal advisor and Anti-money laundering investigation officer. Our jobs page has more information.

Read more about: Have you thought about working for us?
[https://sra.tal.net/vx/appcentre-SolicitorsRegulationAuthority/candidate/jobboard/vacancy/2/adv/]

LeO series provides insight on contentious areas [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-leo-article/]

The Legal Ombudsman is publishing a series of blogs to provide insights for firms on common problems, with the aim of reducing complaints being made by clients. The latest article looks at LeO's guidance on remedies.

Read more about: LeO series provides insight on contentious areas
[https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-leo-article/]

Your health, your career [https://update.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/all-other-topics/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://update.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/all-other-topics/your-health-your-career/]

Welcome to the latest issue of Compliance News. Last week, the Supreme Court ruling on motor finance commission payments hit the headlines. It impacts millions of consumers and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has announced it will consult on a compensation scheme. If you are a firm working in this area, you need to understand what this ruling means and

make sure you are meeting your professional obligations. You can read below about the information we and the FCA have published setting out our expectations. Another claims area in the news recently is the infected blood compensation scheme – set up to support victims of infected blood. This is a free, centralised claim scheme, which makes free, independent legal support available. Firms need to be aware of their obligations if they are approached by potential claimants in this area. Also, the National Crime Agency has updated its National Risk Assessment around money laundering - we have some advice on how that might affect you. And there are still a limited number of places available at this year's Compliance Officers Conference, find out how to secure your place.

Paul Philip

Chief Executive

Motor finance commission claims – the Supreme Court judgment and what we expect from law firms [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/motor-finance-commission-claims/]

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Read more about: Motor finance commission claims – the Supreme Court judgment and what we expect from law firms [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/motor-finance-commission-claims/]

Infected Blood Compensation Scheme – your obligations [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-infected-blood/]

The Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA) is offering free independent legal support from a panel of five law firms. This will cover the costs of pursuing a claim for compensation. We expect solicitors to make prospective clients aware of the availability of this free legal support from IBCA.

Read more about: Infected Blood Compensation Scheme – your obligations [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-infected-blood/]

MLRs consultation response: what it means for law firms [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-

update-142-mlr-consultation/]

The UK government has published its response to the 2024 Money Laundering Regulations (MLRs) consultation. These changes aim to streamline anti-money laundering processes and reduce burdens for firms. We outline the key changes and what this means for law firms.

Read more about: MLRs consultation response: what it means for law firms [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-mlr-consultation/]

Risk assessment raises awareness of money laundering issues [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-nra/]

The National Crime Agency has published its fourth UK National Risk Assessment (NRA) and it directly shapes how we assess legal sector risk. Your firm-wide AML risk assessments should draw from both the NRA and sectoral risk assessment to ensure your controls are proportionate and targeted.

Read more about: Risk assessment raises awareness of money laundering issues [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-nra/]

Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) (Threshold Amount) (Amendment) Order 2025 [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-poca/]

There is a new threshold for submitting a defence against money laundering (DAML) suspicious activity report (SAR). This came into effect on 31 July 2025.

Read more about: Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) (Threshold Amount) (Amendment) Order 2025 [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-142-poca/]

Annual AML and sanctions data collection [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/firm-anti-money-laundering-sanctions-data-requirements/]

Our annual anti-money laundering (AML) and sanctions data collection exercise is underway and nearly half of firms have already submitted. This a regulatory exercise and the window for returns remains open until 15 August. A sample questionnaire is available to help you prepare, alongside frequently asked questions.

Read more about: Annual AML and sanctions data collection [https://update.sra.org.uk/news/news/firm-anti-money-laundering-sanctions-data-requirements/]

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Compliance Officers Conference 2025
[https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/751/home]

We still have a limited number of places available at our free-to-attend Compliance Officers Conference in Birmingham on 21 October. The event brings together compliance professionals from across the legal sector for a day of insight, discussion and practical guidance. Avoid disappointment and book your place now.

Read more about: Compliance Officers Conference 2025
[https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/751/home]

Subscription

If you are regulated by the SRA

As a regulated individual, confirm we have your current email address, by logging in to mySRA [https://update.sra.org.uk/mysra/] and checking the communications email address in your profile.

We recommend that you ask your network administrator to read about receiving email from us [https://update.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/receiving-emails-from-us/] .

If you are not regulated by the SRA

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