



SRA Update

Issue 144 - October 2025

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Welcome to the latest issue of SRA Update. It is the start of the new legal year, which means there is always lots going on. Not least the window has now opened to renew your practising certificate.

The high-volume consumer claims sector continues to be a big focus for us. When done well, it can help many people access justice, but we are seeing significant issues in this area. We'd appreciate your thoughts on what could be done to make it work better - our discussion paper is open until 14 November. Firms who are involved in litigation will also be interested in our statement following the recent High Court Mazur judgment. And we have published new resources on reporting your ethnicity pay gap data. We publish ours, and there can be a range of benefits to doing so.

This will be my last SRA Update, before I retire at the end of the month. I would like to thank everyone in the profession who have worked with me, shared their thoughts and sharpened my thinking over the years. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Compliance Officers Conference later this month in Birmingham.

Paul Philip

Chief Executive

[Practising certificate renewals window open](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/practising-certificate-registration-renewals/)

[\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/practising-certificate-registration-renewals/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/practising-certificate-registration-renewals/)

You can now renew your practising certificates and registrations. The deadline to apply is 31 October 2025. Visit our website to see the application questions and access supporting guidance – including helpful videos for both bulk renewal and individual applications. Don't forget to download your authenticator app so you can access mySRA and apply.

[Read more about: Practising certificate renewals window open \[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/practising-certificate-registration-renewals/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/practising-certificate-registration-renewals/)

[Concerns over how claims market is working](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-thematic-2025/)

[\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-thematic-2025/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-thematic-2025/)

Read our recently published thematic review, which has identified significant concerns on how many firms are handling high-volume consumer claims. The findings suggest some firms could be failing in their duty to protect and



promote clients' best interests, potentially leading to direct risk and harm to the public. The report reinforces concerns emerging from our wider proactive investigations.

[Read more about: Concerns over how claims market is working \[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-thematic-2025/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-thematic-2025/)

High-volume claims work - what do you think? [\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-discussion-paper-2025/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-discussion-paper-2025/)

Should the term 'no win, no fee' be banned? Should we have different authorisation processes for firms working in high- volume claims? These are the types of questions we ask in a discussion paper inviting views on the way the market for high-volume claims operates. You can find out more by watching our webinar on our on-demand service, or signing up to one of our virtual roundtable events on 7 October or 6 November. The discussion paper is open for feedback until 14 November.

[Read more about: High-volume claims work - what do you think? \[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-discussion-paper-2025/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/press/high-volume-claims-discussion-paper-2025/)

Updated guidance on encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion [\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/complying-principle-6-encouraging-equality-diversity-inclusion/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/complying-principle-6-encouraging-equality-diversity-inclusion/)

All solicitors have a duty to act in a way that encourages equality, diversity and inclusion. To help explain what Principle 6 means in practice, we have expanded our guidance to cover examples of misconduct, terminating a retainer when faced with discriminatory behaviour by clients, and more detail on when and how we will take regulatory action.

[Read more about: Updated guidance on encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion \[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/complying-principle-6-encouraging-equality-diversity-inclusion/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/complying-principle-6-encouraging-equality-diversity-inclusion/)

Statement on Mazur case and conducting litigation [\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/mazur-charles-russell-speechlys/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/mazur-charles-russell-speechlys/)

We have published our view that the recent High Court judgment in the Mazur case does not change the position in law. Non-authorised individuals can support litigation, but only an authorised individual, such as a solicitor, should be conducting litigation. The onus is on firms to satisfy themselves that they are complying with the Legal Services Act.

[Read more about: Statement on Mazur case and conducting litigation \[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/mazur-charles-russell-speechlys/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/mazur-charles-russell-speechlys/)



New assessment provider for higher rights of audience [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/higher-rights-of-audience/>]

For solicitors to represent clients in the higher courts in criminal or civil matters, they must pass the higher rights of audience (HRA) qualification. There is now a single assessments provider for the HRA, The University of Law. And while we do not prescribe how solicitors prepare for the assessments, we will publish details of organisations who offer training shortly.

[Read more about: New assessment provider for higher rights of audience](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/higher-rights-of-audience/) [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/specific-areas-of-practice/higher-rights-of-audience/>]

Update your diversity details in mySRA [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/updating-diversity-details/>]

It is essential that we have the most up-to-date information about the profession for us to support a diverse, inclusive legal sector. To allow this to happen we rely on you to check and update your personal diversity information in mySRA.

[Read more about: Update your diversity details in mySRA](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/updating-diversity-details/) [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/mysra/updates/updating-diversity-details/>]

Ethnicity pay gap reporting [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/equality-diversity/pay-gap-reporting/>]

We've released new resources on using ethnicity pay gap reporting to help drive equality in the sector. Since 2017, employers with more than 250 employees have been legally required to report on their gender pay gaps. With the Government's recent consultation on ethnicity and disability reporting, our resources highlight the benefits of ethnicity pay gap reporting. Case studies of how firms are using ethnicity pay gap reporting are also featured.

[Read more about: Ethnicity pay gap reporting](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/equality-diversity/pay-gap-reporting/) [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/equality-diversity/pay-gap-reporting/>]

Tune in: ethnicity pay gap reporting on-demand webinar [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/events/on-demand-events/>]



Watch our recent webinar discussing how ethnicity pay gap reporting can be used to encourage better representation for Black, Asian and minority ethnic solicitors in firms at all levels. Hear from Bridget Tatham, from Browne Jacobson and Jenn Barnett, of Grant Thornton, on how they're using their data to create fairer, more inclusive workplaces.

[Read more about: Tune in: ethnicity pay gap reporting on-demand webinar](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/events/on-demand-events/)
[<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/events/on-demand-events/>]

Next steps on our client money in legal services consultation [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/home/hot-topics/consumer-protection-review/>]

At the start of this year we consulted on potential reforms to better safeguard and protect client money. While some issues require longer term consideration, there are some elements we can progress sooner. Our immediate focus will be on making changes to better protect and safeguard client money under the current system. And we will be further consulting on this area later this year.

[Read more about: Next steps on our client money in legal services consultation](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/home/hot-topics/consumer-protection-review/) [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/home/hot-topics/consumer-protection-review/>]

How can you use generative AI in your legal work? [<https://publications.sra.org.uk/lawtech-insight-september-2025/>]

From onboarding and triage to negotiation and summarising, our latest issue of Lawtech Insight covers some of the top use cases for generative AI throughout the workflow of a typical legal task.

[Read more about: How can you use generative AI in your legal work?](https://publications.sra.org.uk/lawtech-insight-september-2025/)
[<https://publications.sra.org.uk/lawtech-insight-september-2025/>]

Are you looking for a new challenge? [<https://sra.tal.net/vx/appcentre-SolicitorsRegulationAuthority/candidate/jobboard/vacancy/2/adv/>]

Find your next career with us. We are recruiting for qualified roles in Legal and Enforcement (legally qualified roles), Investigations, Information Governance, IT, Contact Centre, and Data Science.

[Read more about: Are you looking for a new challenge?](https://sra.tal.net/vx/appcentre-SolicitorsRegulationAuthority/candidate/jobboard/vacancy/2/adv/)
[<https://sra.tal.net/vx/appcentre-SolicitorsRegulationAuthority/candidate/jobboard/vacancy/2/adv/>]

Welcome to the latest issue of Compliance News. The introduction of Awaab's Law this month could lead to more housing repair claims. So if you wish to help potential clients in this market, you should be aware of our warning around how you market your services. We have information on reporting



frozen assets. And I am looking forward to seeing the more than a thousand of you who are due to attend this year's Compliance Officers Conference in Birmingham. The event provides a great forum to learn more about key issues, keep up-to-date on compliance issues and network. For those not joining us, you can of course register for the virtual event in November where we will be holding live online repeats of many of the key sessions.

Paul Philip

Chief Executive

Awaab's Law to come into effect in England this month [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/marketing-public/>]

Awaab's Law will come into effect on 27 October in England, making sure health and safety hazards in social housing are addressed quickly by landlords. This may well result in an increase in housing disrepair claims being brought. If you are likely to advertise for such work, please read our warning notice on marketing your services to the public.

[Read more about: Awaab's Law to come into effect in England this month](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/marketing-public/) [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/marketing-public/>]

Frozen assets reporting deadline [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-144-frozen-assets-reporting-deadline/>]

HM Treasury is conducting its Frozen Asset Review. If you hold or control funds or economic resources belonging to, owned, held, or controlled by a designated person, you are required to submit a report by 30 November 2025.

[Read more about: Frozen assets reporting deadline](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-144-frozen-assets-reporting-deadline/) [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-144-frozen-assets-reporting-deadline/>]

AML data collection supports smarter risk management [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-144-aml-data-collection/>]

More than 97% of firms have now completed our 2025 anti-money laundering (AML) and sanctions data exercise. This information helps build a clearer, evidence-based picture of how firms are managing financial crime risks. Firms in scope who missed the deadline have been contacted directly and may be subject to regulatory action.

[Read more about: AML data collection supports smarter risk management](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-144-aml-data-collection/) [<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/news/news/sra-update-144-aml-data-collection/>]



Register for our virtual conference now

[\[https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/752/home\]](https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/752/home)

Our Virtual Compliance Conference runs from 3 to 6 November. Featuring a packed agenda of live webinars and Q&As, the event is open to all and you can pick and choose what sessions most interest you. Topics include: anti-money laundering, claims management, continuing competence, ethics, protecting client money and SQE.

[Read more about: Register for our virtual conference now](#)

[\[https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/752/home\]](https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/752/home)

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