Solicitors Regulation Authority

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Justice Committee Clerk
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3 September 2026

Dear Clerk,

In the aftermath of the closure of the PM Law Group in February 2026, we committed to providing interested parties with information regarding the closure and any additional support required. Our focus, first and foremost, is on supporting those affected by the closure, and we have provided a further update on that support below.

In addition, I have previously outlined the importance of the SRA learning lessons from the experience with PM Law to understand what steps the organisation could have taken to act sooner and potentially reduce harm. With that in mind, I have also provided an update below on the findings of an independent review we commissioned into the events leading up to our intervention and our progress on key reforms.

Update on our intervention and investigation into PM Law Group

The PM Law group was made up of 11 companies, 25 offices and more than 30 trading names spread across Yorkshire, Cumbria, Berkshire, Derbyshire and London. The size and complexity of the group means that the SRA's intervention in February 2026 was one of the largest we have undertaken.

We moved quickly to support former clients of the firm. As of 5 August 2026, this includes:

- The SRA has dealt with 539 applications to the SRA Compensation Fund and paid out £15.6 million
- A further £7.1 million has been paid out from money held within the firm at the time we intervened
- 25,000 emails or letters have been sent to people identified from the seized files as having live matters
- 26,000 enquiries have been dealt with
- 13,677 live files have been returned to clients (with a further 20,000 transferred in bulk to insurer clients).

The SRA is continuing to handle hundreds of further claims to our Compensation Fund. The total value of these potential claims to date, including those already paid out, is an estimated £31.57m.

The SRA has introduced a prioritisation schedule for processing applications to the fund. This applies to claims linked to both PM Law and any wider applications relating to other law firms. This schedule directs the order in which claims will be dealt with only and has no impact on the relative likelihood of individual claims succeeding when considered.

In addition, we have moved at pace with our investigation and announced on 30 June that we had disqualified Jonathon Howard Bostock from working in SRA-regulated firms for breaches of our Rules. Mr Bostock, a non-solicitor, was a manager and Head of Finance and Administration at PM Law Group from January 2013 to February 2026. We have found that he:

- breached his duties by permitting improper client account withdrawals resulting in shortages
- failed to report serious financial difficulties
- provided us with false or misleading information; and
- fabricated account balances to misrepresent the firm’s financial position.

It is important to note that we were able to act more quickly against Mr Bostock because he is not a solicitor. The wider investigation into the sophisticated, suspected fraud is ongoing, and we continue to support affected clients, including through substantial payments from both client monies and the Compensation Fund.

Independent review of pre-intervention handling of PM Law Group

The SRA has published the findings of an independent review conducted by law firm Jenner & Block LLP into the handling of the events leading up to the intervention into the PM Law Group.

We commissioned the review to identify learnings for us as an organisation. Given the seriousness of these events and the impact they had on consumers.

Key findings from the report include:

- The SRA missed opportunities to identify the issues earlier as a result of a failure to aggregate information held about PM Law Group.
- Decisions regarding the PM Law Group were taken with incomplete information and against a risk more serious than individual decision-makers were able to appreciate.
- Capacity constraints across the organisation limited the SRA's ability to act on emerging risk as quickly as it should have. SRA operational staff were generally skilled, dedicated and collegial.

The SRA has already taken meaningful steps on reform to fix the structural gaps cited in this review, though this example underscores the need to complete the reforms we have laid out. Many of the missed opportunities arose from structural gaps in the organisation’s systems and controls, which, at the time of the intervention into PM Law Group, were the subject of ongoing but incomplete reforms.

Reforming the SRA

Reforms to strengthen how the SRA regulates has been under way for some time with Jenner & Block's findings highlighting where we must go further.

In particular, PM Law highlighted the need to focus our efforts on reforms to better manage risks related to client money; improve our ability to manage risk, use data and supervise high-risk firms; and strengthen capacity in the organisation.

Alongside this, broader reforms are under way to fix the foundations of our work, strengthen our operations and build new capabilities in line with four priorities: operational excellence, proactive risk identification, focusing on the biggest issues, and improving collaboration.

Please do let us know if you have any questions about the information shared in this email.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Rapson
Chief Executive
Solicitors Regulation Authority