

From the Chief Executive

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



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Dear Mr Tugendhat

I write regarding your comments this week at the Foreign Affairs Committee relating to the conduct of law firms actively seeking clients who are looking at aiding money laundering activities.

Should you have evidence of law firms or individual solicitors doing so then I would be grateful if you would provide us with the necessary detail by return. We take the issues you have raised extremely seriously, and we will act if there is evidence to support such claims.

We are aware of concerns surrounding the involvement of SRA regulated firms in Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs) and we have been considering the issue carefully in liaison with the Ministry of Justice and with organisations including Transparency International, the Foreign Policy Centre and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

We recently issued [guidance](#) reminding those we regulate of their obligations to make sure proceedings are pursued properly and that duties to the public interest and to the court are paramount.

We [take steps](#) to make sure those we regulate are complying with anti-money laundering and wider economic crime legislation, including visits to those firms recently named in Parliament. We also continue our ongoing rolling programme of firm visits and investigations. On 23 February [we issued a statement](#) to the profession reminding them of the importance of sanctions compliance and on 7 March [an update](#) on our guidance for firms.

We will also be looking carefully at the government's proposals published this week for further legislation and actions in relation to SLAPPs and be responding with our thoughts. I will of course be happy to share these with you and your committee.

Yours sincerely

Paul Philip
Chief Executive
Solicitors Regulation Authority

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