



Solicitors  
Regulation  
Authority

**Our Ref: IG/TC/635**

Mr Elliott  
By email only:  
request-814247-59469aac@whatdotheyknow.com

The Cube  
199 Wharfside Street  
Birmingham B1 1RN

DX: 720293 BIRMINGHAM 47  
www.sra.org.uk

16 December 2021

Dear Mr Elliott,

**Information request – Our Ref: IG/TC/635**

I am writing in response to your email of 06 December 2021.

The SRA is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act as it is not a designated authority under the act. We have adopted our own Transparency Code which operates in a similar way.

I am handling your request for information under the SRA's Transparency Code.

**You requested the following information:**

*"Please provide details as to all Reporting & Notifications obligations (Schedule 1 or Schedule 2) made to your firm by Berry & Lamberts Solicitors, Kent.*

*Date range: 01/01/21 - 06/12/2021*

*Please include details as to the nature of all of these notifications."*

**Our response:**

I am unable to provide any information in response to your request or to confirm if data is held, this is because this information is subject to the below limitation.

**Qualified Limitation 17** - This limitation applies to the disclosure of information that is, or is likely to, prejudice the exercise by us of our statutory and public functions.

**Application of Qualified Limitation 17:**

Where we find that a Qualified Limitation under our Transparency code applies, we must consider if disclosure is in the wider public interest. This is known as the public interest test.

Whilst we agree that there is a public interest in disclosure of reports, as this promotes openness, transparency and accountability, we also find that there is a significant public interest in non-disclosure in this matter.

We are the regulator of solicitors and law firms in England and Wales.

Solicitors Regulation Authority Limited is a company limited by guarantee.  
Our registered offices are: The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN.  
Our company registration number is: 12608059

The SRA deals with numerous types of complaints and allegations and has a thorough and robust approach to enforcement action, which is detailed in published guidance available on our website.

The SRA as regulator has an established mechanism for publishing upheld complaints made regarding firms and individuals. This is our Publication Policy which is available here:

[www.sra.org.uk/consumers/solicitor-check/policy.page](http://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/solicitor-check/policy.page)

You can look up the records of the solicitors and law firms we regulate via our register:

[www.sra.org.uk/solicitors-register](http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors-register)

You can also search for any current published decisions against a firm or individual solicitor via our website:

[www.sra.org.uk/consumers/solicitor-check.page](http://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/solicitor-check.page)

Disciplinary decisions are considered for publication under our publication policy. Only outcomes which meet a certain threshold are published:

[www.sra.org.uk/sra/decision-making/guidance/disciplinary-publishing-regulatory-disciplinary-decisions.page](http://www.sra.org.uk/sra/decision-making/guidance/disciplinary-publishing-regulatory-disciplinary-decisions.page)

The publication of complaints which had not led to a regulatory outcome would be misleading for the public, as this would include complaints which are not found to be proved or are not found to have merit.

In conclusion, based on above considerations, the SRA does not accept that there is a wider public interest in disclosing the information you have asked for in your request.

More information on how we handle requests, including a link to a copy of our Transparency Code, can be found on our website:

[www.sra.org.uk/sra/how-we-work/transparency.page](http://www.sra.org.uk/sra/how-we-work/transparency.page)

Please quote the reference number **IG/TC/635** if you decide to contact us further regarding this request.

Yours sincerely,

**Jack Baraczewski**

Information Governance Officer  
Solicitors **Regulation** Authority

## **Internal review and complaint process**

If you are not satisfied with our response to your request for information, you can request that the matter is reconsidered as an internal review. To do so please write to, or email, the Information Compliance and Governance Manager at:

SRA Information Compliance  
The Cube  
199 Wharfside Street,  
Birmingham B1 1RN

[SRAInformationCompliance@sra.org.uk](mailto:SRAInformationCompliance@sra.org.uk)

Please note that your request for an internal review must be submitted within 60 days of our decision. We aim to issue a formal response to internal reviews within 20 working days.

### **Internal review process**

The internal review will consider any limitations applied and the information disclosed. This aspect of the review is final and there is no further avenue for appeal. It is also important for you to note that, as this is a voluntary code, the Information Commissioner is unable to consider your complaint.

### **Escalation to a complaint**

If you are still not satisfied with the response that you have received, you can make a complaint to our Complaints Team about the way we have handled your request.

The complaints team will only be able to review the matters related to our service, for example our communication and compliance with the deadline.

If you are unhappy with the Complaint's Team decision, you can escalate the matter further and ask the Independent Reviewer (Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution) to review your complaint. The service is independent to us and they will review how we handled your complaint, not our decision.