High-volume consumer claims - mandatory declaration

This mandatory declaration concerns your firm's compliance with the SRA Standards and Regulations when carrying out consumer claims work. You are required to provide a response to each question.

Once you have completed the declaration, you will receive an email attaching a PDF copy of your responses.

Who should complete this declaration?

The managing partner, managing director, Chief Executive Officer, or equivalent.

When do I need to submit the declaration by?

Friday 3 October 2025.

How long will it take to complete the declaration?

This declaration takes up to two hours to complete if you have all the information to hand. It may take longer if your firm carries out multiple types of consumer claims, and/or has multiple referrers, litigation funders, ATE insurers, and marketers.

Answers will automatically save each time you click on the **Next** button. You must complete the declaration in one sitting to avoid losing the information you have entered.

Is this declaration mandatory?

Yes. Failure to complete this declaration may be a breach of paragraph 3.3 of the <u>SRA Code</u> of <u>Conduct for Firms</u> and paragraph 7.4 of the <u>SRA Code of Conduct for Solicitors, RELs,</u> RFLs and RSLs.

How will you handle my data?

The information gathered during this process will be used in the discharge of our regulatory obligations. This will include assessing compliance with our Standards and Regulations and potentially informing further regulatory action.

What can I do if I have a query?

There is guidance provided throughout the declaration. If you have queries about the declaration or process, please contact the Thematic team:

Email: consumerclaims@sra.org.uk

For any other queries, please contact the Professional Ethics team:

Email: professional.ethics@sra.org.uk

Telephone: 0370 606 2577

Thank you for your cooperation.

[] Tax refunds [] Timeshare

[] Other financial services claims

[] Other consumer claims - please give details:

Information about your firm 1. Firm name 2. Firm SRA ID 3. Your first name _____ 4. Your surname 5. Your title () Mrs () Ms () Miss () Mr () Mx () Dr () Professor 6. Your role 7. Your email address ____ 8. Your telephone number Your firm's work 9. What consumer claims work has your firm undertaken in the past 12 months? [] None [] Car finance [] Cavity wall insulation [] Data breach / data protection / cyber security [] Diesel emissions [] Flight delay [] Holiday sickness [] Housing disrepair [] Japanese knotweed [] Mis-sold pensions [] Mis-sold tax avoidance schemes Payment Protection Insurance [] Solar panel / green energy / other energy

Guidance

For the purposes of this declaration, 'consumer claims work' includes but is not limited to claims and preparation of potential claims for individual consumers regarding financial services, non-financial services and products.

'Consumer claims work' does not include:

- personal injury or clinical negligence work
- claims on behalf of commercial organisations of any type (including small businesses)
- defending consumer claims on behalf of an organisation or business.

If you answer 'None' to question 9, you will be taken immediately to the declaratory statement and do not need to answer questions 10 to 121.

10. What is your firm's annual turnover for all legal work?

Guidance

Tell us about your firm's turnover arising from legal work carried out in England and Wales. If your firm does not have a complete 12 month accounting period (e.g. you are a new firm), provide your estimated turnover for your first 12 month accounting period.

11. Turnover: What percentage of your firm's annual turnover is derived from the following work areas?:

You only need to provide a response for the types of claims work your firm carries out.

Car finance
Cavity wall insulation
Data breach, data protection and cyber security
Diesel emissions
Flight delay
Holiday sickness
Housing disrepair
Japanese knotweed
Mis-sold pensions
Mis-sold tax avoidance schemes
Payment protection insurance
Solar panels, green energy and other energy
Tax refunds
Timeshare
Other financial service claims

12. Open matters: Approximately how many open consumer claims matters of the following types does your firm hold?

Guidance

For the purposes of this declaration, 'open matters' refers to any matters where there is an ongoing client retainer.

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refers to any metters where the firm
refers to any matters where the firm the client.
claims work your firm carries out.

irm carries out a type of consumer claim
s your firm carry out?
f

17. How many matters has the firm closed in the last twelve months?
18. How many legally qualified fee earners work on consumer claims?
19. How many non- legally qualified fee earners work on consumer claims?
Referral arrangements
20. Does your firm have an arrangement with any other business or organisation for the referral of clients or client leads in relation to consumer claims work?
() Yes () No
If you answered 'yes' to question 20:
21. How many referrers does your firm have arrangements with?
You $\underline{\text{must}}$ provide information about each of your referrers. You will need to complete a separate submission for each referrer $\underline{\text{here}}$.
Guidance
For the purposes of this declaration, the terms 'referral', 'referral arrangement', and 'referrers' relate to arrangements firms have with third party organisations to source prospective clients. This includes:
 claims management businesses which identify individuals who may have an eligible claim and refer them to law firms lead generators which provide contact details of prospective clients to law firms panel firm / fee sharing arrangements that involve the introduction of individuals to firms.
Marketing and publicity
22. Does your firm have an arrangement with any other business or organisation to provide publicity or marketing in relation to consumer claims work?
() Yes () No
If you answered 'yes' to question 22:
23. How many marketing businesses or organisations ('marketers') does your firm have arrangements with?
You <u>must</u> provide information about each of your marketers. You will need to complete a separate submission for each marketer <u>here</u> .

Guidance

For the purposes of this declaration, 'marketing and publicity' refers to any activity aimed at advertising the firm and its services. This includes websites, social media content, and print or online communication.

Client acquisition

- Paragraphs 5.1(e), 8.8 and 8.9 of the <u>Code of Conduct for Solicitors</u>, <u>RELs</u>, <u>RFLs</u> and RSLs
- Paragraph 2.1(a) and 2.3 of the <u>Code of Conduct for Firms</u>
- Warning notice: Marketing your services to members of the public

24. The firm ensures its publicity, including publicity produced by those the firm employs or contracts with, is accurate and not misleading.
() Yes () No
25. What measures has the firm taken?
[] Firm has written agreement with relevant third party [] Firm has verbal agreement with relevant third party [] Firm approves third party's content before publication [] Firm carries out regular checks of third party's work [] Firm has effective supervision and approvals process before publication [] Firm hires dedicated and specialist marketing and publicity staff [] Firm carries out audits on publicity material it produces [] Other - not listed above
26. If the firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 25, you must answer questions 27 to 29.
27. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
28. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
29. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
30. The firm does not make unsolicited approaches to members of the public, with the exception of current or former clients, in order to advertise legal services.
() Confirmed () Not confirmed
If you answered 'no' to question 30, you must answer questions 31 to 33.
31. If unable to answer 'confirmed' to this statement, briefly explain why
32. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?

33. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
If your firm has referrers or marketers, you must answer questions 34 to 39.
34. The firm has effective measures in place to ensure that any business or organisation acting on its behalf ('the supplier') does not make unsolicited approaches to members of the public, with the exception of current or former clients in order to advertise legal services.
() Yes () No
35. What measures does the firm have in place?
[] Firm provides verbal information about the requirement to the supplier [] Firm provides written information about the requirement to the supplier [] Requirement is specifically set out in a written contract with the supplier [] The supplier is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and therefore prohibited from this activity [] The supplier is SRA-regulated and is therefore prohibited from this activity [] Firm collects and reviews information from clients about how they heard about the firm and its services [] Firm carries out regular audits / quality checks on supplier
[] Other - not listed above
36. If the firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 34, you must answer questions 37 to 39.
37. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
38. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
39. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
<u>Litigation funding</u>
40. Does your firm have litigation funding for its consumer claims work?
() Yes () No
If you answered 'yes' to question 40, you must answer questions 41 to 43.
41. How many litigation funders does your firm have arrangements with?
42. Does your firm arrange litigation funding on behalf of clients for consumer claims?
() Yes () No
If you answered 'yes' to question 42:

43. How many litigation funders has your firm made arrangements with on behalf of clients?
You <u>must</u> provide information about each litigation funder your firm has arrangements with or has made arrangements with on behalf of clients. You will need to complete a separate submission for each litigation funder <u>here</u> .
Guidance
Tell us if your firm has any arrangements with a third party to fund its consumer claims work, or has made such arrangements on behalf of clients. This includes provision of:
 funding for individual claims funding for portfolios of claims working capital a general credit facility.
Funding your firm's claims
If your firm has litigation funding for its consumer claims work, you must answer questions 44 to 59.
You are required to confirm the following statements on behalf of your firm. These statements reflect your and your firm's professional obligations set out in:
 Principle 7 Paragraph 8.6 of the Code of Conduct for Solicitors, RELs, RFLs and RSLs Paragraphs 2.1(a), 2.4, 2.5 and 6.1 of the Code of Conduct for Firms.
44. The firm has effective measures in place to ensure that the proposed litigation funding arrangement is in the best interests of each client and avoids any own interest conflicts.
() Yes () No
If you answered 'no' to question 44, you must answer questions 45 to 47.
45. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
46. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
47. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
48. The firm has effective measures in place to ensure each client can make an informed decision about proceeding with any proposed litigation funding agreement.
() Yes () No
49. What measures has your firm taken?

 [] Firm gives clients funding information and advice verbally [] Firm gives clients funding information and advice in writing [] Firm ensures clients obtain independent advice on funding [] Firm discusses insurance cover with clients [] Firm provides clients with a copy of litigation funding agreement [] Firm provides FAQ or guidance document to clients [] Other - not listed above 		
50. If your firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please	give d	etails
If you answered 'no' to question 48, you must answer questions 51 to 53.		1
51. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why		1
52. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?		
53. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?		
54. The firm has effective measures in place to ensure that:		
	Yes	No
all material risks to the business arising from its use of litigation funding are identified, monitored and managed	()	()
it actively monitors its financial stability and business viability	()	()
55. What measures has your firm taken? [] Firm produces regular reports on financial performance [] Firm's managers regularly review information on firm's financial perform [] Firm's company accounts (or equivalent) are independently audited (NE accountant's reports) [] Firm has owners, managers or staff with professional expertise relevant financial performance [] Firm uses external financial expertise to manage financial performance [] Firm has a risk management framework in place to identify and manage [] Firm carries out source of funds checks on litigation funders [] Firm carries out sanctions checks on litigation funders [] Other - not listed above	does it to man	aging al risk
56. If your firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please	give de	etails
If you answered 'no' to question 54 you must answer questions 57 to 59.		
57. If unable to answer 'yes' to the statement(s), briefly explain why.		
58. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?		
59. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?		

Onboarding clients

- Paragraphs 3.1, 6.1, and 8.1 of the <u>Code of Conduct for Solicitors</u>, <u>RELs</u>, <u>RFLs and</u> RSLs
- Paragraphs 2.1(a), 2.2, 6.2 and 7.1 of the <u>Code of Conduct for Firms</u>.

60. The firm has effective measures in place to identify each client and keep an accurate record of each of their matters.
() Yes () No
61. What measures has your firm taken?
[] ID checks - carried out by firm [] ID checks - carried out by third party contracted by firm [] Conflict of interest checks - carried out by firm [] Conflict of interest checks - carried out by third party contracted by firm [] Sanctions checks - carried out by firm [] Sanctions checks - carried out by third party contracted by firm [] Firm checks onboarding carried out by employees [] Firm checks onboarding carried out by third party contracted by firm [] Senior member of the firm has overall responsibility for quality of onboarding process [] Other - not listed above
62. If your firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 60, you must answer questions 63 to 65.
63. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
64. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
65. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
66. The firm only acts on instructions from the client or someone authorised to provide instructions on the client's behalf.
() Yes () No
67. What measures has your firm taken to ensure compliance?
[] Firm confirms instructions with clients verbally [] Firm confirms instructions with clients in writing [] Third party confirms instructions with clients verbally on the firm's behalf [] Third party confirms instructions with clients in writing on the firm's behalf [] Firm's terms of business provide authority for firm to accept or reject settlement offers without explicit approval from clients [] Firm checks onboarding carried out by employees [] Firm checks onboarding carried out by third party contracted by firm [] Other - not listed above

68. If your firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 66, you must answer questions 69 to 71.
69. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
70. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
71. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
72. The firm keeps and maintains records to demonstrate compliance of the firm and any third party it contracts for client onboarding processes.
() Yes () No
If you answered 'no' to question 72, you must answer questions 73 to 75.
73. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
74. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
75. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
After-the-event insurance
After-the-event insurance 76. Does your firm arrange After-the-event (ATE) insurance on behalf of clients for consumer claims?
76. Does your firm arrange After-the-event (ATE) insurance on behalf of clients for
76. Does your firm arrange After-the-event (ATE) insurance on behalf of clients for consumer claims? () Yes
76. Does your firm arrange After-the-event (ATE) insurance on behalf of clients for consumer claims? () Yes () No
76. Does your firm arrange After-the-event (ATE) insurance on behalf of clients for consumer claims? () Yes () No If you answered 'yes' to question 76, you must answer questions 77 to 79.
76. Does your firm arrange After-the-event (ATE) insurance on behalf of clients for consumer claims? () Yes () No If you answered 'yes' to question 76, you must answer questions 77 to 79. 77. How many ATE insurers does your firm have arrangements with?
76. Does your firm arrange After-the-event (ATE) insurance on behalf of clients for consumer claims? () Yes () No If you answered 'yes' to question 76, you must answer questions 77 to 79. 77. How many ATE insurers does your firm have arrangements with? 78. How many ATE insurance brokers does your firm have arrangements with?

If your firm arranges ATE insurance on behalf of clients for consumer claims work, you must answer questions 80 to 99.

 Paragraph 8.6 of the <u>Code of Conduct for Solicitors</u>, <u>RELs</u>, <u>R</u> Paragraph 2.1(a) of the <u>Code of Conduct for Firms</u> Rules 5.2(a) of the <u>SRA Financial Services (Scope) Rules</u> Rules 2, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, and 21.1 of the <u>SRA Financial Segusiness</u>) <u>Rules</u> Guidance on <u>law firms carrying on insurance distribution active</u> 	ervices (Cond	
80. The firm is registered on the Financial Services Register as a Professional Firm or Authorised Professional Firm and is authorised on behalf of clients.		nge ATE
() Yes () No		
If you answered 'no' to question 80, you must answer questions 81 to	o 83 .	
81. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain wh	ıy.	
82. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?		
83. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps	?	
84. Before any ATE insurance policy is put in place, the firm giv following information:	es each cliei	nt the
	Yes	No
The firm's prescribed status disclosure	()	()
Whether the firm is providing a personal recommendation	()	()
A statement of the client's demands and needs	()	()
Any commission or remuneration the firm receives in relation to the insurance policy	()	()
Any fee payable by the client	()	()
If you answered 'no' to question 84, you must answer questions 85 to 85. If unable to answer 'yes' to the statement(s), briefly explain to		
86. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?		
87. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?		
88. The firm obtains and documents informed consent from each insurance in place.	h client to p	ut ATE

() Yes () No

89. What measures has your firm taken to ensure compliance?
 [] Firm gives clients information and advice on ATE insurance verbally [] Firm gives clients information and advice on ATE insurance in writing [] Firm provides clients with a copy of ATE insurance policy [] Firm provides FAQ or guidance document to clients [] Firm requires written form of client consent before putting ATE insurance in place [] Other - not listed above
90. If your firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 88, you must answer questions 91 to 93.
91. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
92. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
93. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
94. The firm has effective measures in place to ensure that its and its clients' obligations under ATE insurance policies are met.
() Yes () No
95. What measures has your firm taken?
[] Firm obtains permission from ATE insurance provider as and when required prior to taking action to progress or close claims [] Firm reports key information to ATE insurance provider as and when required [] Firm actively monitors prospects of success and takes appropriate action when prospects fall below defined thresholds [] Firm has regular meetings with ATE insurance provider to discuss cases and any issues arising [] Firm regularly reviews adequacy of ATE insurance cover [] Other - not listed above
96. If your firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 94, you must answer questions 97 to 99.
97. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
98. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
99. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?

Advising clients, client care and costs information

 Paragraphs 2.4, 5.1(a), 5.1(b), 8.6, and 8.7 of the <u>Code of Conduct for Solicitors</u>, <u>RELs</u>, <u>RFLs</u> and <u>RSLs</u>

100. When carrying out consumer claims work, the firm only makes assertions or puts

• Paragraph 2.1(a) of the Code of Conduct for Firms.

properly arguable.
() Yes () No
101. What measures has the firm taken?
[] Assessing merits of claims and prospects of success [] Process or procedure in place for evaluation of claims [] Quality assurance of process for evaluation of claims [] Senior member of firm has responsibility for claims evaluation process [] Regularly reviewing merits of claims and prospects of success [] Seeking Counsel's advice [] Seeking expert advice [] Using vetting criteria to ensure firm only advances cases with merit [] Other - not listed above:
102. If the firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 100, you must answer questions 103 to 105.
103. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why
104. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
105. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
106. The firm has effective measures in place to ensure clients are provided with information in a way that they can understand, so that they are in a position to make informed decisions about the services they need, how their matter will be handled and the options available to them.
() Yes () No
107. What measures has your firm taken?
[] Firm informs clients of the person with conduct of and responsibility for the matter [] Firm informs clients of scope of the work to be done [] Firm gives clients an assessment of the merits of their case and its prospects of success [] Firm informs clients of likely timescales for case progression [] Firm explains methods of communication to clients [] Firm advises clients of any ombudsmen, public compensation or redress schemes that clients can approach directly themselves at no cost [] Firm informs clients of any fee sharing arrangements relevant to their matter [] Firm contracts third party to provide clients with relevant information [] Relevant information is provided on the firm's website [] Firm verbally verifies that clients understand the information given

[] Firm verifies in writing that clients understand the information given [] Other - not listed above
108. If your firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 106, you must answer questions 109 to 111.
109. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
110. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?
111. When do you expect the firm to have completed these steps?
112. The firm has effective measures in place to ensure clients receive the best possible information about how their matter will be priced and, both at the time of engagement and when appropriate as their matter progresses, about the likely overall cost of the matter and any costs incurred.
() Yes () No
113. What measures has your firm taken?
[] Firm informs clients how costs are calculated [] Firm informs clients how costs will be paid [] Firm gives clients costs estimates [] Firm advises clients of the consequences if the client discontinues or withdraws their claim [] Firm explains deductions to be made at settlement or on receipt of damages/compensation [] Firm informs clients of likely disbursements [] Firm informs clients of the success fee (including when it is payable and how it is calculated) [] Firm advises clients of potential adverse costs [] Firm advises clients on the implications of litigation funding agreements [] Firm advises clients on the implications of Conditional Funding Agreements [] Firm advises clients on the implications of Damages Based Agreements [] Firm advises clients on the implications of After-The-Event insurance [] Firm advises clients on the implications of Before-The-Event insurance [] Firm provides updates on costs as the matter progresses [] Firm provides updates on costs at key milestones of a case [] Firm contracts third party to provide clients with relevant information [] Relevant information is provided on the firm's website [] Firm verbally verifies that clients understands the information given [] Firm verifies in writing that client understands the information given [] Other - not listed above
114. If your firm has taken any measures not mentioned above, please give details
If you answered 'no' to question 112, you must answer questions 115 to 117.
115. If unable to answer 'yes' to this statement, briefly explain why.
116. What, if any, steps is the firm taking to address this?

	Yes	No	N/A - firm has no referrers or fee sharing agreements
any financial or other interest received by a referrer or the firm as a result of a referral arrangement	()	()	()
any fee sharing agreement relevant to their matter	()	()	()
119. If unable to answer 'yes' to the state	ement(s), b	riefly expl	ain why
f you answered 'no' to question 118, you multiple for the state of the	ement(s), b	riefly expl	ain why
119. If unable to answer 'yes' to the state 120. What, if any, steps is the firm taking 121. When do you expect the firm to hav Declaratory statement	ement(s), b I to addres e complete	riefly expl	ain why
119. If unable to answer 'yes' to the state 120. What, if any, steps is the firm taking 121. When do you expect the firm to hav 121. Declaratory statement 121. [your name], am [your firm]'s [your role 122. Understand that it is my responsibility to	ement(s), by to addresse complete	riefly expl s this? ed these s	eps?
119. If unable to answer 'yes' to the state 120. What, if any, steps is the firm taking 121. When do you expect the firm to hav 121. Declaratory statement 121. [your name], am [your firm]'s [your role 122. understand that it is my responsibility to 123. scorrect and complete. 124. understand that if I have knowingly or role 125. understand that if I have knowingly or role 126. understand that if I have knowingly or role 127. understand that if I have knowingly or role 128. understand that if I have knowingly or role 129. understand the I have knowingly or role 129. understand the I have knowingly or role	ement(s), by to address e complete e].	riefly expl s this? ed these st	nformation I have given
119. If unable to answer 'yes' to the state 120. What, if any, steps is the firm taking 121. When do you expect the firm to hav	ement(s), by to address e complete e].	riefly expl s this? ed these sa re all the i	nformation I have giver information that is false formation) you could