



Law Society
of Scotland

Protecting the public is at the heart of our work

Top 10 ways we regulate Scottish solicitors



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1.



People in Scotland, quite rightly, expect solicitors to be well trained professionals. That's why we set high standards for, and accredit, the Scottish universities offering the law degree (LLB) and Diploma in Professional Legal Practice. Once qualified, solicitors must take part in continuing professional development (CPD) each year.

2.



The public can rest assured that every person wanting to become a solicitor in Scotland has been 'fit and proper tested' by us, ensuring they have the honesty, integrity and professionalism needed to provide legal services.

3.



To protect consumers, solicitor firms can only operate if they have adequate professional indemnity insurance in place to cover negligence in the event that mistakes are made. We co-ordinate this mandatory cover known as the 'Master Policy'.

4.



To help keep client money safe and properly accounted for, we carry out over 350 inspections of Scottish law firm client accounts each year. If we uncover any wrongdoing, then we can raise a conduct complaint against a solicitor with the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission.

5.



We investigate conduct complaints against Scottish solicitors and where necessary prosecute them before the independent Scottish Solicitor Discipline Tribunal (SSDT). In fact, 48% of cases brought before the SSDT come from complaints raised by us as a result of our work as a regulator.

6.



If a client is a victim of a Scottish solicitor's dishonesty, the client can make a claim to the 'Client Protection Fund'. This fund is 100% financed by the Scottish legal profession, not the taxpayer, and is managed by us.

7.



When law firms are not being run to the required standards, close down unexpectedly or are in trouble, we always make sure client interests are protected. We can take over the management of a law firm, helping to wind up the business and making sure client files are taken on by another law firm. This can be a worrying time for clients, so we make sure we are available to answer any questions they have.

8.



To ensure law firms play their part in supporting the UK's effort to tackle fraud and money laundering, we regulate almost 800 law firms in Scotland to ensure they comply with strict anti-money laundering requirements.

9.



We make sure that clients receiving legal aid in civil cases can expect a good quality of service and legal work provided by their solicitor. The 'Quality Assurance Scheme' ensures all firms providing civil legal aid must join a central register maintained by the Scottish Legal Aid Board. We have the powers to remove firms from the register if they aren't meeting the necessary standards.

10.



To help us meet our important responsibility towards the public interest, we have a Regulatory Committee made up of 50% experienced solicitors and 50% people from outside the legal profession. The committee oversees all our regulatory work and is chaired by a non-solicitor.





Law Society of Scotland

The Law Society of Scotland is the professional body for around 12,000 Scottish solicitors and has a statutory duty to work in the public interest. We set and uphold standards to ensure the provision of excellent legal services so that the public can have confidence in Scotland's legal profession.

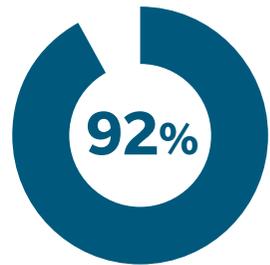
Our regulation of Scottish solicitors is extremely robust. That's why consumer confidence is so high and, issues of inadequate professional service or professional misconduct so low. Independent polling of the Scottish public, on our behalf by ComRes in late 2018, shows overwhelming levels of satisfaction and trust by clients in their solicitor.



93% of those who have used a solicitor consider their solicitor to be trustworthy



90% of those who have used a solicitor were satisfied with the service they received



92% agree that Scottish solicitors are educated and trained to a high standard

Law Society of Scotland

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