

**Subject:** RE: Our ref: POL/1283467-2020  
**From:** Harvinder Thandi <Harvinder.Thandi@sra.org.uk>  
**Date:** 22/05/2020, 16:51  
**To:** 'Jason Earl' <jaseearl@googlemail.com>

Dear Mr Earl

Thank you for your email.

Your comments have been noted.

Once I have completed the necessary enquiries I will return to you.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Ms Harvinder Thandi  
Investigation Officer  
Investigation and Supervision  
**Solicitors Regulation Authority**

Please note, as a result of the coronavirus situation, I am currently working 8.00–16.00 each day and am only available by email during this time.

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



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**From:** Jason Earl <jaseearl@googlemail.com>  
**Sent:** 22 May 2020 16:18  
**To:** Harvinder Thandi <Harvinder.Thandi@sra.org.uk>; 'Jason Earl' <jaseearl@googlemail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Our ref: POL/1283467-2020

Thanks for updating me. I was actually thinking of emailing you the other day so you managed to preempt my thoughts!

As you may recall from my email to Mr Tedstone with you CC'ed in, I did try to reach out to ORJ over this in March. When I finally go through on call, Mr Tedstone simply spoke over me, loudly stating: "I'm not your client" and hung up. I've still to get a valid response regarding this. This behavior flies in the face of ORJ's website marketing Mr Tedstone as a "peacemaker" on the ORJ home page.

It should be noted since, in an email the day after, Mr Tedstone tried to pass off that the call was not handed over because he stated "GDPR doesn't apply to litigation". I do not believe that answer, as the matter is not black and white - I understand GDPR is nuanced topic in the context of litigation. While Mr Tedstone claims this was litigation, I know for a fact no litigation was or would take place which makes me question the dubiousness of the reply. Mr Tedstone's client very much knows I hold undeniable proof relating to their fraudulent actions. Therefore any attempt to litigate would have backfired - the real objective from Mr Tedstone's client was never to litigate, but rather to use a belligerent lawyer as means to intimidate me with a poor pretext. If Mr Tedstone was acting professionally it would become very apparent his client was making misleading claims in any prior fact finding consultation. I do not believe this happened, if it did, then I would expect ORJ to possess documentation to prove this along with evidence. I'm very confident nothing material significant was gathered prior to this call. Looking at it another way if there was any truth to the claims, Mr Tedstone's client would have filed a claim in the courts or taken action with the police against me. Instead, I believe this was thinly veiled threat - if the recording of the call gets surrendered to the SRA you'll hear the unwarranted bullying nature of the call.

In regard to the above, it's not whether I'm guilty or not, as I understand it's not the SRA's remit to be involved with individual cases. My issue is a matter of conduct and process. Mr Tedstone did not take due diligence required to validate his client's claims were in any way substantial before threatening me on Sunday evening on 3rd Nov 2019. Mr Tedstone throughout has repeatedly demonstrated a complete lack of understanding for the facts throughout.

I note ORJ have recently reworked their website and despite me pointing out the requirement for the SRA badge being a requirement from 25th Nov 2019 there is no sign of this 6 months later. There is still no complaints policy listed either. I would have thought these points would have been on their agenda in any website updates as both myself and the SRA have raised this up with ORJ.

Kind regards,  
Jase.

On 21/05/2020 15:14, Harvinder Thandi wrote:

Dear Mr Earl

I write further to your previous emails. I am sorry for the delay in returning to you.

Just by of update, I am still making enquiries with the firm.

Once I have completed the necessary enquiries I will return to you.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Ms Harvinder Thandi  
Investigation Officer  
Investigation and Supervision  
**Solicitors Regulation Authority**

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**From:** Jason Earl <[jaseearl@googlemail.com](mailto:jaseearl@googlemail.com)>  
**Sent:** 19 March 2020 01:27  
**To:** Harvinder Thandi <[Harvinder.Thandi@sra.org.uk](mailto:Harvinder.Thandi@sra.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Our ref: POL/1283467-2020

Just a quick one, I also happen to notice that ORJ do not seem to have any information on their website regarding complaint policy (ironic!). I believe this was in the old handbook but notice this has been superseded by this

<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/transparency-rules/#rule-2>

Kind regards,  
Jase

On 18/03/2020 01:17, Jason Earl wrote:

Hi, sorry about the delay getting back to this. Thanks for following this up.

Correct, ORJ represent a former business partner. The relationship between this partner went sour two years ago.

I've repeatedly followed up on the GDPR request with ORJ on about 3 occasions this year, but find Mr Tedstone's PA

just claims his phone goes to voice mail. When I called his mobile yesterday morning I was greeted by Mr Tedstone angrily screaming over my voice "I am not your client". Mr Tedstone then hung up without even bothering to let me talk. If there was a genuine reason for not providing it then they could have been upfront and honest about it, but ORJ haven't which comes across as deceptive and against the ethos of GDPR.

The lack of signature, lax attitude towards privacy/security (i.e. expired TLS/SSL certificate) and inability to properly identify his firm through use of the SRA website badge/email footers is highly concerning for me because the client ORJ was representing/ex business partner has actively engaged in fraudulent behavior. This former business partner has actively forged my signature on contracts and shareholder documentation. Because of this I initially questioned the legitimacy of ORJ when they first emailed me as I presumed it might have been their client conducting further acts of fraudulent misrepresentation rather than ORJ themselves. In this context and in a age where phishing is rife it is important for 3rd parties to be able to verify the identity and origin of such correspondence.

The fact ORJ seem to be making misleading claims of being a "tier 1" Legal 500 solicitor (there is nothing on the Legal 500 to substantiate this) seems to suggest ORJ are engaging in similar misleading behavior to the client they were representing. It only muddies the waters and breakdown of trust further. Mr Tedstone's attitude simply does not reflect the level of professionalism I've experienced from the better known legal firms who I know are placed in the upper tiers of the Legal 500 and Chambers.

The lack of SRA badge, email signature, and dubious "tier 1" claims got raised in an email on 29/10/2019 at 11:44. I requested a copy of the call under GDPR SAR on 11th Nov 2019. I believe I gave you copies of this in the original report.

Obviously I'm not looking for compensation, etc, etc and understand the SRA's role is supervisory in nature. I do believe the act of the SRA questioning Mr Tedstone will make him think about his unpalatable conduct because it's not something I wish on others and reflects badly on the wider industry. While Mr Peck forgot his signature on

one email (which I'm happy to accept might have been a genuine mistake), Mr Tedstone has consistently ignored my concerns, such as the lack of SRA badge being placed on ORJ's site to date.

Kind regards,  
Jase.

On 26/02/2020 14:02, Harvinder Thandi wrote:

Dear Mr Earl

I write further to my email of 25 February 2020.

I can confirm I will be now putting your concerns to the firm.

Once I have received a response, I will be in touch.

Yours sincerely

Ms Harvinder Thandi  
Investigation Officer  
Investigation and Supervision  
**Solicitors Regulation Authority**  
0121 329 6194  
DX 720293 BIRMINGHAM 47  
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Website: [www.sra.org.uk](http://www.sra.org.uk)



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**From:** Harvinder Thandi  
**Sent:** 25 February 2020 16:37  
**To:** [jaseearl@gmail.com](mailto:jaseearl@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Our ref: POL/1283467-2020

Dear Mr Earl

I work within the Assessment and Early Resolution team at the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA).

I am in receipt of your report form dated 30 December 2019. I am sorry in the delay in contacting you.

I understand ORJ Solicitors LLP acts on behalf of your former business partner in respect of civil matter.

**Concerns raised**

You say the firm:

- has failed to implement the SRA digital badge
- failed to renew its TLS/SSL website certification on time. The certificate expired on 30/11/19 and was renewed on 6/12/19
- has misleading information on its website
- attempted to take unfair advantage of you when Patrick Tedstone of the firm contacted you on a Sunday without any warning. You requested a copy of the telephone recording but the firm failed to provide this.

You also say Jonathon Peck of the firm failed to include his email signature at the foot of his email dated 11 October 2019.

### **Our role**

The SRA is the regulator of solicitors and law firms in England and Wales, protecting consumers and supporting the rule of law and the administration of justice. The SRA does this by overseeing all education and training requirements necessary to practise as a solicitor, licensing individuals and firms to practise, setting the standards of the profession and regulating and enforcing compliance against these standards. As part of this role we consider allegations of misconduct on the part of solicitors or their firms.

When making decisions on matters one of the tools we use is our Enforcement Strategy. The Strategy aims to provide the public and profession with greater clarity on how we decide whether to act in a given case, and what factors we consider in deciding the seriousness of misconduct and the action to take. Please find below a link for further information about this:

<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/strategy-2017-2020/sub-strategies/sra-enforcement-strategy>

We cannot provide legal advice, nor can we become involved in legal disputes or court proceedings. We also cannot provide any forms of compensation as this is outside of our remit.

### **Our investigation**

We try to build a complete picture of the issues involved, which can be time consuming. We will be in touch if we need any further information and will provide you with an update on the outcome of our enquiries once complete.

It's important to note that the majority of complaints we receive do not result in formal disciplinary sanctions, such as fines or rebukes. That's because, wherever possible, we

try to work with a firm and/or individual to change behaviours and encourage practice in line with our rules and guidance.

We aim to ensure best regulatory practice by being transparent about our investigations wherever possible. Therefore, we remind you that we may disclose the information you provided to us to our agents and others involved in regulating the profession or law enforcement. If you have any concerns about that please let us know.

### **Next steps**

I am currently assessing your report. Once I have completed my assessment I will be in touch.

Yours sincerely

Ms Harvinder Thandi  
Investigation Officer  
Investigation and Supervision  
**Solicitors Regulation Authority**  
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