Blind Justice

30th of October 2026

The Rt Hon Alex Norris MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

OPEN LETTER. By email. Published at blindjustice.org.uk and shared with the press.

Re: Not Fit for Purpose: the regulation of solicitors and the approval of unlimited SRA fines

Dear Lord Chancellor

I write to send you Not Fit for Purpose, the position paper Blind Justice UK published on the 28th of October 2026. It sets out why the Solicitors Regulation Authority can no longer be relied on to protect the public, and why Parliament must rebuild the regulation of solicitors. Its eighteen recommendations are in section 11, and section 12 sets out what we are asking of each body we are writing to.

The paper rests on the regulator's own records. On the 22nd of October 2026, faced with a claim for judicial review brought by this charity, the SRA admitted in writing that it had assessed a report of solicitor misconduct too narrowly, that its enquiries were not detailed enough and that it had given insufficient reasons, and it withdrew both of its decisions. That admission concerns one case, but the method behind it is not confined to one case. In 2024/25, its latest reported year, the SRA closed 10,382 reports at assessment with no further action, 72 per cent of the 14,420 matters it dealt with, and the person who made a report has no right under the SRA's rules to ask for a review. The Legal Services Board itself concluded in September 2026 that there is not sufficient evidence the SRA's changes are working.

In the last few days the case has become more urgent. On the 27th of October Blind Justice sent the Legal Services Board formal representations on the SRA's application to approve revised fining guidance for its new power to impose unlimited fines for economic crime. We took no position on the power in principle. We asked the Board not to decide the application by exemption but to give it full scrutiny, because five days earlier the SRA had admitted that the work of the same decision makers fell short on assessment, enquiries and reasons. Our representations were delivered to the Board at 11.54 that morning. On the 28th of October it was reported that the Board had approved the application under its exemption procedure, without the full scrutiny normally applied. We have received no acknowledgement and no reasons. A regulator that has just admitted it did not look properly has been given the power to fine without limit, and the body charged with overseeing it approved that on the fast track.

Blind Justice

The regulation of solicitors rests on the Legal Services Act 2007, and only Parliament can rebuild it. We ask you to do three things:

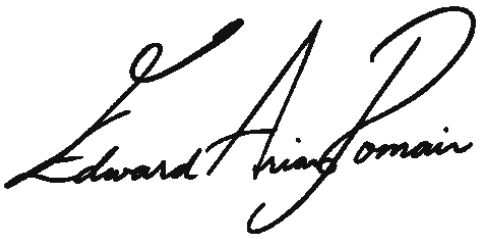
1. Commit, within three months, to legislation establishing a single regulator of legal services, independent of the profession and of government, containing recommendations 1 to 15 of the paper.

2. Ask the Legal Services Board to explain publicly why the SRA's fining guidance for unlimited fines was approved under the exemption procedure, and to publish data on how the new power is used.

3. Meet Blind Justice to discuss the evidence. We hold the correspondence behind every figure in the paper.

This is an open letter. We have written in the same terms to the Chair of the Justice Committee, the Leader of the Opposition and the Legal Services Board, and we are publishing all four letters at blindjustice.org.uk and sharing them with the press. We will publish every reply we receive.

Yours sincerely,



Edward Romain, ACILEX
Founder and CEO, Blind Justice UK

Enclosure: Not Fit for Purpose: Why Parliament must rebuild the regulation of solicitors (Blind Justice UK, 28th of October 2026)

Blind Justice

30th of October 2026

Catherine Atkinson MP
Chair, Justice Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

OPEN LETTER. By email. Published at blindjustice.org.uk and shared with the press.

Re: Not Fit for Purpose: the regulation of solicitors and the approval of unlimited SRA fines

Dear Ms Atkinson

I write to send you Not Fit for Purpose, the position paper Blind Justice UK published on the 28th of October 2026. It sets out why the Solicitors Regulation Authority can no longer be relied on to protect the public, and why Parliament must rebuild the regulation of solicitors. Its eighteen recommendations are in section 11, and section 12 sets out what we are asking of each body we are writing to.

The paper rests on the regulator's own records. On the 22nd of October 2026, faced with a claim for judicial review brought by this charity, the SRA admitted in writing that it had assessed a report of solicitor misconduct too narrowly, that its enquiries were not detailed enough and that it had given insufficient reasons, and it withdrew both of its decisions. That admission concerns one case, but the method behind it is not confined to one case. In 2024/25, its latest reported year, the SRA closed 10,382 reports at assessment with no further action, 72 per cent of the 14,420 matters it dealt with, and the person who made a report has no right under the SRA's rules to ask for a review. The Legal Services Board itself concluded in September 2026 that there is not sufficient evidence the SRA's changes are working.

In the last few days the case has become more urgent. On the 27th of October Blind Justice sent the Legal Services Board formal representations on the SRA's application to approve revised fining guidance for its new power to impose unlimited fines for economic crime. We took no position on the power in principle. We asked the Board not to decide the application by exemption but to give it full scrutiny, because five days earlier the SRA had admitted that the work of the same decision makers fell short on assessment, enquiries and reasons. Our representations were delivered to the Board at 11.54 that morning. On the 28th of October it was reported that the Board had approved the application under its exemption procedure, without the full scrutiny normally applied. We have received no acknowledgement and no reasons. A regulator that has just admitted it did not look properly has been given the power to fine without limit, and the body charged with overseeing it approved that on the fast track.

We ask the Committee to do three things:

Blind Justice

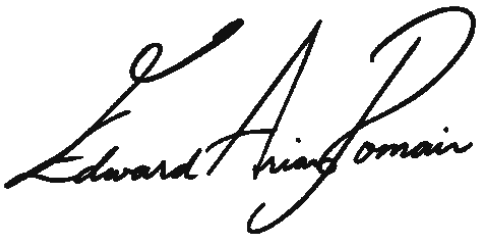
1. Take evidence on the regulation of solicitors before the end of this session, including from people whose reports to the SRA were closed without investigation.

2. Ask the SRA and the Legal Services Board, in public or in writing, why the SRA's fining guidance for unlimited fines was approved under the exemption procedure, what account the Board took of the SRA's admissions of the 22nd of October, and how our representations were considered.

3. Hear from Blind Justice. We hold the correspondence behind every figure in the paper and will provide whatever the Committee needs.

This follows our letter to you of the 21st of September 2026. This is an open letter. We have written in the same terms to the Lord Chancellor, the Leader of the Opposition and the Legal Services Board, and we are publishing all four letters at blindjustice.org.uk and sharing them with the press. We will publish every reply we receive.

Yours sincerely,



Edward Romain, ACILEX
Founder and CEO, Blind Justice UK

Enclosure: Not Fit for Purpose: Why Parliament must rebuild the regulation of solicitors (Blind Justice UK, 28th of October 2026)

Blind Justice

30th of October 2026

The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

OPEN LETTER. By email. Published at blindjustice.org.uk and shared with the press.

Re: Not Fit for Purpose: the regulation of solicitors and the approval of unlimited SRA fines

Dear Mrs Badenoch

I write to send you Not Fit for Purpose, the position paper Blind Justice UK published on the 28th of October 2026. It sets out why the Solicitors Regulation Authority can no longer be relied on to protect the public, and why Parliament must rebuild the regulation of solicitors. Its eighteen recommendations are in section 11, and section 12 sets out what we are asking of each body we are writing to.

The paper rests on the regulator's own records. On the 22nd of October 2026, faced with a claim for judicial review brought by this charity, the SRA admitted in writing that it had assessed a report of solicitor misconduct too narrowly, that its enquiries were not detailed enough and that it had given insufficient reasons, and it withdrew both of its decisions. That admission concerns one case, but the method behind it is not confined to one case. In 2024/25, its latest reported year, the SRA closed 10,382 reports at assessment with no further action, 72 per cent of the 14,420 matters it dealt with, and the person who made a report has no right under the SRA's rules to ask for a review. The Legal Services Board itself concluded in September 2026 that there is not sufficient evidence the SRA's changes are working.

In the last few days the case has become more urgent. On the 27th of October Blind Justice sent the Legal Services Board formal representations on the SRA's application to approve revised fining guidance for its new power to impose unlimited fines for economic crime. We took no position on the power in principle. We asked the Board not to decide the application by exemption but to give it full scrutiny, because five days earlier the SRA had admitted that the work of the same decision makers fell short on assessment, enquiries and reasons. Our representations were delivered to the Board at 11.54 that morning. On the 28th of October it was reported that the Board had approved the application under its exemption procedure, without the full scrutiny normally applied. We have received no acknowledgement and no reasons. A regulator that has just admitted it did not look properly has been given the power to fine without limit, and the body charged with overseeing it approved that on the fast track.

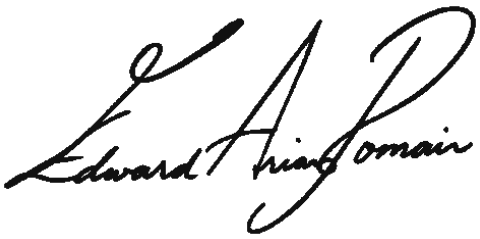
Blind Justice

This is not a party matter. The people the system fails come from every walk of life and every part of the country, and solicitors themselves pay for the regulator's failures through the Compensation Fund and their fees. We ask you to do three things:

1. Press the Government in the House on the regulation of solicitors, and on why the SRA's fining guidance for unlimited fines was approved without full scrutiny.
2. Support legislation in this session to rebuild the regulation of solicitors on the lines of the paper's recommendations.
3. Ask your justice team to meet Blind Justice. We hold the correspondence behind every figure in the paper.

This is an open letter. We have written in the same terms to the Lord Chancellor, the Chair of the Justice Committee and the Legal Services Board, and we are publishing all four letters at blindjustice.org.uk and sharing them with the press. We will publish every reply we receive.

Yours sincerely,



Edward Romain, ACILEX
Founder and CEO, Blind Justice UK

Enclosure: Not Fit for Purpose: Why Parliament must rebuild the regulation of solicitors (Blind Justice UK, 28th of October 2026)

Blind Justice

30th of October 2026

Richard Orpin
Chief Executive
Legal Services Board
3rd Floor, The Rookery, 2 Dyott Street
London WC1A 1DE

OPEN LETTER. By email. Published at blindjustice.org.uk and shared with the press.

Re: Not Fit for Purpose, the Board's silence on SRA closure decisions, and its approval of unlimited SRA fines

Dear Mr Orpin

I write to send you Not Fit for Purpose, our position paper Blind Justice UK published on the 28th of October 2026. It sets out why the Solicitors Regulation Authority can no longer be relied on to protect the public, and why Parliament must rebuild the regulation of solicitors. Its eighteen recommendations are in section 11, and section 12 sets out what we are asking of each body we are writing to.

I write with greater concern than in any of our previous letters to the Board. Since your holding reply of the 3rd of September 2026, in which you said the Board would consider our letter fully and reply in due course, Blind Justice has written to you six times about the SRA's closure decisions, each time with published research and the correspondence behind it: on the 3rd of September, on the PM Law review; on the 11th and 17th of September, setting out the record in one SRA case; on the 20th of September, in an open letter asking the Board to act on SRA closure decisions; on the 29th of September, with AI's Blind Spot and a recommendation on which we asked for a reply by the 27th of October; and on the 27th of October, with our representations on the SRA's fining guidance. We have received no substantive reply to any of them. Eight weeks on, the reply promised on the 3rd of September has not come, and the date we asked for on the 29th of September has passed.

On the 22nd of October 2026, faced with a claim for judicial review brought by this charity, the SRA admitted in writing that it had assessed a report of solicitor misconduct too narrowly, that its enquiries were not detailed enough and that it had given insufficient reasons, and it withdrew both of its decisions. A regulator conceding a judicial review on those grounds is a serious matter for its oversight body. Our representations of the 27th of October put those admissions before the Board in the SRA's own words. The Board has said nothing about them. Instead, on the 28th of October, it was reported that the Board had approved the SRA's revised fining guidance for its unlimited fining power for economic crime under the exemption procedure, without the full scrutiny normally applied. Our representations had been delivered to the Board at 11.54 the previous morning. We have received no acknowledgement and no reasons.

Blind Justice

The Board has used its formal powers against the SRA. It gave directions in 2025, and on the 5th of March 2026 it publicly censured the SRA, listing among the failures 'over-reliance on information provided by [the firm] itself, rather than independent verification'. On the 3rd of September 2026 it concluded that 'there is not sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the changes introduced by the SRA are consistently delivering improved outcomes for the public and consumers.' Seven weeks later the SRA admitted the same failing in our case: it did not look properly at what it had been told. Those sanctions have not changed how the SRA decides whether to investigate. In 2024/25 it closed 10,382 reports at assessment with no further action, 72 per cent of the 14,420 matters it dealt with, and the person who made a report still has no right to ask for a review.

We say this plainly. The Board has sanctioned the SRA to no visible effect on its conduct, it has not answered the research that documents the problem, and in the same week the SRA admitted the problem in writing it extended the SRA's powers without full scrutiny. The Board now risks appearing toothless and complacent, to the public and to Parliament.

We ask the Board for the following by the 13th of November 2026:

1. A substantive reply to our letters of the 3rd, 11th, 17th, 20th and 29th of September, including our recommendation of the 29th of September.

2. The Board's view of the SRA's admissions of the 22nd of October, and what it will do about them.

3. The date of the decision on the SRA's fining guidance and the reasons for using the exemption procedure, whether our representations were before the decision maker, and how they were considered.

4. Publication of the decision notice and the SRA's application, if they are not already published.

5. A statement of whether the Board will direct the Law Society, through the SRA, to adopt recommendations 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the paper, which need no legislation, as set out in recommendation 17.

This is an open letter. We have written in the same terms to the Lord Chancellor, the Chair of the Justice Committee and the Leader of the Opposition, and we are publishing all four letters at blindjustice.org.uk and sharing them with the press. We will publish every reply we receive.

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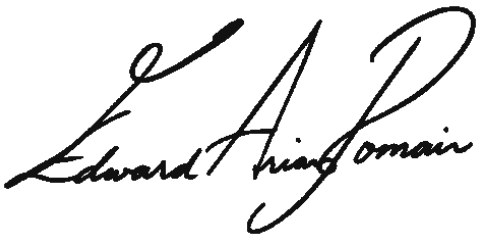
Yours sincerely,



Edward Romain, ACILEX
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