

Decisions to control how a regulated person or firm practises

If a [solicitor](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#solicitor), [registered European lawyer \(REL\)](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#rel), [registered foreign lawyer \(RFL\)](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#rfl) or [firm](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#firm) is regulated by us, they must hold a current [practising certificate](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#pc), registration or [recognition](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#recognised) from us in order to be able to provide [legal services](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#legal-services).

We can control the work of those we regulate by imposing "[conditions](#)" on their

- [practising certificate \(PC\)](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#pc)—in the case of [solicitors](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#solicitor)
- registration—in the case of RELs or RFLs; or
- [recognition](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#recognised)—in the case of [firms](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#firm) or [sole practitioners](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#sole-practitioner).

A "control"-type regulatory decision on an individual or firm's regulatory record can be to either impose conditions or take the conditions away. The titles of the decisions below match those that you would find on regulatory records that we have published.

We can also control the way that non-lawyer employees are employed; the regulatory decision for this is called "[control of non-qualified staff \(section 43\)](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/solicitor-check/employee-decision/)".

Condition

A condition may also be called a "control" on a regulatory record.

Conditions are not findings of a breach of our Standards and Regulations [\[https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/who-we-are/sra-regulate/#principles\]](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/who-we-are/sra-regulate/#principles), but are aimed at controlling the work that the person or a firm can do for a period of time. We impose conditions when we think it is in the [public interest](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#public-interest) to do so.

We can control the work of those we regulate by imposing conditions on their [PC](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#pc), registration or [recognition](https://media.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#recognised).

Examples of the conditions we may impose are that a person

- may act only in employment approved by us;
- must lodge half-yearly accountant's reports with us;
- must not carry out a certain type of work.

PC/registration free from conditions

If we have previously imposed [conditions](#) on a solicitor's practising certificate (PC) or the registration of an [REL](#) or [RFL](#), we may publish the decision to grant a PC or registration free from conditions when they apply to have the PC or registration renewed, if we no longer have any existing concerns that require us to place restrictions on the way that they work.

Recognition free from conditions

If we have previously imposed [conditions](#) on a firm's [recognition](#), we may publish the decision to grant recognition free from conditions when the firm applies to have the recognition renewed the following year, if we no longer have any existing concerns that require us to place restrictions on the way that they provide [legal services](#).

Important notes

Not all regulatory decisions are published—read more about [our approach to publication](#).

Only decisions made since early 2008 are published on this site. Most decisions remain on the site for three years.

For the most up-to-date and complete picture of an individual's regulatory record, please [contact us](#).

Read more about [how we regulate](#).