

**BEFORE THE SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL**

**Case No 12748-2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974 (as amended)**

**B E T W E E N:**

**SOLICITORS REGULATION AUTHORITY LIMITED**

Applicant

and

**MATTHEW THOMAS PARISH**

Respondent

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**APPLICANT'S REPLY TO THE RESPONDENT'S ANSWER DATED 6 APRIL 2025**

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1. The paragraph references in this Reply refer to the paragraph numbering in the Respondent's Answer dated 6 April 2025.
2. The Reply is not intended to deal with every paragraph of the Respondent's Answer, only those paragraphs that require clarification or explanation.

**Admissions**

3. The Applicant notes that factual admissions have been made by the Respondent in relation to Allegations 1.1, 1.2 and 4<sup>1</sup>, save for the fact that the Principle breaches are denied. In respect of those admissions, the Applicant does not comment further.

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<sup>1</sup> Understood to be 1.4

**Letter dated 25 April 2024 enclosing Flash disk, received by Capsticks on 4 November 2025**

4. It is noted that, since the Respondent's Answer was filed, the Respondent has served a Flash Disk on the Applicant's solicitors on 4 November 2025, containing 3.14gb of data which consists of 404 separate folders made up of 3,810 files. Each 'file' will contain several pages and so it is not possible to quantify the total number of pages until the documents have been formulated into one bundle. A screenshot of this information is attached to this Reply.
5. Dr Parish has requested that the files are uploaded to CaseLines which does not appear possible in its current form. The Applicant is still in the process of reviewing this material.
6. A letter dated 25 April 2024 addressed to the UK Security Service ('the **Letter**') was also enclosed with the FlashDisk which is attached to this Reply; the Tribunal will note that this also appears at **X1817-X1818**.
7. For the avoidance of any doubt, the Letter and (we anticipate) large parts of the contents of the Flash Disk have already been received and reviewed by the Applicant in October 2024. The Applicant will say that the contents appear to be full client files for selected commercial disputes.
8. The Letter states,

*'In December 2023 I found a fraction of those files on an old computer in the custody of my parents in Harrogate – I am sending those documents to the Solicitors Regulatory Authority. I enclose for your attention a copy of the FlashDisk containing those documents being sent to the authority'*

*However upon perusal of those documents it has become manifest to me that the FlashDisk does not represent the entirety of the hard copy files transmitted to HM Security Service in the British Embassy in Bern and it is essential, in the interests of justice, that both the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal see the entirety of the contents of the hard copy files that I transmitted to the offices of HM Security Service as described above'.*

9. Subject to completion of the further review being completed, it is the Applicant's position that the documents contained in the Flash Disk are not relevant to these proceedings.
10. The Respondent has offered no explanation of the relevance of the contents of the Flash Disk to the Applicant or the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal ('SDT') and the date for the Respondent to file a further Answer has now passed (7 November 2025).
11. Whilst it is a matter for the Respondent as to how he chooses to run his defence, evidence proffered in support must be capable of having some bearing on the allegations in issue for it to be relevant. This is especially the case when the Respondent is asking the Applicant to upload, and the Tribunal to consider, 3.14GB across 404 folders and 3,810 files.
12. Given the above, the Respondent is invited to set out in detail the relevance of this material with reference to the allegations.
13. The Applicant reserves the right to submit a further Reply on review of those documents should one be required.

#### **Respondent's Answer dated 6 April 2025**

14. The Applicant notes at paragraph 3 of the Respondent's Answer, the Respondent summarises the case against him with regards to Allegation 1.1 as follows:

*"In summary, the Applicant says that the Respondent is guilty of professional misconduct for coordinating with the British security and intelligence services in a matter of national security relating to the Russian Federation"*
15. This is misconceived. Allegation 1.1 is that the Respondent offered to retract complaints he made to the UK, US and EU security and intelligence organisations about his client's conduct, in pursuit of payment of outstanding invoices from his client. The basis of the allegation of misconduct is set out in full at paragraphs 39 to 48 of the Rule 12 Statement.
16. The Applicant, in reply to paragraphs 50 to 52 of the Respondent's Answer, respectfully asserts:

- a. The Rule 12 statement is signed by the Applicant's representative in accordance with Rule 12(2) of The Solicitors (Disciplinary Proceedings) Rules 2019<sup>2</sup> which states that the application (to the Tribunal) is supported by a Statement setting out:
  - i. the allegations;
  - ii. the facts and matters supporting the application and each allegation contained within it; and
  - iii. exhibiting any documents relied on by the applicant i.e. the SRA.
- b. The introductory paragraph states, '*I make this Statement on behalf of the Applicant –*' [the SRA].
- c. The statement of truth is in the prescribed form (The Solicitors (Disciplinary Proceedings) Rules 2019, 3(1)).

17. The Applicant therefore does not intend to "*rectify*" anything, as suggested by Respondent, and will file witness statements in support in the usual way in accordance with Rule 28 of The Solicitors (Disciplinary Proceedings) Rules 2019<sup>3</sup>.

18. Issue appears to have been taken by the Respondent in respect of the above in order to ensure that the investigator, Dr Jones, appears as a witness in the proceedings. As the Respondent is aware from the Applicant's letter dated 24 October 2025, Dr Jones has sadly passed away and the Applicant is currently considering whether it will be filing any further witness evidence in the usual way.

**Capsticks Solicitors LLP**

**13 November 2025**

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<sup>2</sup> [The Solicitors \(Disciplinary Proceedings\) Rules 2019](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Solicitors \(Disciplinary Proceedings\) Rules 2019](#)