

## INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS

What has happened to Allansons LLP?

Allansons LLP of 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Queens Buildings, Central Street, Bolton, Lancashire, BL1 2AB, 658 Ormskirk Road, Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 8AQ and 44 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 1DR ('Allansons'), has been closed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority ('SRA'). This is called an intervention. The intervention took place on 24 May 2019.

We, Gordons LLP, have been appointed to help the SRA with the closure. We are called the SRA's Intervention Agent.

What does this mean?

If you were a client, Allansons can no longer act for you. You will need to find another lawyer to act. We are not acting for you.

You can find a lawyer by searching here: <a href="http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/">http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/</a> or call The Law Society on 020 7320 5650 Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 17:00.

What's happened to my file?

The SRA has taken all clients' files in Allansons' offices for safekeeping. If Allansons have been acting for you on an ongoing matter and your file has been recovered, the SRA will write to tell you and ask where you want your file to be sent.

You or your new lawyer should let us know quickly where you want your file to be sent as there might be important time limits. In the meantime, you should hand over any paperwork you already have in your possession to your new solicitors to help them get up to speed on your case quickly.

Where can I have my file sent?

If a file has been recovered for you, you can have this sent to you or to your new lawyer.

If there are two or more of you named as clients, you will need to agree where the file should be sent. If you want your file to be sent to you, you will need to provide some copy identification. It won't cost you anything to have your documents sent.



Your file may be held as a paper file or an electronic file. If it was a paper file, the paper file will be sent to you or your new solicitor. If it was an electronic file, we will send this to you or your new solicitor electronically.

Allansons were dealing with a miscalculated mortgage payment claim for me. Do I have to instruct the firm Allansons recommended to me?

We are aware that some clients with miscalculated mortgage payment claims were contacted by Allansons before the intervention recommending that they transfer their file to a law firm called Quanta, otherwise they may be obliged to repay the sum of £4,000 to the person who was funding their claim.

We have been informed that Quanta did not agree to Allansons sending this email and the position with Quanta is the same as with any other solicitor who is asked to carry on with a case in place of Allansons. When instructing a new solicitor, you should get advice on your litigation funding arrangement. We cannot advise you on this.

Quanta have explained that they do have experience in dealing with miscalculated mortgage payment claims and you may wish to contact them to establish if they can assist you. This is not however a recommendation that you instruct them.

My miscalculated mortgage payment case with Allansons was supported by an after the event (ATE) insurance policy. Is my ATE policy affected because of the intervention?

The insurance brokers who arranged the policy have confirmed to us that the insurer, Leeward Insurance Company Limited, has cancelled your ATE policy, as Allansons have ceased to act.

We have been told that the policy can be reinstated with the insurer's consent once you instruct a new solicitor, who can then contact Box Legal Limited, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Westgate House, Harlow, Essex, CM20 1YS to discuss continuation of cover. We cannot advise you on this. You should discuss this with the solicitor you ask to carry on your claim.

I am worried about money Allansons are holding for me

If Allansons were holding money for you and you believe they have failed to account to you for your money, you may be able to make a claim to the SRA's Compensation Fund.



Can the Compensation Fund help me?

The Fund may make a payment to you if your money was taken dishonestly by the solicitors, or they failed to account to you for your money. Payment is at the discretion of the SRA. There is no automatic right to it.

How can I make a claim to the Compensation Fund?

To make a claim you will need to complete and return the Claim Form to the SRA, together with documents in support of your claim.

If you want to know more about the Compensation Fund and to get the Claim Form please go to the SRA's website at: <a href="https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/decision-making/guidance/consumer-payments-compensation-fund.page">https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/decision-making/guidance/consumer-payments-compensation-fund.page</a>

If the Compensation Fund can't help me, how else can I get my money?

We will be looking at the accounts of Allansons to work out who they were holding money for. If we think that you are owed money and you have not received money from the Compensation Fund, we may be in touch with you later to invite you to make a claim for the money held. This process can take several months.

How can I get more information?

You can:

- speak to Gordons on 0113 227 0361 (Monday to Friday 09:00 17:30).
- email your query to Gordons at <u>allansons@gordonsllp.com</u> you will receive an automatic reply containing general information and a further reply dealing with specific queries where relevant.
- find out more about interventions at the SRA's website <a href="https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention.page">https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention.page</a>

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