

Oggetto: Formal Complaint – Alleged Professional Misconduct by Stephen Rimmer LLP (Firm No. OC340622)

Mittente: "RICCARDO GRESTA" - [REDACTED]

Data: 20/10/2025, 18:06

A: report@sra.org.uk

To:

Investigations & Enforcement Team
Solicitors Regulation Authority
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN
United Kingdom
sra.org.uk

From:

Mr Riccardo Gresta
[REDACTED]

Date: 20 October 2025

Subject: Formal Complaint – Alleged Professional Misconduct by Stephen Rimmer LLP (Firm No. OC340622)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hereby submit a formal complaint regarding the conduct of the law firm Stephen Rimmer LLP (“the Firm”) in relation to its handling of my Subject Access Request (SAR), submitted under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. The facts outlined below raise serious concerns regarding regulatory compliance, professional competence, and potential cross-border misconduct.

1. Background

On 27 August 2025, I submitted a SAR to the Firm and related parties, asserting my rights as a data subject under both UK and EU GDPR frameworks. The Firm’s response, dated 30 September 2025, stated that processing was suspended pending receipt of a copy of my identification “certified by an Italian Solicitor,” citing my residence in Italy.

On 1 October 2025, I replied, clarifying that no such professional category exists under Italian law, and offered a compliant alternative under D.P.R. 445/2000. I requested that the Firm proceed without further delay.

To date, no substantive disclosure has been provided, and the Firm failed to specify the date of SAR

receipt—an essential transparency requirement. The imposed condition appears to reflect a misunderstanding of Italian legal structures and raises concerns about the Firm’s competence and regulatory compliance.

2. Grounds for Complaint

a) Failure to Comply with Data Protection Obligations

- The Firm’s use of an identity certification request has delayed the statutory one-month deadline for SAR response.
- The language used (“should” rather than “must”) and omission of the SAR receipt date undermine transparency.
- These actions may breach Principle 5 of the UK GDPR and Principle 7 of the SRA Standards (regulatory compliance).

b) Lack of Competence and Integrity

- The reference to an “Italian Solicitor” demonstrates a lack of understanding of the Italian legal system and may constitute procedural advice given without proper competence.
- This may breach SRA Principles 2 (integrity) and 5 (standard of service), and suggests the imposition of artificial procedural barriers contrary to the interests of the data subject.

c) Potential Unauthorised Legal Practice in Italy

- By instructing a resident of Italy to obtain certification from a non-existent professional category, the Firm may have engaged in unauthorised legal activity within the Italian jurisdiction.
- Under Italian law, such conduct may fall under Article 348 of the Criminal Code (abusivo esercizio della professione).
- While outside the SRA’s direct jurisdiction, this raises serious concerns about cross-border competence and ethical standards.

3. Impact and Public Interest

The Firm’s conduct has caused delay, confusion, and prejudice to my rights as a data subject. If left unaddressed, such practices may erode public trust and encourage the misuse of procedural ambiguity in cross-border contexts.

The SRA’s own guidance highlights its role in addressing serious or repeated misconduct, including misleading communications. The facts presented may fall within this scope.

4. Requested Action

I respectfully request that the SRA:

- Conduct a desk-based review of the Firm’s conduct, including:
 - Whether the Firm correctly identified itself as data controller and responded appropriately to the SAR;
 - Whether the instruction regarding an “Italian Solicitor” was professionally and legally sound;
 - Whether the delay constitutes misconduct under SRA Standards and Regulations.
- If warranted, refer the matter for formal investigation and potential disciplinary action, with publication of any findings to ensure transparency and protect future data subjects.

5. Attachments

- Copy of SAR dated 27 August 2025
- Firm’s acknowledgement email dated 30 September 2025
- My response email dated 1 October 2025
- Chronology of correspondence and legal analysis
- [Optional] Supporting notes on Italian law (D.P.R. 445/2000 and Article 348 c.p.)

6. Notice of Potential Publication

Should the requested documentation remain undisclosed within a reasonable timeframe and without substantiated legal justification—and in the event of continued institutional inaction—I reserve the right to publish a documented reconstruction of the case.

Such publication will rely exclusively on materials lawfully in my possession, including:

- The SAR submitted on 27 August 2025
- The Firm’s response dated 30 September 2025
- My reply dated 1 October 2025
- Legal analysis and correspondence chronology
- A list of documents requested but not received
- Identification of the parties who failed to provide such documentation
- Other relevant elements

The publication will be conducted in full compliance with applicable laws, including the UK GDPR, EU and Italian privacy regulations, and the rules governing defamation and protection of reputation.

A dedicated website is currently being activated for this purpose, and publication of relevant materials is imminent. This initiative does not constitute hostility or defamation, but a necessary measure to restore factual balance and safeguard fundamental rights where institutional remedies have proven ineffective. I trust the SRA will treat this matter with the seriousness it warrants. Please advise me of the next steps and any further information required.

Yours faithfully,
Mr Riccardo Gresta

— Allegati: _____

report-solicitor-form(1).pdf	172 kB
SAR stephen rimmer - ENG - ok.pdf	91,8 kB
YOUR MATTER STEPHEN RIMMER LLP.pdf	162 kB
SAR stephen rimmer - ENG.pdf	80,8 kB
Re_ YOUR MATTER STEPHEN RIMMER LLP.pdf	209 kB
B-SOLICITORS-ENG_merge.pdf	196 kB

Auto-Reply

From: "Report@sra.org.uk" <Report@sra.org.uk>
To: "RICCARDO GRESTA" - [REDACTED]
Date: Oct 20, 2025 5:12:46 PM

Thank you for reporting your concern to us

It is taking us longer to get back to you than we would like. We aim to be back in touch within the next 45 working days, or sooner if we consider the matter is urgent. We thank you for your patience during this time.

There is information below which sets out whether we will be likely to investigate your concern and if we are the right organisation to help.

If your concern relates to a previous report made to us, we will consider it alongside the information we have already received.

How we can help

To better understand if we are likely to take action, there is [information on our website](#) about the types of matters we typically investigate and those we do not. [Our case studies also have further information](#) on when we will and will not investigate different types of concern.

Concerns about poor service and data breaches

In some cases, we are not able to help or investigate matters because we are not the right organisation.

In cases where you have received poor service from a firm or a solicitor, [the Legal Ombudsman may be better placed to help](#). It can look at your complaint, investigate and recommend that the firm pays compensation, reduces your bill, apologises or takes another step to put things right.

We expect solicitors to keep their clients' information confidential. But data protection breaches, such as accidentally sending an email or letter to the wrong address, are usually best reported to the [Information](#)

[Commissioner's Office](#), rather than to us.

For information on how we handle your personal data, see our [privacy notice](#).

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Oggetto: Re: RGC-000173396 - Your complaint regarding Stephen Rimmer LLP

Mittente: RICCARDO GRESTA [REDACTED]

Data: 13/01/2026, 13:39

A: Brandon Lee <Brandon.lee@sra.org.uk>

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Dear Mr Lee,

Thank you for your email dated 12 January 2026.

After reviewing its content, I wish to clarify that the matters referenced in your message — including a “plea”, “inconsistent legal advice”, and an “interview without an interpreter” — were not included in my formal complaint submitted on 20 October 2025, nor in any of the six attachments provided. These elements, while factually connected to the broader context, were not part of the report filed with the SRA and therefore originate from sources other than my submission.

Your response does not address the issues actually raised in my complaint, which concerned:

- the Firm’s handling of my Subject Access Request (SAR)
- the request for identity certification by an “Italian Solicitor”
- the absence of the SAR receipt date
- the resulting delay in processing
- potential cross-border competence implications

Additionally, your email does not indicate whether the six attachments accompanying my complaint were reviewed.

I also note that your reply was received nearly three months after the date of submission. As previously communicated — and without any objection from the SRA — the material relating to this matter has since been published, in line with the notice provided. In parallel, the case now forms part of ongoing proceedings and assessments within the Italian jurisdiction.

At this stage, I am not in a position to provide further clarification beyond the content of my original submission.

Kind regards,

Mr Riccardo Gresta

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 12:53 PM
From: "Brandon Lee" <Brandon.lee@sra.org.uk>
To: "gresta.riccardo@email.com" <gresta.riccardo@email.com>
Subject: RGC-000173396 - Your complaint regarding Stephen Rimmer LLP

Sensitivity: General

Dear Mr Gresta,

Thank you for your report dated 20 October 2025, in connection with your concerns about the behaviour of Stephen Rimmer LLP (the firm).

I am Investigation Officer at the SRA. My role includes reviewing the reports we receive, to see which of them can be resolved at an early stage, and which of them are likely to need further investigation.

The purpose of this email is both to introduce myself to you, and to request further information from you.

Concerns you have raised

You have raised concerns about the conduct of Stephen Rimmer LLP. You have reported that the circumstances in which your plea was entered were ethically and procedurally questionable, you received inconsistent legal advice, interviewed without an interpreter, and not given full access to any documentation that Stephen Rimmer LLP held regarding your case.

Information required

To help me review your concerns further, please provide the following information:

1. You reported that you were interviewed without an interpreter, please can you provide clarity by confirming who this interview was conducted by, was this the firm?
2. Since the date of this report, can you confirm if you have received any further correspondence from the firm regarding this matter.

Next steps

Please provide the information I have asked for by 20 January 2026. If you believe you are likely to have any difficulty with my request, please let me know as soon as possible.

brandon.lee@sra.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Brandon Lee

Investigation Officer

Investigations

Solicitors Regulation Authority/Awdurdod Rheoleiddio Cyfreithwyr

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

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