



Solicitors Act 1974

1974 CHAPTER 47

PART IV

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Supplementary

[^{F1}86A Rules

- (1) Rules made by the Society under this Act may —
 - (a) make provision generally or subject to exceptions or only in relation to specified cases;
 - (b) make different provision for different cases or circumstances or for different purposes.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), any rules prescribing a fee may provide for that fee to be reduced or waived in such circumstances as may be specified in the rules.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 86A inserted (31.3.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 74** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/503, **art. 2(b)(i)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 86A applied by Administration of Justice Act 1985 (c. 61), s. 9(2J) (as inserted (31.3.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 81(5)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/503, **art. 2(b)(ii)** (subject to art. 4)

87 Interpretation.

- (1) In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires,—

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[^{F4}“bank” means the Bank of England, a person (other than a building society) who has permission under Part 4 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to accept deposits or an EEA firm of the kind mentioned in paragraph 5(b) of Schedule 3 to that Act which has permission under paragraph 15 of that Schedule (as a result of qualifying for authorisation under paragraph 12 of that Schedule) to accept deposits;

[^{F5}“building society” means a building society within the meaning of the Building Societies Act 1986 ^{F6}. . .]

“the Charter” means the Royal Charter dated 26th February 1845, whereby the Society was incorporated, together with the Royal Charters supplemental to it dated respectively 26th November 1872, 4th June 1903, 2nd June 1909 and 10th March 1954;

“client” includes—

- (a) in relation to contentious business, any person who as a principal or on behalf of another person retains or employs, or is about to retain or employ, a solicitor, and any person who is or may be liable to pay a solicitor’s costs;
- (b) in relation to non-contentious business, any person who, as a principal or on behalf of another, or as a trustee or executor, or in any other capacity, has power, express or implied, to retain or employ, and retains or employs or is about to retain or employ, a solicitor, and any person for the time being liable to pay to a solicitor for his services any costs;

“client account” means an account [^{F7}subject to rules under section 32(1)(a)];

“contentious business” means business done, whether as solicitor or advocate, in or for the purposes of proceedings begun before a court or before an arbitrator ^{F8} . . ., not being business which falls within the definition of non-contentious or common form probate business contained in [^{F9}section 128 of the ^{M1}[^{F10}Senior Courts] Act 1981];

“contentious business agreement” means an agreement made in pursuance of section 59;

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“costs” includes fees, charges, disbursements, expenses and remuneration;

“the Council” means the Council of the Society elected in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and this Act;

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“indemnity rules” means rules under section 37;

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“local law society” means a society which is for the time being recognised by the Council as representative of solicitors in some particular part of England and Wales;

“non-contentious business” means any business done as a solicitor which is not contentious business as defined by this subsection;

[^{F15}“officer”, in relation to a limited liability partnership, means a member of the limited liability partnership;]

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“practising certificate” has the meaning assigned to it by section 1;

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“the roll” means the list of solicitors of the [F10Senior Courts] kept by the Society under section 6;

“Secretary” of the Society includes any deputy or person appointed temporarily to perform the duties of that office;

“the Society” means the Law Society, that is to say, the Society incorporated and regulated by the Charter;

“sole solicitor” means a solicitor who is the sole principal in a practice;

[F16“sole solicitor endorsement” has the same meaning as in section 1B;

“solicitor” means solicitor of the [F10Senior Courts];

“solicitor in Scotland” means a person enrolled or deemed to have been enrolled as a solicitor in pursuance of the M2Solicitors (Scotland) Act 1933;

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“training regulations” means regulations under section 2;

“the Tribunal” means the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal;

“trust” includes an implied or constructive trust and a trust where the trustee has a beneficial interest in the trust property, and also includes the duties incident to the office of a personal representative, and “trustee” shall be construed accordingly;

“unqualified person” means a person who is not qualified under section 1 to act as a solicitor.

[In this Act “authorised insurer” means—

- F18(1A)
- (a) a person who has permission under Part 4 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to effect or carry out contracts of insurance of a relevant class;
 - (b) a person who carries on an insurance market activity, within the meaning of section 316(3) of that Act;
 - (c) an EEA firm of the kind mentioned in paragraph 5(d) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which has permission under paragraph 15 of that Schedule (as a result of qualifying for authorisation under paragraph 12 of that Schedule) to effect or carry out contracts of insurance of a relevant class; or
 - (d) a person who does not fall within paragraph (a), (b) or (c) and who may lawfully effect or carry out contracts of insurance of a relevant class in a member state other than the United Kingdom.

(1B) A contract of insurance is of a relevant class for the purposes of subsection (1A) if it insures against risks arising from—

- (a) accident;
- (b) credit;
- (c) legal expenses;
- (d) general liability to third parties;
- (e) sickness;
- (f) suretyship;
- (g) miscellaneous financial loss.

(1C) The definition of “bank” in subsection (1) and subsections (1A) and (1B) must be read with—

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- (a) section 22 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;
 - (b) any relevant order under that section; and
 - (c) Schedule 2 to that Act.]
- (2) In this Act—
- (a) references to the removal of a solicitor's name from the roll are references to its removal at his own request [^{F19}or in pursuance of regulations under section 28(3A);]
 - (b) references to striking a solicitor's name off the roll are references to striking it off [^{F20}as a disciplinary sanction]; and
 - (c) references to removal or striking off include references to deleting an entry made by means of a computer by whatever means are appropriate.
- (3) In this Act, except where otherwise indicated—
- (a) a reference to a numbered Part, section or Schedule is a reference to the Part or section of, or the Schedule to, this Act so numbered;
 - (b) a reference in a section to a numbered subsection is a reference to the subsection of that section so numbered;
 - (c) a reference in a section, subsection or Schedule to a numbered paragraph is a reference to the paragraph of that section, subsection or Schedule so numbered; and
 - (d) a reference in a paragraph to a numbered sub-paragraph is a reference to the sub-paragraph of that paragraph so numbered.
- (4) Except where the context otherwise requires, references in this Act to any enactment shall be construed as references to that enactment as amended or applied by or under any other enactment, including this Act.]]

Textual Amendments

- F2** S. 87(1): definitions of "articles" and "employee" repealed (7.3.2008) by [Legal Services Act 2007](#) (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, [Sch. 16 para. 75\(c\)](#), [Sch. 23](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, [art. 2\(j\)\(i\)\(n\)\(i\)](#)
- F3** S. 87(1): definition of "authorised insurer" repealed (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/3649, [arts. 1](#), 286(2)
- F4** S. 87(1): definition of "bank" substituted (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/3649, [arts. 1](#), 286(3)
- F5** Definition of "building society" inserted by [Building Societies Act 1986](#) (c. 53, SIF 16), [ss. 54\(3\)\(a\)](#) (5), 120, [Sch. 18](#), para. 11(5)
- F6** S. 87(1): words in definition of "building society" repealed (27.9.1999) by 1999 c. 22, ss. 48, 106, [Sch. 7 para. 4](#), [Sch. 15 Pt. II](#) (with [Sch. 14 paras. 7\(2\), 36\(9\)](#)); S.I. 1999/2657, [art. 2\(a\)\(d\)\(ii\)\(a\)](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. I](#)
- F7** S. 87(1): words in definition of "client account" substituted (31.3.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007](#) (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, [Sch. 16 para. 75\(a\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/503, [art. 2\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- F8** Words in s. 87(1) repealed (31.1.1997) by 1996 c. 23, s. 107(2), [Sch. 4](#) (with s. 81(2)); S.I. 1996/3146, [art. 3](#)
- F9** Words substituted by [Administration of Justice Act 1985](#) (c. 61, SIF 34), s. 8, [Sch. 1 para. 12\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- F10** Words in s. 87 substituted (1.10.2009) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005](#) (c. 4), ss. 59, 148, [Sch. 11 para. 21\(6\)](#); S.I. 2009/1604, [art. 2\(d\)](#)
- F11** S. 87(1): definition of "controlled trust" repealed (31.3.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007](#) (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, [Sch. 16 para. 75\(c\)](#), [Sch. 23](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/503, [art. 2\(b\)\(i\)\(f\)\(ii\)](#)
- F12** S. 87(1): definition of "duly certificated notary public" repealed (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007](#) (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, [Sch. 16 para. 75\(c\)](#), [Sch. 23](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, [art. 2\(f\)\(ii\)](#)

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- F13** S. 87(1): definitions of "indemnity conditions", "replacement date" and "training conditions" repealed (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 210, 211, [Sch. 16 para. 75\(c\)](#), [Sch. 23](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)\(i\)\(c\)\(i\)](#)
- F14** Definitions in s. 87(1) omitted (19.11.1992) by virtue of S.I. 1992/2890, [regs. 1\(1\)](#), 12(1).
- F15** S. 87(1): definition of "office" inserted (6.4.2001) by S.I. 2001/1090, [reg. 9](#), [Sch. 5 para. 5](#)
- F16** S. 87(1): definition of "sole solicitor endorsement" inserted (1.7.2009) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 211, [Sch. 16 para. 75\(b\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, [art. 2\(a\)](#)
- F17** Definition in s. 87(1) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993 c. 50, s. 1(1), [Sch. 1 Pt. XIV](#).
- F18** S. 87(1A)-(1C) inserted (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/3649, [arts. 1](#), 286(4)
- F19** Words inserted by [Administration of Justice Act 1985 \(c. 61, SIF 34\)](#), s. 8, [Sch. 1 para. 12\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- F20** Words substituted by [Administration of Justice Act 1985 \(c. 61, SIF 34\)](#), s. 8, [Sch. 8 para. 12\(b\)\(ii\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 87(1) amended (1.1.1993) by S.I. 1992/3218, [reg. 82\(1\)](#), [Sch. 10 Pt. 1 para. 8\(2\)](#).

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1981 c. 54.
M2 1933 c. 21.

88 Saving for solicitors to public departments and City of London.

(1) Nothing in this Act shall prejudice or affect any rights or privileges of the solicitor to the Treasury, any other public department, the Church Commissioners or the Duchy of Cornwall, or require any such officer or any clerk or officer appointed to act for him to be admitted or enrolled or to hold a practising certificate in any case where it would not have been necessary for him to be admitted or enrolled or to hold such a certificate if this Act had not been passed.

[^{F21}(1A) The exemption from the requirement to hold a practising certificate conferred by subsection (1) above shall not apply to solicitors who are Crown Prosecutors.]

(2) Sections 31 and 32(1) shall not apply to, and nothing in this Act shall prejudice or affect any rights or privileges which immediately before the commencement of this Act attached to the office of, the Solicitor of the City of London.

Textual Amendments

- F21** S. 88(1A) inserted by [Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 \(c. 23, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 4\(4\)](#)

89 Consequential amendments, repeals, savings, etc.

^{X1}(1) The enactments specified in Schedule 3 shall have effect subject to the amendments there specified, being amendments consequential upon the provisions of this Act.

^{X1}(2) The enactments specified in Schedule 4 are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

(3) In so far as any instrument or other document made, issued, served or kept or treated as having been or having effect as if made, issued, served or kept, or other thing done or treated as having been or having effect as if done, under or for the purposes of any of the enactments repealed by this Act (in this section referred to as "the repealed enactments") could have been made, issued, served, kept or done under or for the

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purposes of a corresponding provision of this Act, it shall not be invalidated by the repeal but shall have effect as if made, issued, served, kept or done under or for the purposes of that corresponding provision; and anything begun under any of the repealed enactments may be continued under any corresponding provision of this Act as if begun under that provision.

- (4) Any enactment or other document referring to any of the repealed enactments shall, so far as may be necessary for preserving its effect, be construed as referring to this Act or to the corresponding provision of this Act.
- (5) References in any enactment or instrument to the disciplinary committee constituted under section 46 of the ^{M3}Solicitors Act 1957 shall be construed as references to the Tribunal.
- (6) References in any enactment to solicitors, attorneys or proctors, or to the registrar of attorneys and solicitors or the registrar of solicitors, shall be construed as references to solicitors and to the Society respectively.
- (7) ^{F22}
- (8) Nothing in this Act shall be taken as prejudicing the operation of [^{F23}sections 16(1) and 17(2)(a) of the ^{M4}Interpretation Act 1978] (which relates to the effect of repeals).

Editorial Information

- X1** The text of ss. 86, 89(1)(2), Sch. 3 paras. 4, 6, 8, and 9, and Sch. 4, is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and, except as indicated, does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

Textual Amendments

- F22** S. 89(7) repealed (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 76, [Sch. 23](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, [art. 2\(b\)\(f\)\(ii\)\(ii\)\(II\)](#) (with art. 9)
- F23** Words substituted by virtue of [Interpretation Act 1978 \(c. 30\)](#), [s. 25\(2\)](#)

Marginal Citations

- M3** 1957 c. 27.
M4 1978 c. 30.

90 Short title, commencement and extent.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Solicitors Act 1974.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on such day as the Lord Chancellor may by order made by statutory instrument appoint, not being earlier than the first day on which all the provisions of the ^{M5}Solicitors (Amendment) Act 1974 are in force.
- (3) If any order made under section 19(7) of the ^{M6}Solicitors (Amendment) Act 1974 makes any savings from the effect of any provision of that Act which it brings into force, the order under subsection (2) may make corresponding savings from the effect of the corresponding provision of this Act.
- (4) The provisions of this Act extend to England and Wales only, with the exception of—
 - (a) section 4(4) and the repeal of section 5(3) of the ^{M7}Solicitors Act 1957, which extend to Scotland;

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- (b) section 29 and the repeal of section I of the ^{M8}Solicitors (Amendment) Act 1974, which extend to Northern Ireland;
- (c) sections 5(3) and 86, ^{F24} . . . and the repeals of section 5(2) of the Solicitors Act 1957 and paragraphs 1 and 5 of Schedule 2 to the ^{M9}Solicitors (Amendment) Act 1974, all of which extend both to Scotland and to Northern Ireland.

Textual Amendments

F24 Words repealed by [House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 \(c. 24\)](#), **Sch. 3**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 1.5.1975 appointed under s. 90(2) by [S.I. 1975/534](#)

Marginal Citations

M5 1974 c. 26.

M6 1974 c. 26.

M7 1957 c. 27 (5 & 6 Eliz. 2).

M8 1974 c. 26.

M9 1974 c. 26.

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