

Press release: Joint advice to help solicitors beat property fraud

The new advice focuses on the risks around property and registration fraud, and supplements a range of existing resources, training, practice notes and updates provided by both organisations to combat fraud and scams.

Law Society President Joe Egan said:

While successful instances of fraud against solicitors are rare, the whole profession must maintain constant vigilance against those who try to defraud them.

Graham Farrant, HM Land Registry Chief Executive and Chief Land Registrar, said:

Property is an attractive target to criminals due to its high value. As well as financial loss, a fraudulent property transaction also creates emotional distress for home owners and prospective buyers. Our priority is to ensure the integrity of the Land Register by preventing fraudulent registrations.

The advice sets out a number of emerging fraud threats, detailing the ways criminals are attempting to defraud conveyancing solicitors and providing case studies to illustrate potential warning signs of land fraud.

It also directs solicitors to a number of resources to help them carry out checks needed to prevent fraud.

Joe Egan said:

Solicitors have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their clients from fraud – while it can seem a burden, it is part of the extra value our clients know they get when dealing with a solicitor.

Graham Farrant continued:

Fraud is becoming an increasingly significant issue and is now the most commonly experienced crime in the UK, with 3.5 million cases reported in the Office for National Statistics crime survey last year. We need to continue to work closely with conveyancing solicitors to ensure the necessary checks and safeguards are in place to beat the fraudsters. This joint practice note will assist

all parties involved in the house buying process to effectively tackle fraud.

The advice can be found on [the Law Society website](#).

Solicitors can also find resources on [combating fraud and scams](#).

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[News story: UK government congratulates Angolan President-Elect](#)

The Minister for Africa Rory Stewart said:

The UK warmly congratulates President-elect João Lourenço and commends the Angolan people on the peaceful environment in which the elections were held.

The UK looks forward to working with the new Angolan government to strengthen further our relationship in what will be a new era of opportunities for both countries.

[News story: RFA Mounts Bay delivers vital aid to Caribbean islands](#)

The ship has been deployed in the Caribbean since July in preparation for the hurricane season, ready to provide support at a moment's notice. Tasked by the Royal Navy, she was the UK's first military response to the Caribbean.

The ship carries a specialist disaster relief team – drawn from the Royal Engineers and Royal Logistics Corps – as well as heavy plant for lifting and shifting and emergency kit and shelters provided by the Department for International Development. Also on board are the Royal Navy's Mobile Aviation

Support Force – aviation specialists, meteorological advisors and flight deck crews.

Engineers were on hand to stop a potentially-dangerous fuel leak at Anguilla's main petrol dump, restore power to the island's sole hospital and hand out shelters providing temporary homes for people left homeless by the storm. They also cleared the runway which was declared safe for relief flights.

RFA Mounts Bay's Wildcat helicopter – from 815 Naval Air Squadron based at Yeovilton – also flew Governor Tim Foy on a flight over the island – which is about the size of Plymouth – to survey the damage from the air during seven hours of continuous flying. The reconnaissance flight found widespread damage to infrastructure, schools, government buildings and power supplies.

As a result of the sortie, the island's leaders and ship's team decided to focus efforts on supporting the police headquarters as the hub of the relief effort, get the hospital on its feet again, and reinforce two shelter stations – particularly important with Hurricane José now barrelling towards the region.

Mounts Bay's Commanding Officer Capt Stephen Norris RFA said:

My people worked tirelessly throughout the day with determination and flexibility to support the Governor and the people of Anguilla.

Although Anguilla suffered extensive damage, normal signs of life were returning – some roads open and the local population beginning a recovery and clear-up operation.

RFA Mounts Bay is now making for the British Virgin Islands – 90 miles to the west – to concentrate today's disaster relief efforts.

As part of a wider military effort, Britain's flagship HMS Ocean has been diverted from her NATO mission in the Mediterranean to the Caribbean to help with the reconstruction effort – as HMS Illustrious did in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines four years ago.

Meanwhile, three flights will shortly be departing RAF Brize Norton carrying Royal Marines, Engineers, medical supplies and aid including emergency shelter kits, rations and clean water. Tomorrow a further C17 will leave from Brize Norton carrying two Puma helicopters.

[**News story: New £13 million funding to**](#)

help hospital A&Es prepare for winter

A further 19 hospitals across England have been given a cash injection of over £13 million for emergency care, in the latest wave of winter funding announced today by Health Minister Philip Dunne.

Around £13 million has been awarded to improve patient flow through A&E, ensuring departments are prepared for busy times during winter. The additional funding brings the total given to hospitals since April to over £90 million, part of the dedicated funding announced in the Spring Budget.

Minister of State for Health Philip Dunne said:

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of staff, the NHS has put in place strong plans ahead of winter – ensuring patients continue to receive safe and efficient care as demand rises over the coming months.

This funding will give more hospitals the boost they need to streamline patient flow in A&E, freeing up A&Es to care for the sickest patients and helping make sure all patients get the right treatment in the right place as quickly as possible.

The funding will be used to help hospitals finalise preparations ahead of winter, particularly to handle the large volumes of patients attending A&E. By investing in the necessary equipment or infrastructure, hospitals will be able to target improvements to patient flow and relieve pressure on A&E.

The funding supports NHS England's wider plans to improve A&E performance in England by 2018. In particular, it will help hospitals hit the target of admitting, transferring or discharging 95% of patients within 4 hours.

List of agreed proposals

Trust	Amount
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	£981,000
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	£150,000
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	£875,000
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust – Fairfield General Hospital	£223,000
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust	£900,000
St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£979,500
University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust	£530,000
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (North Manchester General Hospital)	£375,000
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	£925,000
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	£190,900
Isle of Wight NHS Trust	£714,401

Trust	Amount
Royal Hampshire County Hospital – Winchester (Member of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£54,000
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	£1,000,000
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	£999,000
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	£961,500
Chelsea and Westminster Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts (West Middlesex University Hospital)	£882,000
Whittington Health NHS Trust	£1,000,000
London North West Healthcare NHS Trust	£642,000
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust (submitted jointly on behalf of all London Type 1 A&Es)	£998,280

[Press release: Environment Agency's work helps canoeists navigate River Stour](#)

The River Stour, which runs along much of the Suffolk/Essex border, will be utilised this weekend by up to 300 canoes and kayaks as dedicated paddlers navigate some 22 miles, through up to 18 portages from Sudbury, through Constable Country all the way to the coast at Cattawade.

The annual Sudbury to the Sea event, organised by the River Stour Trust, takes place this weekend (September 9 and 10) and thanks to the efforts of the Environment Agency those taking part will be enjoying a much clearer journey.

Dozens of fallen trees and other blockages have been cleared from the waterway, while several landing points have been repaired or refurbished in time for the event.

Environment Agency officers will be on hand alongside event marshals and River Stour Trust volunteers throughout the weekend to offer advice and answer questions from the public at key sites on the route as well as assisting participants as they negotiate some of the portages.

Among the locations that have undergone work is the portage at Lamarsh Regulator weir, which has been refurbished by the Environment Agency Waterways Operations team.

Paul Separovic, Waterways Operations team leader for the River Stour Navigation, said:

The Environment Agency has worked really hard and is responsible

for maintaining the River Stour Navigation. We work closely with our partners on the river via the River Stour Users Group and the River Stour Trust to enable as many people as possible to fully enjoy what this beautiful river has to offer.

The River Stour is navigable from Brundon Mill just upstream of Sudbury all the way through to the tidal waters of the Stour Estuary at Cattawade and Manningtree for unpowered craft and a short section of a few miles is also open to powered craft.

Sudbury to the Sea is an annual event that attracts a surge of visitors to the river and is the River Stour Trust's prime event on their calendar. It provides an ideal opportunity to showcase to a wider audience all that the River Stour has to offer. Over recent years we have invested on improving navigation infrastructure on the river and on maintaining and keeping the navigation clear.

Catherine Burrows at the River Stour Trust said:

We work in partnership with the Environment Agency and we would like to thank them for efforts made to maintain and keep the River Stour Navigation in working order.

We believe the upcoming Sudbury to the Sea event will be a great success and it gives people a chance to see what the River Stour Trust is doing to promote the river as a navigation and what our aspirations are for the future. Should anyone further wish to participate in this year's event or future events or find out more about the River Stour Trust, please contact us.