



**PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS**
THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Contact Person: Natalie O'Halloran
Contact No: (02) 9926 0210
Our Ref: NOH 43238
Your Ref:

11 April 2017

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr S Waters
20 Newman Street
NEWTOWN NSW 2042

Dear Mr Waters

Complaint by you against Fiona Seaton

On 6 March 2017 you wrote to the Legal Services Commissioner complaining about this solicitor. The Commissioner has referred your complaint to the Law Society for action in accordance with Chapter 5 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW)*.

I am the person dealing with your complaint, which will be dealt with fairly and impartially.

I enclose a brochure which outlines the complaints process titled "Complaints Process Information".

A preliminary assessment has been conducted and currently, your complaint has been identified as a disciplinary matter. A disciplinary matter relates to conduct of a solicitor or law practice that would, if the conduct concerned was established, amount to unsatisfactory professional conduct or professional misconduct.

The following conduct issues appear to arise from your complaint:

Unethical conduct in that by letter dated 17 February 2017 the solicitor made false and unsubstantiated allegations of criminal conduct against the complainant.

Please let me know within fourteen (14) days of the date of this letter if you consider that I have not correctly identified the conduct issues arising from your complaint.

Notifying the solicitor

I **propose to forward** to the solicitor a copy of your complaint and any material you enclosed with it. I will ask the solicitor to address the conduct issues.

Please also let me know within fourteen (14) days of the date of this letter if you object to me sending this material to the solicitor. If you do object, please set out the basis of your objection.

Further steps

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT
THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
170 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000, DX 362 Sydney
GENERAL ENQUIRIES +61 2 9926 0390 F +61 2 9221 5804
ACN 000 000 699 ABN 98 696 304 966 www.lawsociety.com.au

If you proceed with the complaint, you may have to give evidence and/or help obtain it from others. If it becomes necessary, you may also have to attend the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal to give evidence in person. The Society will let you know if your attendance is required. Please let me know if attendance in person would be difficult for you.

Communicating with the Society

So that my office can keep track of the complaint, please use reference **NOH 43238** each time you write to me.

I will keep you informed.

Yours faithfully


NATALIE O'HALLORAN
Solicitor
Professional Standards

Encl

The Law Society of New South Wales ("the Law Society") deals with the collection, security, quality, use and disclosure of personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

Information provided by you will be used by the Law Society in order to fulfil all of its functions under the Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW) and associated Regulations. The Law Society can only release the collected information in accordance with that legislation. For further information relating to the collection, security, quality, use and disclosure of personal information please refer to the Law Society's website at www.lawsociety.com.au.