

Public-Record Report

Keystone Law, SRA, SDT and SDTAL

Prepared from publicly available sources only

Date: 20 April 2026

Important framing note. A High Court judgment by Lord Coulson criticised conduct associated with Keystone Law, yet the later public statement from Keystone said the SRA would close its file and take no further disciplinary action. The report identifies what the public record does show, what it does not show, and where the remaining transparency gaps are.

Executive Summary

- In *Bernard Sport Surfaces Ltd v Astrosoccer4u Ltd* [2017] EWHC 2425 (TCC), Mr Justice Coulson criticised conduct linked to Keystone Law and said, at paragraph 29, that what was unusual was 'the connivance of Keystone Law'. [S1]
- Keystone later announced on 1 May 2018 that the SRA had confirmed it would take steps to close its file, undertake no further investigation, and take no disciplinary action. The public announcement did not identify the SRA decision-maker. [S2]
- The SDT states that it is assisted in its administration by Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Administration Limited (SDTAL). The SDT also states that tribunal members are appointed by the Master of the Rolls, are not appointed or employed by the SDT or SDTAL, and that vacancies are filled by open competition. [S3][S4]
- The SDT current public pages list Teresa Cullen as both a solicitor member of the tribunal and a director on the SDTAL board. The SDT solicitor-members page says she was appointed in July 1999. Keystone announced in December 2025 that Teresa Cullen had joined the firm as a partner. [S5][S6][S7]
- Keystone's own public materials say Jonathan Greensmith joined Keystone in November 2015 and had a former role as a prosecutor for the SRA. Public SDT judgments then show him appearing in a number of SDT matters, including while at Keystone. [S8][S9]
- The public record therefore supports legitimate questions about transparency, governance, and explanation.

Key Chronology

Date	Event
8 Sep 2017	High Court judgment in <i>Bernard Sport Surfaces Ltd v Astrosoccer4u Ltd</i> . Coulson J criticises the insolvency-threat sequence and says what is unusual is 'the connivance of Keystone Law'. [S1]
20 Nov 2015	Keystone announces Jonathan Greensmith as a new joiner and says he has a former role as a prosecutor for the SRA. [S8]
1 May 2018	Keystone announces that the SRA will close its file, undertake no further investigation, and take no disciplinary action. [S2]
July 1999	SDT solicitor-members page states Teresa Cullen was appointed as a solicitor member of the tribunal in July 1999. [S5]
3 Sep 2024	SDT hearing notice shows Chair Ms T Cullen in public hearings. [S10]
23 Dec 2025	Keystone announces Teresa Cullen as one of nine partners joining the firm. [S7]

Core Findings

1. What the public record clearly shows

- The High Court judgment is public and contains strong judicial criticism of the conduct sequence, including threats connected with insolvency steps and the phrase 'connivance of Keystone Law'. [S1]
- The later public statement about closure came from Keystone, not from a published SRA decision notice naming the decision-maker or setting out reasons in detail. [S2]
- The SRA published framework says it prosecutes most SDT cases and uses adjudicators and authorised decision-makers within its own decision-making structure. [S11][S12]
- The SDT distinguishes between tribunal membership and SDTAL administration or governance. The current public pages identify Teresa Cullen as both tribunal member and SDTAL director. [S3][S5]

2. What the public record does not currently show

- No public source located for this report names the specific SRA caseworker, adjudicator, or manager who decided to close the Keystone matter.
- No public source located for this report sets out a full written reasoning document explaining why the matter was closed despite the earlier judicial criticism.

- No public source located for this report proves that any public commenter shown in the Law Society Gazette thread, other than Jeffrey Shaw, was definitely a practising lawyer.

Teresa Cullen: tenure and publicly identified roles

- The SDT solicitor-members page says Teresa Cullen was appointed as a solicitor member in July 1999. [S5]
- The SDT executive page lists Teresa Cullen as a director on the SDTAL board. [S3]
- The SDT current members page explains that tribunal members are appointed by the Master of the Rolls for 5-year terms, are not appointed or employed by the SDT or SDTAL, and vacancies are filled by open competition. [S4]
- Keystone announced on 23 December 2025 that Teresa Cullen joined the firm as a partner. Chambers also says she joined Keystone from Fladgate in 2025. [S7][S13]

Publicly surfaced SDT matters involving Teresa Cullen

Matter	Case no.	Public role detail
Arumugam	8426/2001	Public judgment shows Miss T Cullen (in the chair).
Coleclough	11584/2016	Public judgment shows T. Cullen Chairman.
Lee / Syms	12500/2023	Public judgment shows T Cullen Chair.
Hallam	12501/2023	Public judgment shows Ms A Kellett (Chair), Ms T Cullen, Ms J Rowe.
Walker	12582/2024	Public materials show Ms T Cullen in the chair.
Butt	12642/2024	Public judgment shows Ms T Cullen (Chair).
Shepherd	12686/2024	Public judgment shows T. Cullen Chair.
Shahid Ali order matter	12685/2024	Public order materials show T Cullen as chair.
Hanison	12764/2025	Public judgment materials show Ms T Cullen in the chair.

These entries are compiled from public SDT pages and judgments; they demonstrate long-standing tribunal-side work. [S5][S10][S14]

Jonathan Greensmith: tenure and publicly identified roles

- Keystone announced Jonathan Greensmith's arrival on 20 November 2015 and said he had a former role as a prosecutor for the SRA. [S8]
- Companies House records show he resigned from Kennedys Law LLP on 31 October 2015, which aligns with the November 2015 Keystone move. [S15]
- Public SDT judgments show Greensmith appearing both in earlier applicant or SRA-side matters and later respondent-side matters, including while at Keystone. [S9][S16]

Publicly surfaced SDT matters involving Jonathan Greensmith

Matter	Case no.	Public role detail
Pankhania	10387/2009	Respondent represented by Jonathan Greensmith.
Sellers	10366/2009	Respondent represented by Jonathan Greensmith.
McPhail	10624/2010	Jonathan Greensmith for the Applicant.
Field	10700/2011	Judgment records Mr Greensmith making applicant submissions.
Brandon	10717/2011	Jonathan Greensmith for the Applicant.
Webb	10873/2011	Edward Levey instructed by Jonathan Greensmith for the Applicant.
Baron	10351/2009	Judgment refers to submissions by Mr Greensmith.
Sacrani / SFS Legal Ltd	10345/2009	Counsel for the applicant instructed by Jonathan Greensmith.
Gibbins / Dean / Klimkowski	11386/2015	Jonathan Greensmith of Keystone Law for the First and Second Respondents.
Landa	11466/2016	Counsel instructed by Jonathan Greensmith of Keystone Law.
Bromet	12048/2020	Jonathan Greensmith of Keystone Law for the Respondent.
Ali	12145/2020	Jonathan Greensmith of Keystone Law for the Respondent.

The public record supports the proposition that Greensmith had SRA-side prosecution experience before Keystone. [S8][S9]

Keystone lawyers whose public profiles mention SRA-facing work

Lawyer	Public wording / role	Date position
Jonathan Greensmith	Former role as a prosecutor for the SRA; current work includes SRA investigations and SDT appearances.	Keystone gives no public date range for the earlier SRA role.
Hannah Pilkington	Profile says she acted for the SRA in prosecuting a significant misconduct case.	No date range given.
Sheetul Sowdagur	Profile says she advised the SRA on interventions and investigatory work for SDT proceedings.	No date range given.
Sue Mawdsley	Profile shows client-side advice on SRA requirements and SRA regulatory enquiry work.	This is SRA-facing defence or compliance work.
Frank Maher	Profile shows client-side work achieving successful conclusion to an SRA investigation.	Defence-side.

Public support for this section comes from Keystone's own lawyer and news pages; most pages do not provide date ranges. [S8][S17][S18][S19][S20]

Law Society Gazette comment-thread names in the supplied screenshots

This section is intentionally cautious. It deals only with whether the screenshot names can be tied, on public sources, to identifiable practising lawyers.

Name shown	Attribution confidence	Finding
Jeffrey Shaw, at Nether Edge Law	Verified lawyer	Matches Jeffrey Stephen Shaw, practising solicitor and sole practitioner at Nether Edge Law.
William Jackson	Unverified	There are solicitors with that name, but the screenshot alone does not prove which one, if any, is the commenter.
James Bowers	Unverified	There are solicitors with similar names, but the screenshot alone does not prove identity.
Marshall Hall	Unverified	Could be a handle or reference to the historic barrister; not safely identifiable from the screenshot.
Anonymous	Not identifiable	No attribution possible.

Jeffrey Shaw is the only commenter from the screenshots that could be linked with confidence to a practising solicitor from the public record located for this report. [S21]

Governance and transparency questions arising from the public record

- Why is there no publicly located detailed SRA decision document identifying the decision-maker and reasoning in the Keystone closure matter?
- What internal criteria were applied when deciding that no further investigation and no disciplinary action were warranted after the High Court criticism?
- What precise governance route led to Teresa Cullen's current SDTAL directorship?
- What safeguards are in place to distinguish tribunal membership, SDTAL governance, and any outside-firm affiliations when a tribunal member later joins a regulated law firm?

Recommended next evidence requests for our investigations teams.

- Request from the SRA the closure letter, file reference, name or job title of the authorised decision-maker, and any formal reasons statement.
- Request from SDTAL or Companies House the filing that appointed Teresa Cullen as director and any supporting governance documentation.
- Obtain archived SDT and SRA pages if a historical roster of adjudicators or board changes is needed.
- Preserve the public screenshots and relevant pages as dated exhibits, together with full-page captures and source URLs.

Source Key

[S1] Bernard Sport Surfaces Ltd v Astrosoccer4u Ltd [2017] EWHC 2425 (TCC) (BAILII / case text).

[S2] Keystone / Investigate update re SRA review, 1 May 2018.

[S3] SDT Executive Team page explaining SDTAL and listing current directors.

[S4] SDT Members page explaining member appointment and independence from SDT / SDTAL employment.

[S5] SDT Solicitor Members page: Teresa Cullen appointed July 1999.

[S6] Companies House: SDTAL overview / officers / filing history.

[S7] Keystone announcement, 23 Dec 2025: Teresa Cullen among nine new partners.

[S8] Keystone announcement, 20 Nov 2015: Jonathan Greensmith joined Keystone; former SRA prosecutor.

[S9] Example public SDT judgment naming Jonathan Greensmith of Keystone Law: Ali 12145/2020.

[S10] Public SDT hearing notice showing Chair Ms T Cullen on 3 Sep 2024.

[S11] SRA prosecution before SDT guidance.

[S12] SRA adjudication / decision-making pages.

[S13] Chambers profile: Teresa Cullen joined Keystone from Fladgate in 2025.

[S14] Public SDT judgments and orders identified in this report for Teresa Cullen.

[S15] Companies House personal appointments for Jonathan Greensmith showing Kennedys resignation on 31 Oct 2015.

[S16] Public SDT judgments identified in this report for Jonathan Greensmith.

[S17] Keystone profile: Hannah Pilkington.

[S18] Keystone profile: Sheetul Sowdagur.

[S19] Keystone profile: Sue Mawdsley.

[S20] Keystone profile: Frank Maher.

[S21] Law Society Find a Solicitor entry for Jeffrey Stephen Shaw / Nether Edge Law.

Source URLs

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/TCC/2017/2425.html>

<https://www.investigate.co.uk/announcement/rns/keystone-law-group--keys/update-re-sra-review/5194879>

<https://solicitortribunal.org.uk/about-us/executive-team/>

<https://solicitortribunal.org.uk/about-us/members/>

<https://solicitortribunal.org.uk/person-category/solicitor-members/>

<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/06654464>

<https://keystonelaw.com/news/keystone-law-closes-2025-with-the-appointment-nine-new-partners/>

<https://keystonelaw.com/news/keystone-hires-former-regulatory-partner-from-kennedys/>

https://solicitortribunal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/12145.2020.Ali_.pdf

<https://solicitortribunal.org.uk/hearing/tuesday-3-september-2024-to-tuesday-3-september-2024/>

<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/solicitors/enforcement/solicitors-disciplinary-tribunal/>

<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/decision-making/adjudicators-panel/>

<https://chambers.com/lawyer/teresa-cullen-uk-1:1461776>

<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/Cbh1A4gVMmDsICiUmpfldOO17-I/appointments>

<https://keystonelaw.com/lawyers/hannah-pilkington/>

<https://keystonelaw.com/lawyers/sheetul-sowdagur/>

<https://keystonelaw.com/lawyers/sue-mawdsley/>

<https://keystonelaw.com/lawyers/frank-maher/>

<https://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/person/106261/jeffrey-stephen-shaw>