

A day in the life of a Senior Legal Policy Manager

The post of Senior Legal Policy Manager is a new one within the SRA, and I am the first person to take on this new role. I've only been in post for 3 months but already I am really enjoying the ability to make a positive contribution to the work of the SRA.

Working across the different policy teams at the SRA helps me to build up an understanding of the breadth of work that we deal with, and to be able to link different pieces of work and concerns together. Already in my first three months I've been considering and helping to develop policy and guidance around financial penalties, the use of AI and technology in law firms, claims related to statutory public inquiries and consumer issues, whistleblowing and many more areas.

A typical day for me would involve catching up on emails and queries that have come in to the different teams and providing advice or reviewing the wording of responses, attending project meetings and contributing to discussions and outputs as a full project team member, reviewing draft documents and providing drafting advice, and generally staying up to date on developing issues facing the legal profession.

With a hybrid working pattern, and having attended and worked from all three of the offices already, this adds variation to my week and has enabled me to meet lots of people in roles right across the organisation.

My background is varied; in fact I recently realised that I've worked in a wide range of different structures that the SRA regulates; including a large commercial firm, small high street practice, ABS, local government and in-house roles, from admin/paralegal through to qualified solicitor. Added to that, 10 years working in a national policy role was excellent preparation for this interesting and varied job, that brings legal knowledge into informative, practical outputs.

My background wasn't in regulatory work, but those transferable skills have enabled me to hit the ground running in understanding the role and purpose of the SRA.

Solid legal knowledge and an interest in the meaning and implication of every word used is probably the best foundation for a role like this. If you're the sort of person that instinctively asks yourself "is this the right way to express an idea?" and then acts on that, then this is a role where that is welcomed and encouraged

There is a high level of intellectual rigour and challenge in the questions brought to me to consider, and it is rewarding to be able to work through complex issues and try to find a way forward in terms of policy and guidance that is worded in a way that is clear and accessible to all.