

Press Release

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BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY LAUNCHES PILOT EMAIL SECURITY INITIATIVE

Birmingham Law Society is spearheading a pilot project which will put email security at the heart of member firms' dealings with clients.

The Society has joined forces with email encryption specialists, Securecoms Limited, to trial a service which safeguards email dealings between client and law firm, helping to ensure the confidentiality which is key to the client and adviser relationship.

The Law Society nationally has guidelines for lawyers about email security and recommends encryption as a means of keeping sensitive correspondence from prying eyes.

"While firms often go to great lengths to look at internet security they invariably overlook their email correspondence with clients," said Neil Lovell of Securecoms. "Email traffic has increased exponentially in recent years and is now the standard route for communicating with clients yet most of the time the lack of security means lawyers might as well be sending an open postcard to their clients.

"A myth has built up that encryption is difficult and costly but, as Birmingham Law Society has seen, it is something that can be simple, easily achievable and cost-effective."

Birmingham Law Society has made it a priority to identify an email security solution for members. In joining forces with Securecoms it is able to offer members a free trial period using the company's encryption product. If the trial proves successful, Birmingham Law Society and Securecoms will look at offering the service to the Society's 300 members at a discounted rate.

Paul Farrow, Chief Executive of Birmingham Law Society, said: "Email is fundamental to our duty of client confidentiality and we wish to encourage best practice in this area. We have gone to great lengths to identify a solution for member firms and believe that in Securecoms we have found a partner that can deliver email security simply and at an affordable price."

As professional services are ever more closely regulated, Securecoms believes that safeguarding email security will become a requirement for firms with those failing to act laying themselves open to professional negligence claims.



Securecoms Ltd
Elstree House, Elstree Way
Borehamwood WD6 1SD

T +44 20 8238 7878
F +44 20 8238 7888
www.securecoms.com

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Clare Turnbull, Senior Consultant at Kysen PR, on: 07884 110173 or

Neil Lovell, Marketing Director at Securecoms, on: 020 8238 7882 or

Paul Farrow, Chief Executive, Birmingham Law Society on: 0121 643 9116.

Notes to Editors:

Securecoms Limited offers email encryption via its Secure-Mail service. An encryption hub is connected between a firm's in-house email server and its internet connection and automatically encrypts emails between the firm and other Secure-mail users. If someone who does not subscribe to the service is being emailed, they can download a software version of Secure-mail, enabling the encryption process to be effective. The service does not have to be loaded or configured making it simple for anyone to install.

Encryption is about transforming information into an unreadable code which can only be read by another party with the right "key".