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For Immediate Release



Growing Wakefield law firm to end financial year on a high

Wakefield Law firm Switalskis Solicitors will end the current financial year on a high after setting plans in motion to achieve 33 per cent growth in twelve months.

Switalskis, which has twice been named Yorkshire Law Firm of the Year, secured £1m funding from Royal Bank of Scotland last October.

Since then, the firm has recruited almost 30 staff, including a medical negligence team of six from Barnsley-based firm, Raleys. The new department will be based in Wakefield and will provide services across the firm's base of six West Yorkshire offices.

Jim Gladman, the Head of the new medical negligence department, said: "the move to Switalskis has been a positive one for us. We are delighted to be part of a forward-thinking, award winning team, and look forward to making a real contribution to the firm's growth".

Switalskis Managing Partner, John Durkan, said: "Jim Gladman and his team have an excellent reputation in the field of Medical Negligence work. The new department is already proving an asset to the firm. The addition of this and other new services means that now, more than ever, Switalskis clients can find all the help and advice they need under one roof – something that is central to our plans for growth throughout the coming year."

Since January, Switalskis has also added residential conveyancing and employment law to its range of services, and now has specialists in 15 different areas of law across West Yorkshire.

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Notes to Editors

1. For more information, contact:

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2. Photographs:

Photographs of the new Switalskis Medical Negligence team are available from George Lockley (contact details above)

3. Funding secured by Switalskis:

The funding package referred to above was provided by RBS as part of the EFG Scheme, the Government backed scheme designed to provide businesses with the necessary working capital or investment finance. Under the scheme, the Government will guarantee 75% of any loans made.

4. About Switalskis Solicitors LLP:

Switalskis Solicitors commenced practice in 1993 in Wakefield. The practice has grown from one branch in Wakefield with around 20 staff to six branches across West Yorkshire (Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Dewsbury) and around 200 staff. Switalskis has grown rapidly since late 2007, opening four branch offices and more than doubling in size since that time.

Switalskis currently has fifteen legal specialisms:

- Child Care Law
- Community Care Law
- Clinical/Medical Negligence
- Criminal Law (including a specialist Motoring Law team)
- Conveyancing
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Housing Law
- Immigration & Asylum Law
- Licencing Law
- Mental Capacity Law/Court of Protection work
- Mental Health Law
- Prison Law
- Public Law
- Welfare Benefits Law

The firm also has a thriving family mediation practice.

Switalskis is now the UK's second largest provider of civil legal aid, according to Ministry of Justice figures published in 2009. The firm is one of four family law advice providers nationally working as part of the government's Community Legal Advice telephone service. In partnership with East Yorkshire Citizens Advice Bureau, Switalskis also provides specialist legal advice to the East Riding Community Legal Advice Network, which opened in March 2010.

The firm has six Partners, including Managing Partner, John Durkan, a Chartered Accountant who was one of the first non-solicitors to become a law firm Partner in 2009, under the provisions of the Legal Services Act 2007. Senior Partner, Lorrette Law, is a member of the Board of the Solicitors Regulation Authority – the regulatory body for the Solicitors profession.