

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS

DISCIPLINARY PANEL HEARING BY WAY OF WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

Date Thursday 16 October 2014

Case of Mr Graeme Palmer MRICS [0101241]
County Down, Northern Ireland

Chairman Paul Housego
Member Andrew Winscom

CHARGES HEARD

The Panel considered the following:

Graeme Palmer may be liable to disciplinary action under Bye-Law 5.2.2(d) by reason of having been convicted of a criminal offence, namely that on 14 October 2013 he was convicted by Belfast Crown Court for 14 offences – of which six offences were contrary to Article 71(3) of the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008, seven offences were contrary to Article 3(1)(a) of the Protection of Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and one offence was contrary to Article 15(1) of the Criminal Justice (Evidence, etc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988.

DETERMINATION

Findings of Fact

1. The Panel has seen the certificate of conviction, and so finds the matter proved. Mr Palmer was convicted of serious criminal offences, as detailed above. On 14 October 2013, Mr Palmer was sentenced to a total of nine months imprisonment, and made the subject of a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for a period of seven years. He was required to be subject to the notification requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and for a period of 10 years be on the Sexual Offenders register. The Panel has noted that these offences are not work related. The facts leading to the conviction are not set out in his determination because to do so would be unfair to the victims.

Panel's Decision

2. Mr Palmer is liable to disciplinary action by reason of the convictions because of their seriousness.

Penalties

3. Mr Palmer indicated in reply to the allegation that he had no written submission to make, but that he was unemployed and had no means to pay anything. He also stated that the effect of these offences on his life has been considerable, extending beyond imprisonment to loss of career and family.

4. The Panel has played close attention to the indicative sanctions guidance. It has considered the sentencing remarks of the Judge in this case. It is also considered Mr Palmer's observations. The matter under consideration by the Panel is the reputation of the profession as a whole, and whether, as a result of these offences, Mr Palmer is fit to remain a member of it.

5. The Panel moved swiftly through the lesser sanctions and concluded that only expulsion was appropriate as a penalty for these offences. There is no place in the profession for a person guilty of such offences.

6. Accordingly Graeme Palmer is expelled from RICS.

Determination on Publication and Costs

Publication

7. The Panel directs publication in accordance with Supplement 3 to the Sanctions policy.

Costs

8. The Panel orders that Graeme Palmer pay costs in the amount of £600.

Appeal Period

9. Graeme Palmer has 28 days, from the service of the notification of the decision, to appeal this decision in accordance with Rule 59 of the Disciplinary, Registration and Appeal Panel Rules.

10. In accordance with Rule 60 of the Disciplinary, Registration and Appeal Panel Rules, the Honorary Secretary of RICS has 28 days, from the service of the notification of the decision, to require a review of this Decision.