

SINGLE MEMBER OF REGULATORY TRIBUNAL DECISION SHEET

RICS Regulatory Tribunal Rules 2020

Part VI, Regulatory Tribunal Single Member Decision

**Regulated Member: Dodampe
Wickramasundra
Single Member Decision of: Patrick
Bligh-Cheesman
Case Number: CON001760
Date of Decision: 5 April 2023**

1.CHARGE:

Between 1 January 2021 and 1 February 2022, you failed to comply with RICS' requirements in respect of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in that you have not completed and recorded or caused to be recorded, at least 20 hours of CPD on the RICS CPD portal.

2. ALLEGED RULE/S BREACH

Contrary to Rule 6 of the Rules of Conduct for Members 2007 version 6.

The Regulated Member is therefore liable to disciplinary action under Bye - law 5.2.2(c)

3. MATERIALS CONSIDERED

I have considered the Investigation Report, together with the associated statements and exhibits.

4.BACKGROUND

Mr Wickramasundra is a member of RICS (AssocRICS)) and was first admitted on 24.12.1998. This is his fourth breach of CPD requirements.

5. FINDINGS OF FACT

The records show that he recorded 0 hours CPD in 2013, submitted his CPD late in 2015 and recorded 0 hours in 2020. He received a caution for the 2013 breach and caution and fine for the 2015 breach. For the 2020 breach he was fined £750 and made subject to a condition of continuing membership to record the required CPD for 2022 by 31 January 2023. He has recorded 0 hours CPD for 2021. Having been a member since 1998 and been subject to three previous sanctions, I am satisfied that he/she would have been aware of his obligations in respect of CPD. The fines in respect of the 2015 and 2020 breaches have not been paid. He has paid the membership subscription for 2021.

During the investigation, the records indicate that Mr Wickramasundra should have received 8 written communications from RICS by way of reminders in respect of his CPD both before and after the due date for the 2021 CPD. On 25 January 2023 RICS sent a Disciplinary Proceedings letter to Mr Wickramasundra together with a listing questionnaire, schedule of costs and means form. RICS received no response to this letter other than a read receipt. There are no recorded relevant exemptions or concessions. Furthermore, there is no returned listing questionnaire in the report.

I find the facts as set out in the investigation report proved.

6. LIABILITY FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The requirement to complete and record CPD is designed to ensure that a member's knowledge is up to date and ultimately to ensure public protection. I find that failure to comply with those requirements is sufficiently serious as to give rise to a liability to disciplinary action.

7. REGULATORY SANCTION

This is Mr Wickramasundra's fourth breach of the RICS requirements for CPD and I find that he is liable to regulatory sanction. There is a presumption of expulsion for a third breach subject to the circumstances of the case and any mitigating or aggravating factors.

I have carefully considered the Sanctions Policy and the aggravating and mitigating factors of this case. I have noted that Mr Wickramasundra has not engaged with the disciplinary process and that RICS are not aware of any mitigating circumstances that may have prevented him from complying with CPD requirements in 2021. As at 23.3.2023 Mr Wickramasundra had not recorded any CPD for the 2022 CPD year as required by the condition on his continuing membership.

Given the previous sanctions given to Mr Wickramasundra for breach of CPD requirements, I do not consider that either a caution, reprimand or fine or combination thereof would be sufficient in this case. I do not consider in this case that either a condition or undertaking to do something that is already an obligation upon the regulated member would be appropriate, I have therefore decided that he should be subject to expulsion from membership.

8. ORDER MADE

In accordance with Part VI of the Regulatory Tribunal Rules, I make the following order:

That Mr Wickramasundra be expelled from RICS membership.

9. TAKING EFFECT OF ORDER

In accordance with Part VI of the Regulatory Tribunal Rules, this order will take effect 14 days from service of the Single Member's decision upon the Regulated Member,

unless notification in writing is received from the Regulated Member or RICS stating that they consider that the findings and/or the Regulatory Sanction imposed by the Single Member are wrong.

10. COSTS

In accordance with Part VI of the Regulatory Tribunal Rules, I make the following order in respect to costs:

In the absence of any statement of means and/or any documentary evidence of Mr Wickramasundra's financial circumstances, I have been unable to identify any reason for reducing the costs I have concluded that the costs are fair and reasonable. I therefore order that Mr Wickramasundra pay the costs of £350.

11. PUBLICATION

In accordance with Part VI of the Regulatory Tribunal Rules, the Single Member's Record of Decision will be published following the expiry of 14 days from service of the Single Member's decision upon the Regulated Member.