

## **Before the Building Practitioners Board**

	BPB Complaint No. C2-01853
Licensed Building Practitioner:	Hamish Coleman (the Respondent)
Licence Number:	BP 121567
Licence(s) Held:	Carpentry

---

### **Penalty Decision of the Board under section 318 of the Building Act 2004**

---

Complaint or Board Inquiry	Complaint
Hearing Location	Auckland
Hearing Type:	In Person
Hearing Date:	18 September 2018
Substantive Decision Date:	5 October 2018
Penalty Decision Date:	26 March 2019

#### **Board Members Present**

Chris Preston (Presiding)  
David Fabish, LBP, Carpentry Site AOP 2  
Robin Dunlop, Retired Professional Engineer  
Faye Pearson-Green, LBP Design AOP 2

#### **Procedure:**

The matter was considered by the Building Practitioners Board (the Board) under the provisions of Part 4 of the Building Act 2004 (the Act), the Building Practitioners (Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations 2008 (the Complaints Regulations) and the Board's Complaints and Inquiry Procedures.

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	2
<b>Penalty</b> .....	2
<b>Costs</b> .....	3
<b>Publication of Name</b> .....	3
<b>Section 318 Order</b> .....	4
<b>Right of Appeal</b> .....	4

## Introduction

- [1] This penalty decision arises out of the Board’s substantive decision in which it found that the Respondent had carried out or supervised building work or building inspection work in a negligent or incompetent manner (s 317(1)(b) of the Act).
- [2] Having found that one or more of the grounds in section 317 applies the Board must, under section 318 of the Act<sup>i</sup>, consider the appropriate disciplinary penalty, whether the Respondent should be ordered to pay any costs and whether the decision should be published.
- [3] In its substantive decision the Board set out its indicative position as regards penalty, costs and publication and invited the Respondent to make written submissions on those matters.
- [4] On 29 October 2018, the Board received the Respondent’s submissions. It has considered them and made the following decisions.

## Penalty

- [5] The Board’s initial view was that a \$3,000 fine was the appropriate penalty for the disciplinary offence. The Respondent has submitted:

*I believe that the money could have been used to increase my professional knowledge, therefore increasing the standard of my workmanship. This could have been done by gaining further education within the industry e.g. academic courses like quantity surveying or construction management. Even putting the money towards attending industry specific training days. Thus, increasing the current knowledge base of myself and adding to professionalism of the industry. I think that by focusing the money towards more positive outcomes could have been more beneficial in the long term.*

- [6] The Board agrees. Based on the evidence heard at the hearing and the findings made by the Board it will order that the Respondent undertake and complete, at his own cost, the following training:
- Construction Planning: Unit Standard 9662;
  - Written and Oral Communication: Unit Standards 17515 and 17516;
  - Time Management Concepts and Methods: Unit Standard 16614; and

- Apply Supervision Principles and Manage Interpersonal Conflict: Unit Standards 20745 and 9704.

- [7] The Respondent is to complete the training within one year of this order becoming final. Failure to do so may result in the Board taking further disciplinary action.
- [8] The Respondent can contact the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment to obtain assistance on how he can go about fulfilling the training order.

### Costs

- [9] The Board's initial view was that \$2,000 in costs was appropriate. The Respondent considered the amount to be fair and reasonable. The amount is confirmed.

### Publication of Name

- [10] The Board's initial view was there were no good reasons to further publish the matter. The disciplinary record would, however, be noted on the Register as per the requirements of the Act. The Respondent has submitted:

*Thirdly in regards to publication. I also understand the need to notify the public for protection against poor practitioner behavior. All I ask is that you consider the affect it has on the practitioner as well. This was a first offence over the course of 5 years as a licensed building practitioner and therefore shouldn't condemn the practitioner over the course of a working career*

- [11] The Board has taken this submission as meaning the Respondent does not consider that the disciplinary action should not be recorded on the Register in accordance with s 301(1)(l)(iii) of the Act.
- [12] The Register is established by s 298 of the Act and s 299 sets out its purposes which are:

*The purpose of the register is—*

- (a) *to enable members of the public to—*
- (i) *determine whether a person is a licensed building practitioner and, if so, the status and relevant history of the person's [licensing]; and*
  - (ii) *choose a suitable building practitioner from a list of licensed building practitioners; and*
  - (iii) *know how to contact the building practitioner; and*
  - (iv) *know which licensed building practitioners have been disciplined within the last 3 years; and*
- (b) *to facilitate the administrative, disciplinary, and other functions of the Board and the Registrar under this Act.*

Section 301 sets out the matters to be contained in the Register. The section uses the phrasing "must" which makes the provisions mandatory, not discretionary:

- (1) *The register must contain all of the following information, to the extent that the information is relevant, for each licensed building practitioner whose name is entered in the register:*

- (l) *information about the status and history of the person's [licensing], particularly—*
- (i) *the class [in which the person is licensed]; and*
  - (ii) *the date on which the person's name was entered in the register; and*
  - (iii) *any action taken under section 318 on a disciplinary matter in respect of the person in the last 3 years:*

- [13] The final provision, action taken under s 318, is the reason why detail on the disciplinary offence must be contained in the Register.
- [14] Taking the above provisions into consideration it is clear that one of the purposes of the Register is to allow informed consumer and providing information as regards disciplinary action helps to facilitate this. It is also clear that the Board has no discretion as regards information on disciplinary action being retained on the Register.

### **Section 318 Order**

- [15] For the reasons set out above, the Board directs that:

**Penalty:** Pursuant to s 318(1)(e) of the Act, the Respondent is ordered to undertake and complete the following training, at his own cost and to the satisfaction of the Registrar within one year of this order:

- **Construction Planning: Unit Standard 9662;**
- **Written and Oral Communication: Unit Standards 17515 and 17516;**
- **Time Management Concepts and Methods: Unit Standard 16614; and**
- **Apply Supervision Principles and Manage Interpersonal Conflict: Unit Standards 20745 and 9704.**

**Costs:** Pursuant to section 318(4) of the Act, the Respondent is ordered to pay costs of \$2,000 (GST included) towards the costs of, and incidental to, the inquiry of the Board.

**Publication:** The Registrar shall record the Board's action in the Register of Licensed Building Practitioners in accordance with section 301(1)(iii) of the Act.

**In terms of section 318(5) of the Act, there will not be action taken to publicly notify the Board's action, except for the note in the Register and the Respondent being named in this decision.**

- [16] The Respondent should note that the Board may, under section 319 of the Act, suspend or cancel a licensed building practitioner's licence if fines or costs imposed as a result of disciplinary action are not paid.

### **Right of Appeal**

- [17] The right to appeal Board decisions is provided for in s 330(2) of the Act<sup>ii</sup>.

Signed and dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019



**Chris Preston**  
Presiding Member

---

**<sup>i</sup> Section 318 of the Act**

- (1) *In any case to which section 317 applies, the Board may*
- (a) *do both of the following things:*
    - (i) *cancel the person's licensing, and direct the Registrar to remove the person's name from the register; and*
    - (ii) *order that the person may not apply to be relicensed before the expiry of a specified period:*
  - (b) *suspend the person's licensing for a period of no more than 12 months or until the person meets specified conditions relating to the licensing (but, in any case, not for a period of more than 12 months) and direct the Registrar to record the suspension in the register:*
  - (c) *restrict the type of building work or building inspection work that the person may carry out or supervise under the person's licensing class or classes and direct the Registrar to record the restriction in the register:*
  - (d) *order that the person be censured:*
  - (e) *order that the person undertake training specified in the order:*
  - (f) *order that the person pay a fine not exceeding \$10,000.*
- (2) *The Board may take only one type of action in subsection 1(a) to (d) in relation to a case, except that it may impose a fine under subsection (1)(f) in addition to taking the action under subsection (1)(b) or (d).*
- (3) *No fine may be imposed under subsection (1)(f) in relation to an act or omission that constitutes an offence for which the person has been convicted by a court.*
- (4) *In any case to which section 317 applies, the Board may order that the person must pay the costs and expenses of, and incidental to, the inquiry by the Board.*
- (5) *In addition to requiring the Registrar to notify in the register an action taken by the Board under this section, the Board may publicly notify the action in any other way it thinks fit."*

**<sup>ii</sup> Section 330 Right of appeal**

- (2) *A person may appeal to a District Court against any decision of the Board—*
- (b) *to take any action referred to in section 318.*

**Section 331 Time in which appeal must be brought**

*An appeal must be lodged—*

- (a) *within 20 working days after notice of the decision or action is communicated to the appellant; or*
- (b) *within any further time that the appeal authority allows on application made before or after the period expires.*