

Before the Building Practitioners Board

	BPB Complaint No. C2-01443
Licensed Building Practitioner:	Lin Huo (the Respondent)
Licence Number:	BP 103564
Licence(s) Held:	Carpentry and Site Area of Practice 1

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

Complaint or Board Inquiry	Complaints
Hearing Location	Auckland
Hearing Type:	In Person
Hearing Date:	13 September 2017
Substantive Decision Date:	19 September 2017
Penalty Decision Date:	25 October 2017
Board Members Present	Chris Preston (Presiding) Richard Merrifield Mel Orange Robin Dunlop

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.

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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 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 Actⁱ, 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 10 October 2017, the Board received submissions from the Respondent's lawyer. It has considered them and made the following decisions.

Penalty

- [5] The Board's initial view was that a fine of \$3,500 was the appropriate penalty for the disciplinary offence. Reasons for the penalty were provided in the substantive decision.
- [6] The submissions state that whilst the Respondent does not agree with the Board's decision that the Respondent was negligent he will accept the decision. He further submitted that the fine was excessive.
- [7] With regard to the negligence finding the Respondent has a right of appeal which he is entitled to pursue.
- [8] In terms of the penalty being excessive the submission was that the Respondent had made genuine attempts to rectify mistakes and others had contributed to the issues which lead to the complaint.
- [9] The Board accepts that there were contributing factors and the Respondent should note that its starting point was a suspension of his licence. The Respondent should also note that whilst he may have made efforts to rectify issues they were, by and large, matters which should not have occurred in the first place and which were only identified by others bringing them to his attention. The Respondent should be

aiming to get it right the first time, not relying on the option of fixing things further down the track.

- [10] Therefore, having considered the submissions, the Board has decided to uphold its initial view.

Costs

- [11] The Board's initial view was that \$1,500 in costs was appropriate. A slight reduction was allowed. The Board still considers this to be a reasonable sum.

Publication of Name

- [12] The Board's initial view was there were no good reasons to further publish the matter. This remains the position.

Section 318 Order

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

Penalty: Pursuant to s 318(1)(f) of the Building Act 2004, the Respondent is ordered to pay a fine of \$3,500.

Costs: Pursuant to s 318(4) of the Act, the Respondent is ordered to pay costs of \$1,500 (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 s 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.

- [14] 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

- [15] The right to appeal Board decisions is provided for in s 330(2) of the Actⁱⁱ.

Signed and dated this 25th day of October 2017



Chris Preston
Presiding Member

ⁱ **Section 318 of the Act**

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- (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."*

ⁱⁱ 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.*