

## **Before the Building Practitioners Board**

	BPB Complaint No. CB 25043
Licensed Building Practitioner:	Chin Heng (the Respondent)
Licence Number:	BP 111530
Licence(s) Held:	External Plastering – PPCS

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

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Complaint or Board Inquiry	Complaint
Hearing Location	Greymouth
Hearing Type:	On the Papers
Hearing Date:	15 May 2019
Substantive Decision Date:	10 June 2019
Penalty Decision Date:	15 July 2019

#### **Board Members Present**

Chris Preston (Presiding)  
Richard Merrifield, LBP, Carpentry Site AOP 2  
David Fabish, LBP, Carpentry Site AOP 2  
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.

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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 failed, without good reason, in respect of a building consent that relates to restricted building work that he or she is to carry out (other than as an owner-builder) or supervise, or has carried out (other than as an owner-builder) or supervised, (as the case may be), to provide the persons specified in section 88(2) with a record of work, on completion of the restricted building work, in accordance with section 88(1) (s 317(1)(da)(ii) 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 28 June 2019, 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 \$1,500 fine was the appropriate penalty for the disciplinary offence.
- [6] The Respondent submitted:
- We genuinely were not aware of the rules around providing the record of work. If we were fully informed and knew the rules of this situation we would have provided it immediately. We have never been faced with this particular situation because of an invoice dispute.*
- [7] The Respondent noted confusion as to whether a producer statement, a warranty or a record of work was being sought. He further stated:
- After speaking with LBP and investigating in the rules and regulations, we realised we were in the wrong with regards to withholding the Record of Work, so we immediately provided that documentation to Euro Renovations.*

*Now we know how to handle this situation if this were to happen again and just reinforce that we get an exemption from this penalty due to not being familiar enough with the rules and regulations from LBP.*

- [8] Having considered the submissions received the Board has decided to uphold its initial view. In coming to this decision, the Board noted that ignorance of the law is not an excuse and that there have been extensive communication programmes to licensed building practitioners about records of work since their introduction. For a practitioner to still be ignorant of the requirements is disappointing.
- [9] It is also to be noted that it was not till the intervention of the Board by way of a complaint being made for the Respondent to become aware and to deal with the required provision of the record of work.

#### **Costs**

- [10] The Board's initial view was that \$500 in costs was appropriate. This reduced amount remains appropriate.

#### **Publication of Name**

- [11] The Board's initial view was there were no good reasons to further publish the matter. The Board affirms this.

#### **Section 318 Order**

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

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

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

- [13] 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

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

Signed and dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019



**Chris Preston**  
Presiding Member

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### <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.*