

Before the Building Practitioners Board

	BPB Complaint No. CB25618
Licensed Building Practitioner:	John Hancock (the Respondent)
Licence Number:	BP 116120
Licence(s) Held:	Carpentry and Site AoP 1

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

Complaint or Board Inquiry	Complaint
Hearing Location	Whangarei
Hearing Type:	In Person
Hearing Date:	14 April 2021
Substantive Decision Date:	19 April 2021
Penalty Decision Date:	21 June 2021

Board Members:

Mr M Orange, Deputy Chair, Legal Member (Presiding)
Mr B Monteith, LBP, Carpentry and Site AOP 2
Mr R Shao, LBP, Carpentry and Site AOP 1

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.

Disciplinary Finding:

The Respondent **has** committed disciplinary offences under sections 317(1)(b) and 317(1)(da)(ii) of the Act.

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Summary of the Board’s Penalty Decision

- [1] The Respondent is fined the sum of \$2,000. The amount of costs is reduced from \$3,500 to \$1,500.

The Charges

- [2] This penalty decision arises out of the Board’s substantive decision in which it found that the Respondent had committed the following disciplinary offence(s):
- (a) carried out or supervised building work or building inspection work in a negligent manner (s 317(1)(b) of the Act); and
 - (b) 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).
- [3] 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.
- [4] 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.
- [5] On 8 June 2021, the Board received the Respondent’s submissions. It has considered them and made the following decisions.

Penalty

- [6] The Board’s initial view was that a fine of \$2,000 was the appropriate penalty for the disciplinary offence.
- [7] The Respondent did not make any submissions as regards the level of penalty. It is confirmed.

Costs

- [8] The Board's initial view was that \$3,500 in costs was appropriate.
- [9] The Respondent did make a submission that the level of costs imposed be reconsidered.
- [10] The Respondent submitted that he had a very limited role in the build and that as the majority of the matters complained about related to the main contractor, it was unfair for him to carry the full amount of costs. He noted:

Currently, there is zero discussion between myself and my employer Ken Dugdale. I doubt that he will help me pay for a portion of the costs. But I strongly feel, it is very unfair for me to be charged with the entire cost of the proceedings when a great part of those costs were incurred by the client complaining about everything else that went on, on the job site with their property.

- [11] The Respondent also submitted that as he is a superannuitant, his ability to pay is limited.
- [12] Having considered the submissions received, the Board has decided that it will reduce the amount of costs to \$1,500. The Board accepts that the Respondent's role was limited. At the same time, he decided to take on the regulatory responsibility of being the Licensed Building Practitioner for the build. In doing so, he also took on the risk that he could be complained about. Entering into an agreement to supervise restricted building work should not be taken on lightly. Notwithstanding, the Board decided that the circumstances and the Respondent's financial position warrant a reduction in the amount of costs.

Publication of Name

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

Section 318 Order

- [14] 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 \$2,000.

Costs: Pursuant to section 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 section 301(l)(iii) of the Act.

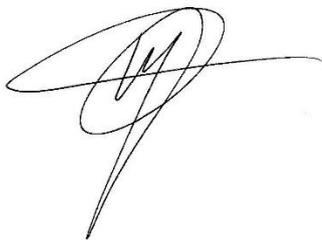
In terms of section 318(5) of the Act, there will not be action taken to publicly notify the Board's action, except for the note in the Register and the Respondent being named in this decision.

- [15] 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

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

Signed and dated this 24th day of June 2021



Mr M Orange
Presiding Member

ⁱ **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."*

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.*