

Before the Building Practitioners Board

	BPB Complaint No. CB24522
Licensed Building Practitioner:	Sheng Yuan Lin (the Respondent)
Licence Number:	BP 108707
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	Auckland
Hearing Type:	On the Papers
Hearing Date:	19 March 2019
Substantive Decision Date:	3 April 2019
Penalty Decision Date:	2 May 2019

Board Members Present:

Richard Merrifield, LBP, Carpentry Site AOP 2 (Presiding)
Mel Orange, Legal Member
Robin Dunlop, Retired Professional Engineer
Bob Monteith, LBP Carpentry and Site 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 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 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 16 April 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 \$1,000 fine was the appropriate penalty for the disciplinary offence.
- [6] The Respondent’s submissions set out that when he carries out or supervises restricted building work he has no idea who the owner is and that it is unfair that owners can use the Board to obtain records of work without paying for work by making a complaint.
- [7] The Respondent’s obligations as regards record of work are clearly set out in the Act and the Board reiterated these in its decision. The Respondent should have made enquiries as to who the owner was rather than just relying on others to complete his obligations. The Respondent would have been aware of who the Territorial Authority was and could have provided them with their copy. He could have ascertained who the owner was from them. The Respondent could also have provided a record of work when he was asked for one but refused to do so.

- [8] The matter came down to money. The Respondent has submitted that it is not fair that owners can obtain a record of work without payment. Once again, the Act is clear, a record of work is not a contractual document that can be withheld. The simple truth is the Respondent refused to provide a record of work and is now facing the consequences of doing so.
- [9] The Respondent also submitted that he is under financial strain with a large family and a mortgage. No evidence to substantiate this was provided.
- [10] The Board notes that the Respondent has not, at any stage, taken any responsibility for his conduct. He does not appear to have learnt from his failings. In such circumstances a more lenient fine is not warranted.
- [11] Having considered the submissions received and the above factors the Board has decided to uphold its initial view.

Costs

- [12] The Board's initial view was that \$500 in costs was appropriate. The Respondent should note that he has put the whole of the licensing regime to a lot of expense because of his refusal to act as he is required. The amount of costs imposed are minimal compared to the actual costs incurred.

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 \$1,000.

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.

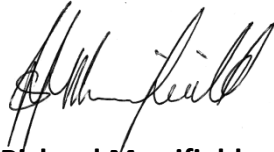
In terms of section 318(5) of the Act, there will not be action taken to publicly notify the Board's action, except for the note in the Register and the Respondent being named in this decision.

- [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 2nd day of May 2019



Richard Merrifield
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.*