

press release



Member severely reprimanded

On 31 January 2006, the Disciplinary Committee of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) considered a complaint against a member, Steven Prest, FCCA, of Round Hill, Darton, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The complaint that he was liable to disciplinary action under bye-law 8(a)(i) in that he failed to act with integrity (as defined in Fundamental Principle 2) in that he:

- copied confidential client information onto his home computer without the consent of the complainant's company or its principal, or the consent of the clients concerned, contrary to Rules of Professional Conduct 3.2.4.19
- intended to use that confidential client information when he set up a new limited company, and appointed himself and his wife (who was also an employee of the complainant's company) as directors whilst they were both still employed by the complainant's company with the intention of trading the company once the member and his wife left the employ of that company
- substituted a quotation from the complainant's company regarding cash flow forecasts with one from his own company

- transferred time (amounting to £9.50) on the complainant's company "Time and Fees" system from the client record of a limited company to the client record of another limited company without valid reason and/or without authority, and
- wrote off Work In Progress by issuing invoices in January 2005 and backdating them to 2003 (which were not sent to the clients) without valid reason and/or without authority

was found proved.

The Committee ordered that Mr Prest should be severely reprimanded, pay a fine of £8,000 and costs of £1,727, and that the decision should be published by issuing a press release to the professional, national and local press referring to him by name.

Ends

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