

The decision and reasons of the Regulatory Assessor for the case of Ms M M Wall FCCA and Michelle Wall & Company referred to him by ACCA on 24 June 2020

Introduction

1. Michelle Wall & Company (the firm) is the sole practice of ACCA member, Ms M M Wall FCCA (the member). I have considered a report, including ACCA's recommendation, together with related correspondence, concerning Ms Wall's conduct of audit work.

Basis and reasons for the decision

2. I have considered all of the evidence in the booklet sent to me, including related correspondence and the action plan prepared and submitted by the firm since the monitoring visit.
3. In reaching my decision, I have made the following findings of fact:
 - a. At the time of the monitoring visit, the firm had one limited company charity audit client, the file of which was inspected.
 - b. At the visit on 02 December 2019 the compliance officer found that the firm had not introduced effective procedures and that there were some serious deficiencies in audit work on the file inspected which had resulted in the audit opinion not being adequately supported by the work performed and recorded.
 - c. The documented system of quality control policies and procedures in place were not entirely effective in ensuring that the firm performed its audit work in accordance with ISAs and that reports issued by the firm are appropriate in the circumstances.
 - d. The compliance officer found the file to be 'unsatisfactory'.
 - e. The member, on 09 January 2020 submitted an action plan and specific responses to points raised by the compliance officer. The letter also contained representations relating to publicising any future decisions.

- f. The compliance officer found the member's action plan to be in general satisfactory.

The decision

4. On the basis of the above I have decided pursuant to Authorisation Regulations 7(2)(f) and 7(3)(b) that Ms Wall should be required to:
 - i. Be subject to an accelerated monitoring visit before 30 November 2021 at a cost to the firm of £1,200 and £500 (plus VAT at the prevailing rate) for each additional audit qualified principal, if any; and
 - ii. Note that failure to make the necessary improvements in the level of compliance with auditing standards and with the requirements of any regulators by that time will jeopardise her and her firm's continuing audit registration.

Publicity

5. Authorisation Regulation 7(6) indicates that all conditions relating to the certificates of Ms Wall and her firm made under Regulation 7(2) may be published as soon as practicable, subject to any directions given by me.
6. I have considered the submissions made by Ms Wall regarding publicity of any decision I may make pursuant to Authorisation Regulation 7(2). I do not find that there are exceptional circumstances in this case that would justify non-publication of my decision to impose conditions and/or the omission of the names of Ms Wall and her firm from that publicity.
7. I therefore direct pursuant to Authorisation Regulation 7(6)(a), that a news release be issued to ACCA's website referring to Ms Wall and her firm by name.

Regulatory Assessor

03 July 2020