



Think Ahead

# News release

29 March 2023

## Disciplinary Committee ordered member excluded\*

On 17 March 2023, the Disciplinary Committee of ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) found proved the following allegations against Mr Patrick Alistair Charles Cooper of Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire, United Kingdom:

### Allegations

Patrick Cooper, a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants ('ACCA') and director of the Firm ('the Firm')

- 1) On dates between December 2011 and August 2020 suspected, or had, reasonable grounds for suspecting, that Client A was engaged in money laundering activity, in that Client A was liable to pay VAT to HMRC and no such liability was paid (the 'VAT liability'), and:
  - a. Contrary to paragraph 20 of Section B2 of ACCA's Code of Ethics and Conduct ('the CEC'), failed to notify the Firm's Money Laundering Reporting Officer promptly, or at all, of the VAT liability;
  - b. On dates before 25 October 2019, contrary to paragraph 103 of Section B1 of the CEC, failed to inform Client A that the Firm could no longer continue to act for Client A given Client A's failure to make or authorise disclosure of the VAT liability to HMRC;
  - c. Having obtained signed authority from Client A in a letter dated 25 October 2019, for the Firm to:
    - i. 'Write to HMRC on or before 31 December 2019 notifying them of the VAT arrears'

ACCA

+44 (0)20 7059 5000

info@accaglobal.com

www.accaglobal.com

The Adelphi 1/11 John Adam Street London WC2N 6AU United Kingdom

- ii. 'Finalise all VAT return calculations and submit the information to HMRC'
- iii. Agree amounts of interest and penalties payable'

Failed to undertake any of the above.

- d. Having obtained Client A's agreement in a letter dated 25 October 2019 that Client A would 'Arrange funds to settle all liabilities', Mr Cooper failed to do that following when Client A failed to settle any of the VAT Liability,
  - i. Cease acting for Client A;
  - ii. Notify HMRC that the Firm had ceased to act in the terms described in paragraph 92 of Section B1 of the CEC

2) By reason of his conduct in respect of Allegations 1(a), 1(b) 1 (c) and/or 1(d) above, is:

- i. Guilty of misconduct pursuant to byelaw 8(a)(i).

The Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Cooper be excluded from membership and to pay costs to ACCA in the sum of £7000.00.

Please note that this may be the subject of an appeal.

ACCA's regulations require ACCA to publish the Committee's findings and orders by way of a news release, as soon as practicable.

*\* An order made by the Disciplinary Committee shall take effect from the date of expiry of the Appeal Period referred to in the Appeal Regulations unless the Committee directs that the order should have immediate effect*

**- ends -**

**For media enquiries, contact:**

ACCA Newsroom

E: [newsroom@accaglobal.com](mailto:newsroom@accaglobal.com)

M: +44 (0)7725 498654

Twitter @ACCANews

[accaglobal.com](http://accaglobal.com)

**Notes to Editors**

**About ACCA:** ACCA is the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. We're a thriving global community of **233,000** members and **536,000** future members based in **178** countries and regions that upholds the highest professional and ethical values.

We believe that accountancy is a cornerstone profession of society that supports both public and private sectors. That's why we're committed to the development of a strong global accountancy profession and the many benefits that this brings to society and individuals.

Since 1904 being a force for public good has been embedded in [our purpose](#). And because we're a not-for-profit organisation, we build a sustainable global profession by re-investing our surplus to deliver member value and develop the profession for the next generation.

Through our world leading ACCA Qualification, we offer everyone everywhere the opportunity to experience a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management. And using our respected research, we lead the profession by answering today's questions and preparing us for tomorrow.

ACCA and CA ANZ have formed a [strategic alliance](#) for the benefit of members and to help shape the future of the profession. Find out more about us at [accaglobal.com](http://accaglobal.com)