

**The decision and reasons of the Regulatory Assessor for the case of Mr Mohanpal Singh Bharj FCCA, Kingsley Brackman Partnership and Kingsley Brackmann Limited referred to him by ACCA on 01 August 2023.**

**Introduction**

1. Kingsley Brackman Partnership is a partnership between ACCA member Mr M S Bharj FCCA and Mrs S Bharj. Mr M S Bharj also has an incorporated practice Kingsley Brackmann Limited which holds audit registration, but which currently has no audit appointments. I have considered a report, including ACCA's recommendation, together with related correspondence, concerning M Bharj'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 The principal has been the subject of five audit quality monitoring reviews;
  - b Mr Bharj's first monitoring review was to his sole practice, Bharj Associates in February 2000. His second monitoring review was to his practices, Bharj Associates and Kingsley Brackmann Limited in October 2006. At both reviews, the Compliance Officer found that the standard of audit work was satisfactory although there were some deficiencies in the audit evidence. The reports on the reviews set out the deficiencies and contained guidance on how the firm might remedy the deficiencies found;
  - c At the third review in March 2013 to his practices, Bharj Associates and Kingsley Brackmann Partnership, the Compliance Officer found that the audit work was not of a consistent standard. The report on the review set out the deficiencies found and was sent to the firm in April 2013. The Compliance Officer warned the firm that failure to maintain a consistent satisfactory standard of audit work in the future may jeopardise the firm's continuing audit registration. The firm acknowledged receipt of the report and provided an action plan dated August 2013 outlining the action it was taking;

- d At the fourth monitoring review held in July 2017 to his practice, Kingsley Brackmann Partnership, the firm had no audit clients but had two solicitors' clients and those files were inspected. The work performed and recorded in support of the report to the Solicitors Regulation Authority was generally adequate. The report on the review was sent to the firm in July 2017;
- e At the fifth review, which was carried out in July 2023, the Compliance Officer found that the firm had not maintained effective audit procedures, and, in fact, the standard of audit work appeared to have deteriorated significantly. There were some serious deficiencies in the audit work on the three audit files inspected which had resulted in audit opinions not being adequately supported by the work performed and recorded;

### **The decision**

- 4. On the basis of the above I have decided pursuant to Authorisation Regulations 7(2)(f) and 7(3)(b) that Mr Bharj should:
  - i. be subject to an accelerated monitoring visit before November 2024 at a cost to the firm of £1,200 and £500 (plus VAT at the prevailing rate) for each additional audit qualified principal and firm; 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 his/her/their and his/her/their firm's continuing audit registration.

### **Publicity**

- 5. Authorisation Regulation 7(6) indicates that all conditions relating to the certificates of Mr Bharj and his firms 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, if any, made by Mr Bharj 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 or the omission of the names of Mr Bharj and his firms 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 Mr Bharj and his firms by name.

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David Sloggett FCCA  
Regulatory Assessor  
11 October 2023