

## CONSENT ORDERS HEARING

### CONSENT ORDERS CHAIR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

#### REASONS FOR DECISION

**In the matter of:** Mrs Kathleen Bernadette Cantillon

**Heard on:** Tuesday, 22 July 2025

**Location:** Remotely via Microsoft Teams

**Chair:** Ms Wendy Yeadon

**Legal Adviser:** Mr Robin Havard

**Summary** Severe Reprimand.

**Costs:** Fine - £5,000.00  
Payable to ACCA - £1,225.00

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. A Consent Order is made on the order of the Chair under the relevant regulations.

#### INTRODUCTION

2. The Chair had considered a draft Consent Order, signed by Mrs Cantillon and a signatory on behalf of ACCA on 03 July 2025, included in a bundle (pages 1

ACCA



+44 (0)20 7059 5000



info@accaglobal.com



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



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

to 175), together with a detailed costs schedule (pages 1 and 2), and a simple costs schedule (page 1).

3. When reaching her decision, the Chair had been referred by the Legal Adviser to the requirements of Regulation 8 of the Complaints and Disciplinary Regulations 2014 (as amended) ("CDR8") and had accepted his advice. The Chair had also taken account of the content of ACCA's documents entitled "Consent Orders Guidance" and "Consent Orders Guidance FAQs".
4. The Chair understood that Mrs Cantillon was aware of the terms of the draft Consent Order and that it was being considered today.
5. The Chair also understood that Mrs Cantillon was aware that she could withdraw her agreement to the signed draft consent order by confirming the withdrawal in writing. No such withdrawal had been received.

### **Allegations**

Mrs Kathleen Bernadette Cantillon, an ACCA Fellow:

1. Between 14 November 2018 and January 2025, failed on behalf of Firm A to comply with or demonstrate compliance with the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010 (as amended), namely:
  - (a) Section 30A (Risk assessment by designated persons)
  - (b) Section 54 (Internal policies, controls and procedures).
2. By reason of her conduct set out at allegation 1 above, Mrs Cantillon failed to comply with the Fundamental Principle of Professional Behaviour and Section B2 (Anti-money Laundering) of ACCA's Code of Ethics and Conduct (as applicable from 2017 to 2025).
3. By reason of her conduct, Mrs Cantillon is guilty of misconduct pursuant to bye-law 8(a)(i).

## DECISION ON FACTS

6. The Chair noted from the report provided by ACCA that the following summary of the facts was not in dispute and therefore adopted them as her findings of fact.
7. Mrs Kathleen Bernadette Cantillon ("Mrs Cantillon") is a principal and the Money Laundering Reporting Officer of Firm A. Mrs Cantillon holds a Practising Certificate with ACCA.
8. As a holder of a PC with ACCA, there is a mandatory requirement for Firm A to be monitored by ACCA to assess compliance with the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010 (as amended) ("the Act").
9. A desk-based routine monitoring review was carried out of Firm A. The purpose of the review was to monitor Firm A's compliance with the Act.
10. As part of the review, Mrs Cantillon was asked to complete the AML thematic review assessment form. In this form, she provided the current firm-wide risk assessment ("FWRA") and the current AML policy and procedure ("AML P&Ps") documents. Mrs Cantillon declared that these were not the first versions of each, however previous versions were not provided. As per the dates within the documents, the FWRA and AML P&Ps were both created and completed in January 2025 which is during the AML review.
11. FWRA — since November 2018, it has been a legal requirement to conduct, document and maintain an up-to-date FWRA (Section 30A of the Act). During the AML review, it did not appear that a FWRA had been conducted, documented or maintained until January 2025. AML P&Ps - since November 2018, it has been a legal requirement for a firm to document and regularly review their AML P&Ps (Section 54 of the Act). During the AML review, it did not appear that AML P&Ps had been documented for the firm until January 2025.
12. The AML report was sent to the firm on 20 February 2025. As the controls are now in place, the firm is no longer non-compliant.

## **DECISION ON ALLEGATIONS AND REASONS**

13. In accordance with CDR8, the Chair has the power to approve or reject the draft Consent Order or to recommend amendments. The Chair can only reject a signed draft Consent Order if she is of the view that the admitted breaches would more likely than not result in exclusion from membership.
14. The Chair was satisfied that there was a case to answer and that it was appropriate to deal with the complaint by way of a Consent Order. The Chair considered that the Investigating Officer had followed the correct procedure.
15. The Chair considered the bundle of evidence and, on the basis of the admissions of the allegations by Mrs Cantillon, found the facts of the allegations proved. The Chair was further satisfied that, with regard to allegation 2, the facts of allegation 1 brought discredit to Mrs Cantillon, ACCA and the accountancy profession. It therefore amounted to misconduct under bye-law 8(a)(i).

## **SANCTION AND REASONS**

16. In deciding whether to approve the proposed sanction of a severe reprimand, a fine of £5,000, and for Mrs Cantillon to pay ACCA's costs in the sum of £1,225, the Chair had considered the Guidance to Disciplinary Sanctions ("the Guidance"), including the key principles relating to the public interest, namely: the protection of members of the public; the maintenance of public confidence in the profession and in ACCA, and the need to uphold proper standards of conduct and performance. The Chair considered whether the proposed sanction was appropriate, proportionate and sufficient.
17. In reaching her decision, the Chair had noted, and found, the following aggravating features, as identified by ACCA:
  - (i) The length of time during which Mrs Cantillon was in breach of the Act.
  - (ii) The conduct which led to Mrs Cantillon being in breach of the Act fell below the standards expected of an ACCA member.

18. In deciding that a severe reprimand was the most suitable sanction paragraphs C4.1 to C4.5 of ACCA's Guidance had been considered and the following mitigating factors had been noted:
- (i) Mrs Cantillon has been a fellow of ACCA since 1997 and has a previous good record with no previous complaint or disciplinary history. Mrs Cantillon has fully cooperated with the investigation and regulatory process.
  - (ii) Mrs Cantillon immediately rectified any breaches of the Act and Firm A are currently fully compliant.
  - (iii) There is no continuing risk to the public.
  - (iv) Mrs Cantillon has expressed genuine insight and remorse into the conduct which led to this referral being made by the AML Team.
19. ACCA had considered the other available sanctions and was of the view that they were not appropriate. A severe reprimand proportionately reflected Mrs Cantillon's conduct and the public policy considerations which ACCA must consider in deciding on the appropriate recommended sanction. This was a public interest sanction due to the misconduct bringing discredit to ACCA and the profession; and it conveyed a message of the importance of fundamental standards of professional conduct.
20. The Chair considered that both the aggravating and mitigating features identified by ACCA were supported by documentary evidence and were relevant.
21. In the Chair's judgement, the conduct was such that the public interest would not be served by making no order, and that a severe reprimand adequately reflected the seriousness of Mrs Cantillon's conduct.
22. In conclusion, when considering the criteria set out in the Guidance, the Chair concluded that it would be appropriate, proportionate and sufficient to impose a severe reprimand to reflect the seriousness of the findings against Mrs Cantillon.

## **COSTS AND REASONS**

23. ACCA was entitled to its costs in bringing these proceedings. The claim for costs in the sum of £1,225, which had been agreed by Mrs Cantillon, appeared appropriate.

## **ORDER**

24. Accordingly, the Chair approved the terms of the attached Consent Order. In summary:
- a. Mrs Cantillon shall be severely reprimanded;
  - b. Mrs Cantillon shall pay a fine of £5,000, and
  - c. Mrs Cantillon shall pay costs of £1,225 to ACCA.

**Ms Wendy Yeadon**  
**Chair**  
**22 July 2025**