Think Ahead

APPLICATION ON PAPERS

CONSENT ORDERS CHAIR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

REASONS FOR DECISION

In the matter of:	**Mr Kalvin Kirkpatrick Simpson**
Heard on:	**Monday, 06 October 2025**
Location:	**Held Remotely by Microsoft Teams**
Chair:	**Mr Martin Winter**
Legal Adviser:	**Ms Tope Adeyemi**
Summary:	**Severe reprimand**
Costs:	**£3,656.50**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Chair has considered a draft Consent Order, signed by a signatory on behalf of ACCA dated 23 September 2025, together with supporting documents in a bundle numbering pages 1- 214, a detailed costs schedule and a simple costs schedule.

2. When reaching his decision, the Chair has referred to the requirements of Regulation 8 of the Complaints and Disciplinary Regulations 2014 (as

amended) ("CDR8") and considered ACCA's documents entitled "Consent Orders Guidance" and "Consent Orders Guidance FAQs".

3. The Chair was satisfied that Mr Simpson was aware of the terms of the draft Consent Order and that he had signed the draft Consent Order on the 23 September 2025.

4. The Chair was satisfied that Mr Simpson was informed that he could withdraw his agreement to the signed draft Consent Order by confirming the withdrawal in writing and that no such withdrawal had been received.

5. The investigating officer had conducted an investigation into the allegations against Mr Simpson in accordance with CDR8(1)(a) and was satisfied that:

   i) They had conducted the appropriate level of investigation as evidenced by the enclosed evidence bundle and determined that there was a case to answer against Mr Simpson, and that there was a real prospect of a reasonable tribunal finding the allegations proved; and

   ii) The proposed allegations were unlikely to result in exclusion from membership.

AGREED FACTS

6. Mr Simpson and ACCA agreed the following facts:

   - In December 2003, Mr Simpson became a student of ACCA and an affiliate in February 2014. Between June 2016 and December 2021 he was not on ACCA’s register but was reinstated as an affiliate on 15 December 2021.

   - In March 2022, ACCA received an anonymous complaint alleging that Mr Simpson had been carrying on public practice without a practising certificate. A copy of Mr Simpson’s CV and a set of accounts prepared by Mr Simpson were supplied as evidence to support the complaint.

- ACCA put the complaint to Mr Simpson, sought his response and worked with him to regularise his position so that he was no longer in breach of the Membership Regulations.

- As a student and affiliate of ACCA, although Mr Simpson would have been permitted to provide basic book-keeping services, he was not yet eligible to hold an ACCA practising certificate and not permitted to carry on public practice. Membership Regulation 6(2)(b) requires affiliates to comply with the obligations in Membership Regulation 8.

- Since 2006 Mr Simpson operated a bookkeeping business as a self-employed sole trader and on 03 May 2013 became a director and principal shareholder of the firm Simpson Patrick Bookkeeping Services Limited (the firm).

- The nature of the firm's business was recorded at Companies House as 'bookkeeping activities'. However, the firm's LinkedIn account included reference to 'Accounting', and his personal LinkedIn account referred to him as an 'Accountant' and Mr Simpson's occupation was also listed as an 'Accountant' on Companies House records and as such he and the firm were holding out as available to carry on public practice as defined by Global Practising Regulation 4.

- Mr Simpson accepts that while the firm was for freelance book-keeping, some of the services provided by him included public practice activities.

- Mr Simpson accepts that he failed to obtain anti-money laundering supervision in compliance with the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 and Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations Act 2017, in that he failed to obtain registration with HMRC or any other supervisory body for anti-money laundering supervision, contrary to Membership Regulations 8(2)(j).

- By January 2025, Mr Simpson had regularised his position so that he was no longer in breach of ACCA's Membership Regulations.

- ACCA proposed that the matter be dealt with by a consent order and Mr Simpson agreed. It was agreed that Mr Simpson would be severely reprimanded and pay costs to the sum of £3,656.50.

ALLEGATIONS

7. Mr Simpson, an ACCA affiliate, admits the following:

1. Between May 2013 and 13 June 2016 and between 15 December 2021 and May 2024, Mr Simpson:

a) held himself out to be in public practice, contrary to Membership Regulation 8(2)(a)(ii).

b) was a director of Simpson Patrick Bookkeeping Services Limited, a firm which was holding out and available to carry on public practice, contrary to Membership Regulation 8(2) (a)(iii).

c) held rights in Simpson Patrick Bookkeeping Services Limited, a firm which was carrying on public practice, which put him in the position of principal, contrary to Membership Regulation 8(2)(iv).

2. Between 2009 and 13 June 2016 and between 15 December 2021 and May 2024, in relation to bookkeeping work, Mr Simpson failed to register with HMRC or any other supervisory body for the purpose of anti-money laundering supervision, contrary to Membership Regulation 8(2)(i) (as applicable from 2009-2012) and Membership Regulation 8(2)(j) (as applicable from 2013-2024).

3. By virtue of the conduct referred to in Allegation 1 (a)-(c) and 2 above, Mr Simpson is:

i. guilty of misconduct pursuant to bye-law 8(a)(i) or in the alternative.

ii. liable to disciplinary action pursuant to byelaw 8(a)(iii).

DECISION ON FACTS AND REASONS

8. In accordance with Regulation 8 of the CDR, 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 they are of the view that the admitted breaches would more likely than not result in exclusion from membership or removal from the student register.

9. 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 was also satisfied that the Investigating Officer had followed the correct procedure.

10. The Chair considered the bundle of evidence. Based on the documentary evidence, including the finding of the ACCA and the sanction imposed, together with the admission of the allegations by Mr Simpson, the Chair found the facts of the allegation proved.

11. He considered that the admitted facts and the actions of Mr Simpson amounted to misconduct in that they brought discredit to him, the Association and the accountancy profession, therefore justifying disciplinary action under byelaw 8(a)(i).

SANCTION AND REASONS

12. In deciding whether to approve the proposed sanction of a reprimand and fine, the Chair considered the Guidance to Disciplinary Sanctions ("the Guidance"). The Chair also considered whether the proposed sanction was appropriate, proportionate, and sufficient. The Chair noted, and agreed with the following aggravating and mitigating factors identified by ACCA:

Aggravating

- The length of time without anti-money laundering supervision and that as a student and affiliate Mr Simpson carried on public practice whilst ineligible to do so.

- The risks associated with the lack of anti-money laundering supervision of his firm.

Mitigating

- Mr Simpson has a previous good record with no previous complaint or disciplinary history.

- Mr Simpson co-operated with the investigation and regulatory process

- Mr Simpson has regularised his position in full.

- Mr Simpson has ultimately admitted his conduct and expressed genuine remorse.

- Mr Simpson has apologised for the conduct and demonstrated insight.

- There is no evidence of dishonesty.

- Mr Simpson advised that the breaches were as a result of a misunderstanding of ACCA's regulations and what constituted public practice.

- There is no continuing risk to the public as Mr Simpson regularised his position and is now working as an employee. Mr Simpson stopped conducting any public practice work shortly after he was alerted to the complaint and has provided ACCA with his written undertaking that he will not carry out or hold out to be available for public practice work without

an ACCA practising certificate and he will not carry out any bookkeeping work without being supervised for anti-money laundering purposes

13. Having considered all the information available, the Chair was satisfied that a severe reprimand represented an appropriate and proportionate means of disposal and that the admitted breaches would not result in exclusion.

COSTS AND REASONS

14. ACCA submitted a simple and detailed costs schedule.

15. The Chair was satisfied as to ACCA's entitlement to its costs in bringing these proceedings. Costs in the sum of £3,656.50 as agreed by Mr Simpson and ACCA are considered reasonable and appropriate.

ORDER

16. Accordingly, the Chair approved the terms of the attached Consent Order. In summary:

    a. Mr Kalvin Kirkpatrick Simpson shall be severely reprimanded.

    b. Mr Kalvin Kirkpatrick Simpson shall pay costs of £3,656.50 to ACCA.

Mr Martin Winter
Chair
6 October 2025