

## APPLICATION ON PAPERS

# CONSENT ORDERS CHAIR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

## REASONS FOR DECISION

**In the matter of:** Mrs Adelle Patricia Firestone

**Heard on:** Wednesday, 04 February 2026

**Location:** On the Papers

**Chair:** Ms Ilana Tessler

**Legal Adviser:** Mr Robin Havard

**Summary** Sanction - Admonishment  
Costs payable to ACCA - £1,704.50

## 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 Firestone and a signatory on behalf of ACCA on 16 and 17 December 2025, included in a bundle (pages 1 to 32), together with a Detailed Costs Schedule (pages 1 and 2), and a Simple Costs Schedule (page 1).

### ACCA



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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 Firestone was aware of the terms of the draft Consent Order and that it was being considered today.
5. The Chair also understood that Mrs Firestone 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 Adelle Patricia Firestone (Mrs Firestone), an ACCA member, admits the following:

### **Allegation 1**

Pursuant to bye-law 8(a)(vi), Mrs Firestone is liable to disciplinary action by virtue of the disciplinary action taken against her by the Insolvency Licensing Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales on 05 September 2024.

## **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. At the relevant time, Mrs Firestone was licensed as an insolvency practitioner by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.
8. Mrs Firestone became an ACCA Member on 14 April 1994.

9. On 03 December 2024, Mrs Firestone notified ACCA that she received a regulatory penalty from ICAEW on 05 September 2024. She attached an Order from ICAEW's Insolvency Licensing Committee.
10. The regulatory penalty from ICAEW was issued to Mrs Firestone following a visit from ICAEW to Company A, Mrs Firestone's practice on 27-28 March 2024.
11. The report prepared following the visit alleged
12. *"Mrs Firestone drew unapproved remuneration of £6,774 as she'd failed to use the scale rate for her later billings. Since this was identified during the visit Ms Firestone had evidenced that she has repaid the excess amount. She has reviewed her other two cases and confirmed that her remuneration has been properly approved."*
13. The 'Key findings from the monitoring visit' state:  
  
*'On case 1, Ms Firestone drew unapproved remuneration of £6.774. Initially on this 2019 appointment she correctly drew her fees on scale rate (as no creditors had voted on the resolution to approve the basis of her remuneration). However, in 2022 she began to take her fees on a percentage basis as she overlooked the fact that the proposed resolution hadn't been agreed. This mistake carried through to the disclosure in her annual reports. The overpayment was £6,774, and Mrs Firestone has evidenced she has repaid this to the estate...'*
14. The Order noted that Mrs Firestone *'agreed to pay an Insolvency Licensing Committee regulatory penalty of £500. This was for drawing £6,744 of unapproved remuneration on a compulsory liquidation'*.
15. ACCA wrote to Mrs Firestone on 13 August 2025 about the Order from ICAEW's Insolvency Licensing Committee.
16. Mrs Firestone responded on 15 August 2025. She said, *'I confirm that I accepted the findings of the ICAEW', 'did not appeal' and 'made the payment [of £500] immediately'..*

## **DECISION ON ALLEGATIONS AND REASONS**

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. The Chair considered the bundle of evidence and, on the basis of the admissions of the allegations by Mrs Firestone, found the facts of the allegations proved.

## **SANCTION AND REASONS**

20. In deciding whether to approve the proposed sanction of an admonishment, and for Mrs Firestone to pay ACCA's costs in the sum of £1,704.50, 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.
21. In reaching her decision, the Chair had noted, and found, the following aggravating features, as identified by ACCA:
  - a. By being publicly sanctioned by another professional body, ICAEW, Mrs Firestone has brought discredit upon herself, ACCA and the accountancy profession.
  - b. The conduct which led to Mrs Firestone being the subject of action by the ICAEW fell below the standards expected of a qualified ACCA member.

- c. ICAEW's Insolvency Licensing Committee sanction was to impose a regulatory penalty of £500.
  
22. In deciding that an admonishment was the most suitable sanction, paragraphs C2.1 to C2.5 of ACCA's Guidance had been considered and the following mitigating factors had been noted:
  - a. Mrs Firestone has been a Member of ACCA since 1994 and has no previous complaint or disciplinary history.
  
  - b. When Mrs Firestone was informed that she had drawn unapproved remuneration of £6,774, she demonstrated insight by repaying the amount and evidenced this to ICAEW.
  
  - c. There was no finding that the drawing of this unapproved sum was deliberate or dishonest but rather a mistake as she had 'overlooked' the fact that the required resolution for the year 2022 had not been agreed for her to take remuneration based on a percentage.
  
  - d. Mrs Firestone has confirmed she paid the £500 regulatory penalty immediately.
  
  - e. This was an isolated incident.
  
  - f. As per her response of 09 September 2025, she was '*under extreme stress at the time the error was made*' [PRIVATE].
  
23. ACCA had considered the other available sanctions and was of the view that they were not appropriate. An admonishment proportionately reflected Mrs Firestone's conduct and the public policy considerations which ACCA must consider in deciding on the appropriate recommended sanction.
  
24. The Chair considered that both the aggravating and mitigating features identified by ACCA were supported by documentary evidence and were relevant.

25. In the Chair's judgement, the conduct was such that the public interest would not be served by making no order, and that an admonishment adequately reflected the seriousness of Mrs Firestone's conduct.
26. In conclusion, when considering the criteria set out in the Guidance, the Chair concluded that it would be appropriate, proportionate and sufficient to impose an admonishment to reflect the seriousness of the findings against Mrs Firestone.

### **COSTS AND REASONS**

27. ACCA was entitled to its costs in bringing these proceedings. The claim for costs in the sum of £1,704.50, which had been agreed by Mrs Firestone, appeared appropriate.

### **ORDER**

28. Accordingly, the Chair approved the terms of the attached Consent Order. In summary:
  - a. Mrs Firestone shall be admonished;
  - b. Mrs Firestone shall pay costs of £1,704.50 to ACCA.

**Ms Ilana Tessler**  
**Chair**  
**04 February 2026**