



Type of Order: DISCIPLINARY CONSENT ORDER IPA0010

Date of Order: 18 September 2018

Committee name: INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

Details of IP: **Mr Darren Edwards**, of Aspect Plus Limited, an ACCA member and Licensed Insolvency Practitioner (IP).

Summary of complaint: This Order is made in relation to a complaint that **Mr Edwards** in his role as Liquidator breached the fundamental principles of the Ethics Code for IPs, when he;

- 1) approved, in four cases, claims made to the Redundancy Payments Service ('RPS') by former directors without verifying them, leading to erroneous claims being agreed for payment by the RPS;
- 2) failed to identify a self-review threat as required by the Ethics Code for IPs relating to sums received on 3 April 2014 and 26 August 2014 totalling no less than £4,800 from an employee claims consultancy firm for referral of at least 12 cases where claims were lodged by the same consultancy firm on behalf of directors of companies in Liquidation with Mr Edwards's firm.

Accordingly, Mr Edwards was found liable to disciplinary action under the IPA's Articles of Association.

Summary of sanctions: The Common Sanctions Guidance provides for a severe reprimand and fine with starting point £5,000 where there is a serious failure to comply with the fundamental principle of professional competence and due care. In reaching its decision the Committee did not identify any aggravating or mitigating factors to deviate from the Common Sanctions Guidance' indicative sanction.

The Investigation Committee has decided to impose a disciplinary order that Mr Edwards be severely reprimanded, fined £5,000; and ordered to pay costs of £1,087.50.