

HEARING AID COUNCIL

PROCEEDINGS

Meeting of

FAST-TRACK DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

held at

70 St Mary Axe
London EC3A 8BD
on

11 October 2007

PRESENT:

MR CHRIS HUGHES (Chair)

MR PETER ORMEROD
MR MICHAEL BISHOP
(Committee Members)

MS SIOBHAN GOODRICH: Legal Assessor
MRS JANET HAWTHORNE: Council's Solicitor
MS AMICIE KNOWLES: Committee Administrator

Case of: MRS HELEN TENWOLDE

The respondent did not attend.

Transcribed by Ubiquis
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DECISION REGARDING SANCTION

CHAIR: In this case, Mrs Tenwolde, a registered hearing aid dispenser is charge with a breach of Clause Nine of the Code of Practice, that in August 2006, she failed to comply with the British Society of Audiology Recommended Procedures with respect to audiology, and in particular with respect to bone conduction masking. This committee is concerned to ensure that high professional standards are attained and the Committee welcomes the recognition which Mrs Tenwolde shows in her letter, and that she has already undertaken some audiometry refresher training, and intends to undertake further training. The Committee imposes a fine of £500, to be paid within three months, and further requires a qualifying promise from Mrs Tenwolde that she undertake five structured points’ training in addition to her annual commitment to training in the field of audiometry, this training to be undertaken by 31 March 2008. I understand that there is an application for costs.

DECISION REGARDING COSTS

CHAIR: In considering the application for costs in the case of Mrs Helen Tenwolde, the Committee is mindful that there were originally two charges put forward, and that one has been dropped at a very late date following the receipt of further information from Mrs Tenwolde. The Committee is also mindful that the total costs in this case are in the order of £3,500. In seeking a compromise of this matter, the Hearing Aid Council indicated to Mrs Tenwolde a basis upon which it might wish to proceed to the Disciplinary Committee on the basis of pleas of guilty to both charges, providing an indication of possible fines and possible costs. That indication has been overtaken by events, since there is now only one charge which has been proved, and one has been withdrawn.

1 The total costs indicated to Mrs Tenwolde at this stage were £1,500 and the costs of
2 conducting this hearing simply today are of the order of £1400, without any
3 investigating costs. In the circumstances, the Committee has concluded that costs
4 of £1,000 are a proportionate and fair figure of the costs in this case. The remainder
5 of the costs being borne by the rest of the regulated community. Accordingly, the
6 Committee awards costs of £1,000, to be paid within three months of today. And
7 that concludes the matter of Mrs Tenwolde.

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[The hearing concluded]